



MISSION MINDED



SESSION 5
Light of the Nations



Mission Minded #5: Light of the Nations

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WATCH

Click play above or on the link below
<https://youtu.be/KYpw5nb0Dbc>

THINK

When was the last
time you really
couldn't wait for
something?

God's ultimate purpose is to make His name known and bring glory to Himself but how exactly does Jesus help achieve this?

Read the following passages. For whom did Jesus come?

i) Isaiah 49:6

Jesus will come not just to raise up the tribes of Judah but to be a light for the nation so that salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

ii) Matthew 4:12-16

Jesus is for people dwelling in darkness, including Gentiles outside of the chosen nation of Israel.

iii) Luke 2:25-32

Salvation has been prepared for all peoples, Christ is a light of revelation to the Gentiles.

Read the following passages. Why did Jesus come?

i) John 3:16-17

God sent His Son out of a great love for this world and to see it saved through Him.

ii) John 6:33

Christ has come to give life to the world.

iii) John 8:12

Jesus is the light of the world, bringing those that follow Him out of darkness.

ii) 1 John 4:14

Jesus was sent to be Saviour of the world.

Read the following passages. How do they show the fulfilment of Jesus' global purpose?

i) Matthew 4:23-25

Jesus' ministry causes His fame to spread throughout Syria, and crowds follow Him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and beyond the Jordan.

ii) John 4:39-42

Samaritans come to faith and recognise Jesus as Saviour of the World.

iii) Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus commends the faith of the Canaanite woman despite acknowledging that the primary focus of His ministry is to the house of Israel.

Clearly, Christ came for all the nations, whether they be Jew or Gentile. A descendant of Abraham, Jesus fulfils God's promise to bless all the nations in the most incredible way. Salvation is available for all who put their faith in Him, no matter what nation they come from.

Read the following passages. The Jews tended to think that God was only concerned to save them and had no interest in the salvation of Gentiles. How does Jesus challenge this attitude?

i) Matthew 8:5-13

Jesus says that the centurion's faith is like no others that He's found in Israel.

ii) Luke 10:29-37

In the parable, two high-standing Jews walk by the beaten man - a priest and a Levite. It is a hated Samaritan who stops to care for the beaten man.

iii) Luke 17:11-19

Jesus miraculously heals ten lepers yet only one returns to thank Him. It's not revealed whether the nine who didn't return are Jews, although they likely were, but the one who did return is a Samaritan.

Time and time again in the Old Testament, God's heart for the nations was made clear. Yet despite this, the Jews of Jesus' day expected a Messiah that was exclusively for themselves. Jesus did not come solely for the chosen nation but for all peoples.

REFLECT

Similarly to the Jews, we can forget or ignore the global purpose of Jesus.

How in tune with Jesus' global purpose is the church in the West today?

What lessons can we take from Jesus' ministry to the different people and apply in our own lives at home?

How can we align more with Jesus' global purpose as we live out our faith?



ASIA FOCUS

Each session of Mission Minded focuses on an area of ministry in Asia supported by our parent organisation, AsiaLink. Please take this opportunity to expand your knowledge and practise prayer for Gospel ministry in Asia.

CARING FOR CHILDREN

Jesus surprised many through His interactions with non-Jews but they weren't the only group He unexpectedly ministered to. When children are brought to Jesus in Luke 18, the disciples initially refuse them. Yet Jesus says to let the little children come to Him.

Across Asia, we seek to see children come to their Lord and Saviour. Whether they be from impoverished families or a war-torn country, millions of children across the continent of Asia grow up in heart-breaking circumstances. Many have lost their families and have no-one to take care of them. AsiaLink are committed to projects caring for children in places such as India, Myanmar, Pakistan and Mongolia.

In southern India, AsiaLink partners run a children's home for those who are orphaned, or have no-one able to look after them. Here, they receive an education alongside a loving home and are introduced to their Heavenly Father who sent His Son for them.

Gayatri lost both of her parents at a very young age due to HIV, and so she lived with her aunt's family. She was too poor to afford an education, good food, clothing, or even a place to sleep. Our partners took her into the home when she was of primary school age, and she stayed with them for eleven years. During this time, she completed twelve years of schooling and then went on to complete a degree. This is a wonderful story of transformation, but greater still is the news that she listened to our partners when they shared the Gospel, coming to a personal faith in Christ and growing in the Lord.

HOW TO PRAY

Pray for boys and girls like Gayatri that they would come to know their Heavenly Father through faith in Jesus Christ.

Pray for AsiaLink partners across Asia as they show and speak the love of God to them.

Pray for the millions of children desperately in need of a home. May the Lord bring them into safety and to Himself.

