

# God's Mission of Redemption

John 20:19-23

## God's mission of redemption:

### 1. God's heart for people: \_\_\_\_\_ (21).

"The Father has sent me..." God sent His Son on His mission of redemption, that was formed *in* and proceeded forth *from* the heart of a \_\_\_\_\_ God. Therefore, the Lord Jesus' mission statement concerning the souls of lost people is this, from Luke 19:10: "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

An infinite, transcendent, perfectly holy, altogether majestic, awesome God is passionately in love with insignificant, sinful, openly rebellious, frequently indifferent people. God loves us so much that upon believing in His Son, He adopted us into His family! And even beyond that, for those of us who are in Christ, He drops the "sinner" tag, and instead He calls us "\_\_\_\_\_" and "sons," and wants us to call Him "Father."

### 2. Our heart for people: \_\_\_\_\_ (21).

"Even so I am sending you." Sending you to do what? "To seek and to save the lost." By what means? Love. What kind of love? Romans 5:1: "Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith *into this grace in which we stand ... because the love of \_\_\_\_\_* has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

What does God's love look like? Romans 5:6: "For while we were still *helpless*, at the right time Christ died for *the ungodly...* [And, further] God demonstrates His own love toward \_\_\_\_\_, in that while we were yet *sinner*s, Christ died for \_\_\_\_\_. [And] having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were *enemies* we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled we shall be saved by His life." God's love is demonstrated by giving up His highly beloved, fully divine Son...for these kinds of people?!

Do we love people like that? Are we willing to give or go or do whatever it takes to seek and to save people like that? Think of the person who bugs you the most—bugs the living daylights out of you; irritates you to no end; frustrates you to indignation; the person in your life who's totally unlikable. Do you love him or her?

Have we fully come to terms with the fact that we're on earth to make even wretched people our lot in life? If we do, then we will give much thought to **God's mission of redemption**, and we'll give much of ourselves to see that **mission** carried forward in our world. So, *if* we're ever asked about the priorities of our lives, and *if* **God and His mission** toward the lost *and* our involvement in it \_\_\_\_\_ come up, there's a serious defect in our love.

### 3. **Our power before people: The \_\_\_\_\_ of God (22).**

We believers today experientially know that kind of reception of the power of Holy Spirit's presence when we yield to the Spirit, when we surrender to His sovereign \_\_\_\_\_. It's then that we're empowered to walk and think and act and react by the Spirit.

#### **What does this power look like?**

- **We have \_\_\_\_\_.**

He and she has deep conviction about *why* they were born, *why* they were saved, and \_\_\_\_\_ they continue to live: to be used for the redemptive cause of Christ in the world!

- **We have \_\_\_\_\_.**

The religious elite of Jesus' day didn't know that Jesus was the Great Physician of the soul, and that He hung with sin-sick souls because He came to heal them of their sickness. But the Spirit-empowered redemptive person who has the heart of Jesus knows.

I see Christians get emotionally upset at lost sinners around them. But they need to know that the lost don't need our righteous indignation—they \_\_\_\_\_ our Savior. They don't need our white-hot anger. They don't need our judgmental attitudes—they need our \_\_\_\_\_! And,

that takes *vision*. And Spirit-filled, Spirit-empowered redemptive people have it—they *see* what others can't see. They *see* what Jesus sees.

- **We have \_\_\_\_\_.**

The work of redemption takes courage. You can't tell the lost about Jesus if you're afraid of what the lost will think or say about you. You can't be redemptive if you're afraid to give what you cannot keep—your life—to gain what you cannot lose—eternity. *Courage*. Yield to the Holy Spirit, receive His anointing power, and you will have it.

- **We have \_\_\_\_\_.**

He's humble, knowing that as a redemptive person, he's not the Redeemer. He \_\_\_\_\_ redeem anybody. She is simply a holy instrument in the hands of the Holy Redeemer. When we read about Paul's missionary journeys, we read things like, "Therefore they spent a long time there speaking boldly *with reliance upon **the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting*** that signs and wonders be done by their hands" (Acts 14:3; cf. 14:27). And, "A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; *and **the Lord** opened her heart to respond* to the things spoken by Paul" (16:14). Humble, because the work of redemption that we're doing is done by the power and purpose of the Spirit through us. It's His work, by His power, for His glory.

#### 4. **Our message to people: \_\_\_\_\_ (23).**

According to **Hebrews 9:22**, "Without the shedding of blood [the blood of Christ, 9:14] there is no forgiveness of sins." "Forgiveness of sins" is one of the major features and benefits of the death of Christ. What the Lord Jesus is giving us here in **verse 23** is the privilege of announcing heaven's \_\_\_\_\_ on how a person can receive forgiveness. If a person believes in Jesus, then we have a right to announce his forgiveness. If a person rejects Jesus' sacrifice, then we may announce that that person is not forgiven. As God's redemptive people, we have the power and privilege to announce the Good News of how serious God is about taking care of their sin problem.

**The line is going flat...**