

EVERYDAY MISSION | COL 4:2-6



Depending on whether or not you grew up in church, you either have a lot of learning or unlearning to do when it comes to mission and evangelism.

I was fortunate to grow up in a family that took me to church (before I was even born), and who spoke the truths of Christ to me at an early age. I was able to learn so much as a child about the Scriptures, but for as much of a blessing it was to grow up in the church, there were several areas of the Christian life that I needed to unlearn and relearn; most notably, mission.

Mission for much of my life was simply a trip or a conference: Schedule it. Show up. Make a difference. Leave.

But, as I began to read the pages of the N.T. and listen to faithful men speak about the early church, I began to see that I had so much left to learn.

The Scriptures describe a people who used all of life: the everyday, the ordinary and the mundane, as a means for gospel intentionality.

Mission happens on trips and needs to be talked about at conferences, but it is so much more than that. It is birthed out of the very heart of God, seen so wonderfully in Christ, and something that has consumed the church since it began. May we be a people of Everyday Mission.

EVERYDAY MISSION: ENGAGING WITH THE FATHER (v. 2-4)

1. Why is it so important that we meet with God, in prayer, before we meet with men and women in the everyday? What does the practice of being “devoted to prayer” show ourselves, our Christian communities and the watching world?
2. Are there any instances when you have noticed either (a) your prayers or (b) your lack of prayers, affect your involvement with those who do not know Christ?
3. Which type of prayers do you lean toward: Watchful (asking God to help you see what He is doing), Thankful (gratitude to God for all He has done, especially in Christ), or Communal (“Pray for us”, praying for others who are in your Christian community)?
 1. Why are each important? What is the danger in leaving one out?
4. Paul models it so well in v. 3 when he says, “pray for us”. Have you ever had a time when you needed the prayers of your Christian community? What was most meaningful to you during this time?
 1. What often stops you from reaching out to the community of believers for prayer? Why?
 2. How can you model Paul's example? In what ways can you be a “pray for us” kind of community?
5. If you're comfortable: spend a few moments praying for one another. Specifically, pray for (a) open doors for the gospel message and (b) clarity when speaking of Christ in the everyday of life.

EVERYDAY MISSION: ENGAGING WITH OUTSIDERS (v. 5-6)

1. As you begin this section, spend a few moments as a group reminding one another of everything Jesus went through to engage you (an outsider).
 - a. Why is it important that we develop a community group culture that is comfortable talking about Jesus?
 - b. How has talking about Jesus' love for you (an outsider) helped soften your heart toward the “outsiders” in your life?

2. Paul was a man on a mission. He seemed to always be looking for opportunities to drop a gospel morsel in someones path. Think through your daily schedule. What are some of the everyday opportunities that can be used for gospel intentionality?
3. Have you ever forced an opportunity with someone who was not a believer? How did it go? Where in our passage today can you find encouragement?
4. What are some of the recent opportunities (open doors) you've had lately with outsiders? How did the conversation go? What did you learn?
5. How much of your everyday witness for Christ do you feel rides on your words (your conversations)? Why are your words to outsiders so important? Do your words bring people back, or do they push people away?
6. SITUATION: Imagine you are outside, working in the yard, and your neighbor comes over. He starts telling you about how his mom is very sick and might not have much time left. What would it look like, in an everyday way, to make the most of this opportunity?
7. SITUATION: Imagine you are at lunch with some co-workers, and the topic of marriage comes up. Some think its old fashioned, others are excited with the recent change to marriage laws. What would it look like, in an everyday way, to make the most of this opportunity?

WORDS FOR THOUGHT

“We cannot think of mission as an event...of course, there will continue to be a role for special events, but the bedrock of mission will be ordinary life. Mission must be done primarily in the context of everyday life.” –Tim Chester, Everyday Church

God is in control of mission. He is sovereign in salvation. Trust him to take the little morsel of the gospel message you give to people and use it as part of his purposes in their life. –Tim Chester, Everyday Church,