

### **Mission Critical: A Belief and an Activity**

Over the past few weeks as we have looked at the three loves that ought to be growing in the heart of a disciple of Jesus – love for God, for one another, and for our neighbors – our focus has been mostly on self-assessment. These three commands, however, are not only for personal reflection, they also address what we as a church are to be about. We are called to help others come to know God and then make disciples who love God, one another, and their neighbors. This is what we are to be about. In our study today, we are going to consider a belief and an activity that are essential if we are really going to go for this mission.

#### **Read Matthew 28:18-20**

1. Do you feel personally responsible for this mission that Jesus has given to the church? Why or why not?
  
2. The core command in the passage is to go and make disciples. One aspect of this is teaching people to observe all that Jesus commanded (v. 20). If, in our disciple-making efforts, we focus on teaching people to obey the three core love commands, how much of the “all that I have commanded you” would be covered? Explain.

#### **Read Matthew 6:9-10**

3. In these first two verses of the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray three requests that are God-directed. What is it that we are really praying when we pray these things?

Brian said:

Here’s the thing about the mission to which God has called us of making disciples of all the nations. It’s hard work. It requires great effort. It requires sacrifice of time and financial resources. It requires moving outside of our comfort zones. It likely means a reordering of our priorities. If we don’t have the mission critical belief that life is not about me and my comfort, but rather that it is all about who God is and what He is doing then we won’t make the sacrifice. We won’t move outside of our comfort zones. We won’t reorder our priorities. If we are going to be faithful to the mission that God has given us, we need this mission critical belief: Life is all about God and what he is doing.

4. How consistently do you live with the belief that life is all about God and what He is doing? Explain.

5. Why would such a belief be essential if we are really going to live out the mission that God has given to us?

**Read John 15:7-8, 16**

6. What does Jesus teach about prayer?
7. Brian said that the mission critical activity is prayer motivated by the glory of God. Why do you think it is vital that our prayers are motivated by God's glory?
8. What are specific ways that you can engage prayer as part of this mission?
9. What is your main application from this study?

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**Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted this Week**



**Daily Devotion:** Memorize Matthew 6:9-10 and reflect on it often this week.



**Prayer:** Who are 2 or 3 neighbors (actual neighbors, classmates, work associates, family member, etc.) for whom you can begin praying? Write their name down and begin to pray for them. Pray bold prayers in light of Jesus' promise in John 15:7-8. Pray that God's name would be hallowed and that his kingdom would come as the gospel spreads.