

SESSION 5



BECOMING COURAGEOUS IN THE MISSION

1. Mission is an Essential Part of Real Manhood

A. God desires to use our lives *today* to bring heaven to earth and people to heaven.

- He calls us to reach others with the life and teachings of Jesus.
Matthew 28:19-20: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- He also calls us to bless others with good works.
Matthew 5:16: “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”
Ephesians 2:10: “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

B. Unfortunately, the natural gravity of our flesh will seek to pull us towards passivity and selfishness.

Galatians 5:17: “For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; or these are in opposition to one another ... ”

C. Only with God’s help can we courageously step up to the mission God has for each of us.

John 15:5: “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

2. Jesus Calls Us to Live Beyond Ourselves

A. God’s calling on people’s lives has always been a call to live for others.

- From the beginning, God has blessed people so they can be a blessing.
Genesis 1:27-28: So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, and subdue it ...”
 - God called Adam and Eve to live beyond themselves and fill the world with kingdom builders who would bless the whole earth.
- Even after the fall of man, God continued to call His people to courageous lives of faith in order to bless others. Abraham is one notable example: order to bless others. Abraham is one notable example:
Genesis 12:1-2: “Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.””

- When God's people, the Israelites, are taken captive and forced to live against their will in a foreign land, God calls them to be a blessing to the people there.

Jeremiah 29:7: "But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

B. Jesus came to live beyond himself. He didn't shrink back but stepped up to live for others.

Matthew 20:28: "... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

C. Jesus calls us to live beyond ourselves and give our lives away to help others.

Philippians 2:3-7: "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant ..."

Acts 20:35: "Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

D. The call of Jesus means our faith is to be lived out by reaching out.

3. Our Mission as Men

A. Our mission at home.

- We are called to love, protect, and provide for our wives and children. When we do, we follow the example of Jesus and honor God.

Ephesians 5:25: "Husbands, love you wives, just a Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her."

Ephesians 6:4: "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

- Some of the strongest words in the Bible are directed to men about providing for their families.

1 Timothy 5:8: "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

- What holds you back from embracing your mission at home?
- It takes faith and the support of others to be the courageous husband and father you need to be. Will you step up?

B. Our mission at work.

- We have been called to set an example of hard work and integrity in the work place. When we do, we honor God and highlight Jesus.

Colossians 3:23,24: "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men ... it is the Lord Christ whom you serve."

Proverbs 10:4: “Poor is he who works with lazy hands, but hard working hands get rich.”

- What holds you back from embracing your mission at work?
- It takes faith and the support of others to be the courageous worker you need to be. Will you step up?

C. Our mission in the world.

- We have been called by God to draw people to Jesus both with our lives and with our words. When we graciously love others and share with them the good news of Jesus, we join God in helping people find the eternal life Jesus gives.

Acts 1:8, NIV: “you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Colossians 4:5-6, NLT: “Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.”

Matthew 22:39: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

- What holds you back from embracing your mission in the world?
- It takes faith and the support of others to be the courageous witness you need to be for Jesus. Will you step up?

4. The Man You Need to Meet Before Leaving This Study

A. This man lives in the future.

B. He has not been perfect. He has struggled. But again and again, he has stepped up to courageously followed God’s Word. As a result ...

- His life has changed for the better.
- He has made a life-giving impact on others.
- He has brought glory to God.

C. Who is this man? It could be YOU!

Your Table Discussion Questions

1. Name a man (not in vocational ministry) that you admire as a “man of mission”? In what ways does his life demonstrate and illustrate spiritual “mission” as a priority? Explain.

2. Describe a time where you felt you were “on mission” with God. What did you do? What were the results? Explain.

3. As mentioned last week, we want to finish our BetterMan journey together by having every man share one or two personal action steps he is ready to commit to in the weeks ahead that he believes will strengthen his relationship with God and better help him in

courageously following God's Word.

4. Conclude your time by thanking God for these special five weeks together. Pray that the spiritual insights you have learned and the action steps you have planned will take root and bear fruit in every man's heart. Rak Chazak!

Your Plan Of Action: