

John 17:18 (MSG)

In the same way that You gave Me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world.

Today's verse is Jesus praying to the Father from the Message bible, and as we read it, it also reminds us that we should be on the same mission that Jesus was sent to do. What is that mission? Read the four gospels and you will see Jesus doing the mission God the Father sent Him to do, and that we should be doing as well.

I heard the following from Pasto Jim Cymbala, which I think fits into the mission that we are called to do, which is the same mission Jesus was sent to do.

"Why are we making harsh and condemning statements about the world and its people, forgetting that they are not our enemies, but our mission field."

If you think about it, maybe one reason we fail in our witness (mission) with the lost is the way that we talk about the world (*harsh and condemning*). Or even the way we, in our minds and in secret, think about the lost in this world. What if Jesus talked about, or thought about us like that, or if He talked about us the way we talk about non-believers? What if we read in the gospels of Jesus walking around Israel for three years, and reading half of His words speaking how bad "those people" are?

What if Jesus walked around saying how bad prostitutes are and that they are going to hell. Do you think Mary Magdalene (a prostitute who had seven demons) would have given her life to Jesus?

✠ **Luke 8:2-3** *and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities-- Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuzas, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.*

What if Jesus went around speaking about how bad the government was, would Zachaeus (a tax collector working for the government) had willfully and joyfully given his life to Jesus?

✠ **Luke 19:5-6** *And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.*

What if Jesus went around speaking against fishermen and the foul language that they used all the time, and how dirty, stinky, and disgusting they are. Do you think any of the disciples who were fishermen would have willfully followed Jesus when He said to them "**Follow Me**"?

† **Matthew 4:18-19** *And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

Would we, or even the disciples still want to follow Jesus if He spoke this way about others? I don't think so. Yet how often do we do it?

The bible says that Jesus is at the right hand of the Father, interceding for us.

† **Mark 16:19** *So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.*

† **Hebrews 7:25 (NLT2)** *Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.*

Could it be that part of the interceding that Jesus is doing, is that we would love one another (in the church) as well as share the gospel and not judge and condemn others and He told us to do?

I wonder if it grieves the Lord when we speak bad about others, who are made in His image, and sometimes the reason we speak bad about them, is because we want them to be made in our image?

Now we are not to accept the sinful lifestyle of the world, remember that same sinful lifestyle we all used to live. But we can speak against sin that is corrupting this nation and the world, yet how often do we speak against the people and not the sin? Yeah, I want to follow someone who always puts me down as a person... NOT!

We all know **John 3:16**, but what does **John 3:17** say?

- **John 3:17** *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

So, if Jesus was not sent to condemn the world, how come there are times when we think we should be condemning the world, instead of loving the lost of this world, just like Jesus did? We all want to be like Jesus, well part of being like Jesus is talking to, and about others, the same way Jesus did.

† **Philippians 2:1-4** *Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

† **James 3:14-16 (MSG)** *Mean-spirited ambition isn't wisdom. Boasting that you are wise isn't wisdom. Twisting the truth to make yourselves sound wise isn't wisdom. It's the furthest thing from wisdom—it's animal cunning, devilish conniving. Whenever you're trying to look better than others or get the better of others, things fall apart and everyone ends up at the others' throats.*