

October Teaching Theme: Community on Mission

讲员 Speaker: Pastor William R. Horne

题目 Topic: The Church as a “Missional Community”

经文 Scripture: Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-37

Monthly Theme: This month’s theme is the next logical step from our 8-week series on “What is the Gospel?” as we now turn to talk about the Church being a “Community on Mission.” Those who give their allegiance (faith, trust, exclusive loyalty) to King Jesus have been and are being transformed into the likeness of Jesus and are now called to bear witness of this Good News as the community of God’s people. **Living “on mission” is a lifestyle of Christian Witness of the Good News of King Jesus through both words and deed (action).**

This week we talked about 5 key characteristics of the church as a “Missional Community.” The Church is called in all places and times to be “on Mission” - that is living out and proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed in all the spaces we occupy. The people of God are called to live as a “missional community,” where the Gospel is made evident in the words, ethics, and the actions of the community.

The 5 Characteristics of a “Missional Community” are the following:

- (1) CommUNITY of Radical Hospitality
- (2) CommUNITY of Radical Generosity
- (3) CommUNITY of Prayer and Power
- (4) CommUNITY of Proclamation
- (5) CommUNITY of Prophetic Witness

Resources:

Bible Project Video: [Witness](#) [English - Chinese Subtitles Available under Settings]

If your group has not watched this video yet, please watch

[Sermon PPT](#)

[Sermon Manuscript](#)

Important Notes (Pastor Will):

- The center of the Christian witness takes places in our neighborhoods, homes, and at our tables, when we choose to live lives of hospitality to the outsider.

- The People of God are for human flourishing for all people in all places and should to the best of our ability live lives and pursue policies that would make that possible. The People of God operate by the mindset of abundance, not scarcity, viewing money and possession only as valuable as the needs they meet. One may argue about what policies and procedures best implement human flourishing but as Christians, we must all have the same starting position concerning people and possessions.

- Prayer is less about trying to get God to do something we want God to do and more about getting ourselves to do what God wants us to do and to become who God wants us to become.
- The climax of the Pentecost event is the “**declaring the wonders of God**” to all nations, language, and people as God had promised all the way back in Genesis. The Gospel is not just action and ethics, but also a verbal proclamation that Jesus is King.
- The main function of the prophets was not to “predict the future” but to “proclaim truth to power” often in the form of judgment for injustice done. We as the community of God’s people should seek to live into the tradition of the prophets. This includes have a “prophetic witness” - speaking truth to those in power and having a “prophetic imagination” - being able to see the brokenness of the world and articulate a better way to live according to the way of Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- (1) Read Acts 2:42-47 & 4:23-37 together. What observations do you make and what stands out to you? How would you summarize the passages? What characteristics of the church can you identify from these passages?
- (2) As we have seen in the book of Acts hospitality and generosity are key characteristics of the Church on Mission. What are some challenges we are facing now to live this out? What are some things we can begin to do to live these characteristics out?
- (3) Read Micah 3 together. What observations do you make and what stands out to you? How would you summarize the passages?
- (4) According to the tradition of the prophets, bring a ‘prophetic witness’ is to speak the truth to power when it acts unjustly and to call those in power to repentance and systematic change. What are the challenges to us living this reality out as a church? What are some ways we can begin to have a “prophetic witness” in our context?
- (5) From what we have seen in the Scriptures, the community of God’s people is committed to both prayer and Spirit-led action. But, first, we must start with devotion in prayer. Spend some time praying together that we would live into our call to be a missional community.

Sermon Summary (Elder Yin):

教会为 “ 宣教使命的群体 ”

Pastor Will Horne

经文：“都恒心遵守使徒的教训，彼此交接，擘饼，祈祷。众人都惧怕；使徒又行了许多奇事神迹。信的人都在一处，凡物公用，并且卖了田产、家业，照各人所需用的分给各人。他们天天同心合意恒切地在殿里，且在家中擘饼，存着欢喜、诚实的心用饭，赞美神，得众民的喜爱。主将得救的人天天加给他们。”

使徒行传 2:42-47

前言

提起宣教，我们一般会想到去远方传福音且需要很多钱。今天要讲的是教会就是一个宣教的群体。教会是基督徒相聚之处。作为一个宣教的群体，我们一定有言语行为表现，又是合一的群体，为主做见证宣教。教会的建筑物-教堂，是给周围的人做见证。

教会宣教群体的特征：

1, 教会是合一的宣教团体

2, 教会是热诚接待人的群体

a, 一起吃个饭，对传福音也可重要。热情接待外来者。路加福音中8次提到耶稣与别人用餐，路5:27-32, 7:36-50, 9:1-17

基督徒应该打破障碍，热诚相待。“并不分犹太人、希腊人，自主的、为奴的，或男或女，因为你们在基督耶稣里都成为一了。”加拉太书 3:28

b, 我们要效法，你和邻居有没来往，关注他们，向他们传福音。

c, 得众民喜爱向众人发善心，甚至不喜欢的人。好好接待远方来的或者是外来者。倾其所有的，愿意完全给他人。

d, 凡物公用，徒4:32-35, “那许多信的人都是一心一意的，没有一人说他的东西有一样是自己的，都是大家公用。使徒大有能力，见证主耶稣复活；众人也都蒙大恩。内中也没有一个缺乏的；因为人人将田产房屋都卖了，把所卖的价银拿来，放在使徒脚前，照各人所需用的，分给各人。”使徒行传 4:32-35

公用，没人缺乏，按需分配，神的儿女对钱不同看见，别人的需要更重要，路加福音提到说，教会是得神祝福的地方，问我我们自是否在给予，经济系统人定的，圣经教导对财富的管理。教导，我们尽全力帮助需要者，什么是最好的办法？基督徒对财富的正确认识。教会应是和牧做家为人帮助

3, 祷告的能力的团体，靠神的智慧在祷告中成功，目的被神塑造，有神的形象，祷告是问神要我们做什么，行事为人有神的样子。祷告要有神的能力。一定要有行为，沉默是不够的，祷告和行动，

4, 宣神恩的群体：宣扬耶稣是神，对万国，徒4:33, “使徒大有能力，见证主耶稣复活；众人也都蒙大恩。”使徒行传
神认识邻居，为他们祷告，最终让他们为神效劳

5, 预言教导（先知见证）的群体：

旧约的先知的主要功用不是预计将来而是来带神的审判。弥加书，神职人员宣传假的音讯支持当时坏的以色列领袖：“雅各家的首领、以色列家的官长啊，当听我的话！你们厌恶公平，在一切事上屈枉正直；以人血建立锡安，以罪孽建造耶路撒冷。首领为贿赂行审判；祭司为雇价施训诲；先知为银钱行占卜。他们却倚赖耶和华，说：耶和华不是在我们中间吗？灾祸必不临到我们。所以因你们的缘故，锡安必被耕种像一块田，耶路撒冷必变为乱堆；这殿的山必像丛林的高处。”弥迦书 3:9-12

见不公平的现象，教会需要站出来，把神的讯息带出来，象施洗约翰，保罗也指出不公平的罗马制度，教会不能妥协，站出来，为不公平的事要站起来，作出反应