

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 31st July 2022
Sermon Title: I am sending you...to pray and praise
Bible Passage: Acts 16: 11 - 34

Introduction

Take time to read the passage from a couple of different translations.

- What stands out to you from this passage?
- Think of the three people who meet Paul - in what ways are they different? In what ways are they similar?
- Note the different ways you see God at work in this passage?
- How does Paul make a difference in his 'everyday normal place' in this chapter?

Recapping the Preach

Stu began by making the point that they probably should never have met because they were separated by nationality and social status. He then raised the question: so what do you think brought them together?

- What do you think brought Lydia, the slave girl and the jailer together?
- Stu suggested that underlying various things was the common theme of prayer and that prayer brought them together. Do you agree / disagree? Why?
- What is the importance of prayer in mission?
- Why do you think God has purposed to establish His reign and rule in peoples lives through the prayer of His people?
- How does prayer shape us in regard to mission?
- Can you think of examples from Scripture or your own life, where fruitfulness in mission was preceded by prayer?

Stu then went on to ask a final question in our, 'I am sending you...' series which is: what is the purpose of it all? What is the goal of mission?

- How would you answer: what is the goal of mission?
- *'Mission is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exist because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of grace, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever. Worship is therefore, the fuel and goal of missions'* (John Piper). What stands out to you this quote? Would you agree / disagree?
- What evidence in Scripture is there, that worship is the goal of mission?
- In what ways is worship a missional activity?

Stu closed with two final questions - how would you respond to these questions?

- Will we be the answer to the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray, 'ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into the field'. In other words will we pray this pray and then be the workers who go out to their everyday normal place and there make a difference for the kingdom?
- Will we, those whom God has chosen and declared to be a royal priesthood, a holy nation and a people belonging to him - will we live a life of worship living a godly life wherever the Lord has placed us so that people see our lives and so turn to seek and glorify God?
- What one thing could you do next week in answer to these two questions?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Pray that God would give you one opportunity to share the good news this week.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://bibleproject.com> (videos)
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>