



## What Are You Passionate About? On Mission for Christ

Bible Study Hour – December 2, 2012  
Mark Bickel

### Part 1: What Was Christ Passionate About? On Mission from God (15 minute devotional)

*Song: {song on Christ's birth}*

- **John 1:1-4, 14** – Word, from Beginning, Creator. Light, Life ... Become flesh!
- **Luke 1:31-33** – Called Jesus - Throne of David, reign forever
- **Matthew 1:21** – Called Jesus – Save his people from their sins
- **John 1:29** – Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the World
  
- **Luke 4:16-21** – from Isaiah – good news to poor, freedom, sight, Lord favor
- **Mark 1:14** – Proclaimed: Time fulfilled, Kingdom at hand, Repent & Believe the Gospel
- **Mark 1:38** – left to preach in other towns – for that is why I came
- Call disciples, confront false religion, minister to people in need

#### - But much greater mission

- **Mark 8:31** – Son of man must suffer many things, be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, that he must be killed, and after three days raise again
- **John 7:3** - knew when it was time – before Passover “Not time yet”, not go to Jerusalem
- **Luke 9:52** - “resolutely set out for Jerusalem”, undeterred from fulfilling His mission
- prayed in the Garden for cup to be taken ... Yet not my will, but your be done

**\*\* Luke 19:10** – For the son of man came to seek and save what was lost

**\*\* Mark 10:45** – For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many

#### **\*\* John 10:14-18**

<sup>14</sup>“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and **I lay down my life for the sheep.** <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>**No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.** I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

#### **\*\* I Timothy 1:15-17**

<sup>15</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.** <sup>16</sup>But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

*Song: The Call of the Kingdom*

## **Part 2: What Are You Most Passionate About? On Mission for Christ (30+ minute main talk)**

### **Intro: What are you passionate about?**

- **Video: “Get Passionate!”** (by Worship Films, downloaded from SermonSpice.com)
- **Your Passion?** ~see handout, 3 question on Left of side one (the side with the Logo)~
  - What are you passionate about? (what do you talk about most)  
Me: God, Star Trek, Sci-Fi, Amusement Parks, Games, Church, and Teaching  
You: What are you passionate about? (*fill in box 1*)
  - What specific recent events have gotten you most excited? What energizes you?  
Me:  
You: What most excites / energizes you (*fill in box 2*)
  - What do you dream of? As you look 5 years out / to epitaph – what do you most desire to do / accomplish with your life?  
Me:  
You: What do you want to accomplish with your life? (*fill in box 3*)

### **Passion / Calling / Purpose / Mission:**

“Passion is the God-given desire of the heart to make a Kingdom difference somewhere”  
(see full quote, Bruce Bugbee, “What You Do Best in the Body of Christ”, p. 77)

### **1) God’s Common Call for each of us:**

- **Ephesians 1:3-14** ... - Purpose – saving, adopting, making holy, giving grace and eternal life ... all to the praise of God’s glory
- **Romans 8:28-30**  
<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.
- **Elsewhere** – called to know Christ, to know hope, to be a disciple, to preach gospel, to make disciples
- **What are you Passionate about?**  
Is your greatest passion knowing Christ and making Him known?

## 2) God's Unique Call as seen in Scripture

- **I Corinthians 1:1** – Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Jesus Christ ...
- **Christ** – called to die for our salvation
- **Paul** – called as an apostle ... and not just any apostle ... the Apostle to the Gentiles
  - **Galatians 1:13-16a**  
<sup>13</sup>For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup>I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. <sup>15</sup>But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup>to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles
  - note that God used even his life before Christ to build the passions He would use in spreading the gospel!
  - Paul knew and accepted the unique Call of God on his life
- **Timothy** – Pastor of a church
- **Moses** – Passion for God and God's People
  - God set up experiences to give him access to Pharaoh
  - Moses false start – kill guard – then 40 years in wilderness – prepare for God's call
  - God calls to lead people to freedom – using gifts, experience ... and weakness
  - on Mt. pleads with God for the People of God ... and for sake of God's name
- **Deacons** – when needs in church not in calling of leaders – they do not abandon, nor do they drop what they are doing to go do it, or add it to their tasks ... Instead look for others:
  - **Acts 6:1-4**  
In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup>So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup>Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup>and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."
  - **What were they Passionate about?**
    - God gave each a very unique calling and passion that gave each a vital role in building the Kingdom of God.

### 3) God's Unique Call for Each of Us

- **S.H.A.P.E.** (from Erik Rees, "S.H.A.P.E. – finding and Fulfilling your Unique Purpose for Life")
  - Spiritual Gifts
  - Heart
  - Abilities
  - Personality
  - Experiences

#### - Heart

(see quote from Rick Warren in "S.H.A.P.E.", p. 77)

- Know what drives you
- Know who you care about
- Know the needs you will meet
- Know the cause you will help conquer
- Know your ultimate dream for God's kingdom

#### Example: My mission statement

##### **Training God's People in God's Word for God's Glory**

- Training ... not just teaching, but training ... unique style and focus
- God's People ... always heart, commitment, loyalty to the church
  - esp. lay people and young adults (not seminary per se), and overseas
- God's Word ... how to read, study, know, understand, apply Scriptures ...
  - esp. OT, "in-depth-overview", how fit together, how intersect with life
- God's Glory – not for me, or organization... but for God (also reformed perspective)
  
- Guides my choices in life
  - Could be full time or not (was not always full time for me)
  - God does call to other things as well ... and to weakness ... and even for times to entirely other things that were needed ...
  - But I expect and look for an overall trajectory of ministry that fulfills this vision
  - And I did not apply for positions significantly outside this ... God has others there
  
- **What are you Passionate about?**
  - Can you clearly express it?
    - If not, how are you working on discovering it?
  - Are you living out what you know of your calling ... or working to it
    - or are you being distracted, pressured into other things

### 4) Discovering God's Calling for Yourself

- So how can I figure out what God is calling me to, what passions I have and should act on?
  - Some good questions you can use to help think about it (see books)
    - examples: What have you achieved in the past? What people / needs / causes get you excited? What do you dream of?
  - note: must conform to Scripture, advance kingdom (see calling for all)

### **Example: Paul's Journey**

- **Look back at Galatians 1:11-24 (summarize)**
  - Persecute Christians
  - God appeared
  - Zeal turned to gospel, to gentiles
  - Then go study for 3 years
  - Then went on first journeys – still not known to church
  - Now as they heard of him and Christ's work they praised God

### **Example: My Journey**

- Youth / Drexel – try hand at lots of things – drama, booktable, disciple new believers, small group, President fellowship, outreach (small and large) ... and disciplined
  - Church – head up missions committee, go overseas, later head up college and career
  - Job / Ministry – Billy Graham service, then Computer full time ... try start student group in church, then espresso bar at Tyler, then teaching and leadership on 2 campuses, eventually full time
  - DM – Found place I fit – camp energizing, create new with winter breakaway and summer session ... Then God move for need and develop additional gifts
  - Biblical / Grace – but not teaching, so God moved me where call better fulfilled
- How Will You Discover Your Passions?**
- Step up and try things – lots of them
  - Where get excited do more
  - Not worry about full-time, other parts of life ... just find room for passions
  - As begin understanding call move away from other things and toward it
  - Allow God to change / grow and to call to other things for a time ...
  - But keep praying, asking God, looking for opportunities to live out of passion

### **Conclusion:**

**What is God Calling You to Be Passionate About?**

**How Can You Discover / Use Your Passion?**

**What will you do to fulfill your calling THIS WEEK?**

**\*\* Pray \*\***

**\*\* Optional: Small Group: break into groups of 3-4, discuss concluding questions:**

### **For Further Study:**

- Book: **"S.H.A.P.E. – Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life"** by Erik Rees
- Book: **"What You Do Best in the Body of Christ"** by Bruce Bugbee
- Workbook: **"Discover Your Spiritual Gifts the Network Way"** by Bruce Bugbee  
{note: other Spiritual Gift & Personality tests also available}
- Bible Study: **"Identity: Becoming What God Wants Us To Be"** NavPress