

LifeFaithFusion Sermon
Jesus Series
Sunday Morning, September 30, 2007
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WWJD: JESUS' MISSION STATEMENT
Luke 4:14-18
S-1737

Turn in Bibles to Luke 4.

This morning as we continue looking at the beauty of Jesus Christ, we will consider both His slogan and mission statement.

He knew exactly why He was on earth. He understood how to fulfill His Personal Accountabilities.

As we unveil Jesus mission we will consider some ways we can carrying out His mission today.

OK. Every business wants a catchy slogan. Let's play a little game: Fill in the blanks.

•SLIDE #: Verizon: "Can you hear me now?"

•SLIDE #: Gatorade: "Is it in you?"

•SLIDE #: Domino's: Get the door, it's Dominos."

•SLIDE #: All Tell: "More Bars in more places." (Budweiser wanted that one but All Tell got it first.)

•SLIDE #: Southwest Airlines: Woman can't see with out her contacts. Goes into men's room to fix contacts. Fixes contacts. Can see a line of men lined up at urinals all looking at her. Freaks that she is in the wrong place: "Ding! Gotta get away?"

•SLIDE #: "Viva....." I was thinking Las Vegas.: what were you thinking?

Jesus had a catchy slogan to describe His mission on earth.

SLIDE: "Luke 19:10: For the Son of Man came to seek and to save those who are lost."

SLIDE: "Jesus Christ: "Seeking and Saving the Lost."

Say it with me: fill in the blank: "Seeking and Saving the Lost."

SLIDE: WWJD? What would Jesus do?

We might be careful before declaring what Jesus would do. My impression is that a lot of people are assuming WWJD who have no idea what Jesus would do

He was always surprising people with what He did.

(I share this at great risk—but I want to illustrate a point about His mission—and ours.)

Think about moral injustice: Take slavery? 1/4 to 1/3 of Roman world in slavery.

WWJD? if He were here? He would fight against moral injustices—like slavery.

No. He said not a word about slavery!

Repressive Governments. WWJD: Surely Jesus would speak out against Totalitarian Governments.

He lived under one of the most iron fisted Dictatorships in history.

He never spoke a word against them. In fact, He taught: Pay your taxes to Caesar.

Feeding the poor: feeding the poor was not His main priority. "The poor you have with you always.

Don't misunderstand me.

We should fight against moral injustice and repressive Governments and take care of the poor.

We do it out of love and compassion and our models are the OT prophets who stood against bribes and cheating and unjust governments.

But this is not what Jesus did. He was in the business of "Seeking and Saving" the Lost—changing the world by changing one life at a time.

If you wear a WWJD bracelet with grace:

The Key here is "Do unto others as they would do unto you."

But remember in every situation, WWJD: He would seek and save the Lost.

Baptism and Temptation are over.

Beginning His ministry—goes to Nazareth synagogue where He grew up.

Opened scroll to messianic passage in Isaiah 61:

•SLIDE #: Luke 4:18-20: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,*because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

•SLIDE #: Luke 4:21-22: Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips.

FOUR MAIN ACTIVITIES COMPRISED THE MESSIANIC MISSION STATEMENT OF JESUS.

•SLIDE #: PREACH GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR

Who are the Poor? We know the answer to that. Matthew 5:3: "Blessed are the poor in spirit..."

He is not speaking here of people living below the poverty level.

He is thinking in spiritual terms about getting right with God.

Some of you here and feeling shamed and guilty and unforgivable for your behaviors.

Way you have treated people: wife, children.\

Greed and materialism; gossip hurts others

Run life to the end and you are not satisfied.

Happy is the man who has no more resources left in his spirit – and he knows it.

You are ready to surrender your life to God through Jesus Christ.

•SLIDE #: *How Jesus preached good news to the poor:

Nicodemus in John 3.

Jewish religious leader feeling spiritually empty. Religion he followed was not satisfying his innermost spiritual needs.

He is ashamed to admit his need publicly so he comes to Jesus under the cover of darkness.
Jesus: "You must be born again...."

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

•SLIDE #: **How we preach good news to the poor:*

SMX:

Not the only way: beginning way. Invite friends—can lead to a lifestyle of evangelism.
Just the beginning of discipleship and an evangelistic heart

I know that many of you are capable of sitting at the kitchen table and leading your friends to Christ.
Keep it up. And use SMX as an accessory to your work to move people into koinonia discipleship.

•SLIDE #: *BIND UP THE BROKENHEARTED*

•SLIDE #: **How Jesus bound up the broken hearted:*

The woman at the well with broken relationships

John 4:17-18, 28-29: "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

•SLIDE #: **How we bind up the broken hearted:*

Alexander Maclaren: "Be kind to everyone that you meet because everyone you meet is fighting a battle."

Look at the people in your aisle. Many broken hearts.

Easier to heal broken arm than broken heart.

Just mention some name, or some event to some of you and I can bring tears to your eyes.

•SLIDE: Imagine a freeway of accidents, of stalled and broken down cars by the side of the road.

Slow down and look and feel a rush of gratitude that it didn't happen to us—and keep on going.

We see those. But, there are other, silent collisions, which never show up in the newspaper.

The father who comes home to a full house but an empty bedroom. His wife never said where she was going; just that she would never be back.

The parents who find their daughter's body and the suicide note.

Student who gets an education degree—and cannot find a job in his or her field.

The fifty-year-old employee who faithfully served his company but is out of a job because the

company that purchased his company decided to eliminate an entire level of management
Child whose parents are divorcing cries herself to sleep every night in bitter agony of soul.

Sometimes the only mistake you made was being born into the wrong family. But that single
unfortunate dilemma can cost you forever.

Need comfort, care and encouragement.

STORY: Returning home to Tucson, stress, Brie hurting...etc.

Introduced my self to seat partner. She looked miserable—even shell shocked—deer in the
headlights look.

I didn't really care. Put on IPOD earphones, turned on Gwen Stephani and opened my book.

She had problems. That was her problem.

I had mine. I needed a break from problems.

Then thought of this sermon.

She was broken down by the side of the road. I slowed down long enough to look—and drove on.

"I sorry, but you seem deeply troubled. I am sorry.:

Divorce from husband, about to become a single mom. Terrified.

People love to be comforted and compassionately cared for.

•SLIDE #: RELEASE THE OPPRESSED

•SLIDE #: *How Jesus released the oppressed:

The Rich Young Ruler

Heart was filled with greed, selfishness, and materialism. "Jesus looking at him loved him." I
would loved to see that look. "Go, sell all you have." (Mat. 19:16)

This was the door to his freedom from bondage

Woman Caught in the Act of Adultery.

You imagine she was hurting. Condemnation and shame were in her life. So he got rid of her
accusers and removed the shame.

*John 8:10-11: Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one
condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared.
"Go now and leave your life of sin."*

One was oppressed with too many possessions. He was miserable trying to keep up with them all.

The other was oppressed with guilt. He set her free with forgiveness.

•SLIDE #: *How we release the oppressed:

We help confused and disoriented people find hope and healing in life. Calls for personal wisdom
and experience.

Many oppressions exist. Some are obvious: wheelchair user, oxygen bottles, crutches.

Some are more hidden.

Memories of physical, sexual, verbal abuse in family.

Maybe it is the tape of your father's voice playing over and over in your head, "You are stupid, you will never amount to anything."

Maybe you are in bondage to the memory of a child or parent who died way to soon.
Maybe it is your job and you want out at almost any price but you're trapped.—no other options.
Maybe your "x" is committed to destroying your new marriage by getting to you through the kids.
Maybe your wayward son keeps dragging you into the principal's office or juvenile court.

People get lost on the freeways of contemporary culture all the time.
With our rush hour lifestyles and passing lane mentalities it's usually just a matter of time before we find ourselves moving with the flow – but we end up oppressed in a place we never intended to go.

"Please Hear What I'm Not Saying" –Anonymous—From *Balcony People* by Joyce Landorf.

•SLIDE #: Don't be fooled by me.
Don't be fooled by the face I wear.
For I wear a mask. I wear a thousand masks—and none of them are me.
•SLIDE #: Pretending is an art that's second nature with me.
But don't be fooled, for God's sake don't be fooled.
I give you the impression
•SLIDE #: That confidence is my name
and coolness my game,
But, don't believe me, please!
•SLIDE #: My surface may be smooth but my surface is my mask.
Beneath dwells the real me in confusion, in fear and aloneness.
But, I don't tell you this. I don't dare. I am afraid to.
•SLIDE #: I am afraid you'll think less of me,
That deep down I am just no good.
And that you will see through me,
And reject me.

•SLIDE #: So I play my game, my desperate, pretending game,
So begins the parade of masks,
•SLIDE #: Do not be fooled by what I'm saying
Please listen carefully and try to hear
What I'm not saying—but really want to say.
•SLIDE #: I need your help, your hand to hold
Even though my masks would tell you otherwise.
•SLIDE #: You wonder who I am?
You shouldn't
For I am every man
And every woman
Who wears a mask.
•SLIDE #: Don't be fooled by me.
Don't be fooled by the face I wear.
For I wear a thousand masks—
Masks that I am afraid to take off,
And none of them are me."

We help confused and disoriented people find hope and healing in life.

•SLIDE #: PROCLAIM THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR

•SLIDE #: How Jesus proclaimed the year of the Lord's Favor:

Matthew 11:28-30: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Years ago a contest was held in which artists were invited to paint a picture of peace. The entries were eventually narrowed down to just two.

The first artist had interpreted perfect peace by painting a quiet lake cradled high in the lonely mountains.

The second artist painted a thundering waterfall... with the branch of a birch tree bending over the foam. On the fork of that limb, a robin sat undisturbed on her nest.

•SLIDE #: How we proclaim the year of the Lord's favor:

1. Live a simple God-inspired and Spirit-filled life. Show them something attractive in your grace, forgiveness, love and compassion that they would like to have.

Like KT Turnstall: "Suddenly I see—the girl I'd like to be.

The ministry of the Messiah is a ministry for all of us.

The important people of the New Testament are not the kings, politicians, priests, monks, and religious leaders. The important people are the shepherds, fishermen, tax collectors, soldiers, the prostitutes, and carpenters.

People like you and I. "I'm busy! I have to earn a living and take care of my family. I don't have time to go about preaching and teaching."

You can tell the good news of God Around the water cooler in the office if the occasion is right, Or over a lunch pail.

You can heal a hurt in a car while driving home.

You can teach the truth over a cup of coffee in the kitchen,

Or pray a prayer of deliverance beside a sick bed

You can interject Christian insights into business transactions.

•SLIDE #: 2. Attitude check. See people as needy—broken by the side of the road. Follow the lead of Jesus.

•SLIDE #: THIS IS THE ZACCHAEUS PRINCIPLE in Luke 19.

•SLIDE #: Zack's BEHAVIORS aren't very pretty.

Tax collector stealing from people, lying, cheating. He is getting rich out of his old sin nature-- his fallenness. No argument he is fallen.

•SLIDE #: Let's go a little deeper. I wonder what kind of FEELINGS he has. Guilt? Lonely? Insecure (little guy)? Bitter? Unworthy?

•SLIDE #: I wonder what kind of NEEDS an outcast, Jewish, tax collector has. I have the idea he is pretty lonely. Who likes an IRS agent? Acceptance? Attention? Respect? Companionship? Affirmation?

We have an entire unchurched world whose behaviors look a lot like Zacchaeus'.

He hears Jesus is coming to town. He climbs up in Sycamore tree.

There is no doubt that he is broken down by the side of the road. Jesus chooses not to ignore the wreck. He slows—and stops.

It is critical what Jesus does not say as He looks up in the tree: “You lying, cheating, thief, come down from there and stop it.” All true; but for Jesus Christ looked beneath his fallenness and focused on his needs.

•SLIDE #: Jesus says, “I am coming to your house today.” This is the most accepting and affirming thing you could do in those days. They were eating out of the same bowls in those days.

Look at the change in his behavior when Zacchaeus came out of that time of Jesus ministering to his needs! “All I have stolen I return four-fold! Half of all I have I give to the poor.”

How did that repentance change take place? Not because someone yelled, “Stop it,” at him from the bottom of a tree!

Yelling “stop it” doesn't work in church, and it doesn't work in our marriages and it doesn't work in our relationships.

But, because of a deep dose of mission statement, Zacchaeus was transformed.

SLIDE #: Preached good news of forgiveness to Zacchaeus.

Bound up his broken heart by comforting his lonely, isolated and hurting life.

Released him from a captive life of misery

Proclaimed the acceptable year of the lord while transforming his life.

No one would have blamed Jesus for ignoring them. To have turned His head would have been much easier, less controversial, and not nearly as risky.

But, God who made these people can't do that. And we, who follow Him, can't either.