



BE THE BODY

OUTREACH

Spiritual Outcome Defined:

Actively looks for and engages opportunities to reach others with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Outcome Described:

Love drives us to do the remarkable. We will give money. We will give time. We will give our thoughts and attention. We will do all of this and more, but there is an all-too-common resistance to actively seeking to talk with people about the good news of Jesus Christ. To be sure, in light of common abuses, the resistance is understandable. We do not want our faith or ourselves to be associated with manipulative, overbearing, or judgmental evangelistic tactics. With that acknowledged, though, there is a profound reality we must embrace. If we authentically love people, we will want them to discover Christ. We will want them to know and understand the forgiveness and freedom we ourselves have experienced. We will want them to be reconciled to God. We will want them to know the power of God's presence for day to day living, and the very real hope we have for all eternity. To withhold all of this is both negligent and unloving.

"Some wish to live within the sound of a chapel bell; I wish to run a rescue mission within a yard of hell."

-- C.T. Stud

Paul exhorted his listeners to *"Be reconciled to God"* (2 Corinthians 5:20). He did this not for his own gratification. He did it, he said, because *"the love of Christ compels us"* (2 Corinthians 5:14). Which is critical to our understanding. One of the greatest inhibitors to outreach is the abundance of exposure people have had to tactics not driven by love. There are countless reasons a person can share Christ with someone else. They may be seeking to feel good about themselves, win an argument, or impress their religious communities. Such motives may not be seen with the eyes, but they are smelled with the nose. In speaking to the Pharisees, Jesus said, *"You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a son of hell as you are."* (Matthew 23:15). Jesus' approach to those far from God was different. He was referred to as *"a friend of tax collectors and sinners."* (Matthew 11:19). He dined with those others would avoid (Mark 2:15) and welcomed those they would not even touch (Luke 7:38). He did all of this and more, despite the criticism, explaining that *"it is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick."* (Matthew 9:12). Jesus modeled intentional and loving relationships with those apart from God. He did this, he said, because he came *"to seek and to save the lost."* With that in mind, it's instructive that when returning to the father, he told his followers, *"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."* (John 20:21). If we are to walk as Jesus walked, we will be sent as he was sent. We, too, will *"seek and save the lost"* as we lovingly and intentionally enjoy our neighbors, co-workers, family, and friends, and help them discover Jesus' good news.

Evidence of this Spiritual Outcome in a Person's Life:

- Knows how to compellingly explain the gospel and can name a time they have done so in the past 12 months.
- Knows how to compellingly tell the story of one's own personal experience with Christ and can name a time they have done so in the past 12 months.
- Understands barriers and objections to Christ in their current culture and knows how to address them.
- Can name at least three people they are actively praying for and working toward their coming to Christ.

Guidance

Read each passage multiple times. Then write your observations about the passage and any thoughts you have from the discernment question. What do you notice in the passage, and what does this reveal about your life?

Matthew 9:35-38

Observations:

Discernment Question: When you see those far from Christ, what do you see?



Matthew 28:18-20

Observations:

Discernment Question: Does this passage inspire you? Why or why not?

Mark 2:13-17

Observations:

Discernment Question: How does your life reflect how Jesus lived in this passage? How does your life reflect how the Pharisees lived in this passage?



Luke 15:1-10

Observations:

Discernment Question: How are you currently living out these parables? How could you currently live out these parables?

Luke 19:10

Observations:

Discernment Question: How have you intentionally sought out those who are lost over the past year? How could you intentionally seek out those who are lost over the next year? Does the thought of this inspire you or burden you? Why?



Romans 1:16

Observations:

Discernment Question: Do your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family know you follow Christ? Why or why not?

Romans 10:9-15

Observations:

Discernment Question: When you think about telling others about Christ, do you view yourself as helping them and doing good in the world? Or, do you view yourself as a bother?



1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Observations:

Discernment Question: What do you do or could you do to meet people where they are at?

1 Peter 3:15

Observations:

Discernment Question: Are you able to explain why you have hope in Christ? How do you or would you do it? What could you do to be increasingly prepared?



2 Peter 3:9

Observations:

Discernment Question: How much does your heart reflect God's heart? Why?

Next Steps

What are practical next steps you will do from what you have discovered in this survey of Scripture on outreach? Include insights offered from others in your Life Group that could be applied in your own life as well.



Scripture:

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

2 Corinthians 5:20

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

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