

Missions 101: What Goes into a good STM?

Session Three: Everyone is a
Theologian

John 17:13-25

A Missionary prayer of “truth, holiness and unity” in the context of Jesus’ suffering and the attendant glory that will come

Scott W. Sunquist, **Understanding Christian Mission: Participation in Suffering and Glory**

- 13 “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.
- **Jesus Prays for All Believers**
- 20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.
- 24 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.
- 25 “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

Defining Our Terms

“Church”

- The local assembly
- God’s convocation in a particular time and place
- Living organism *not* a legal entity
- Intentional community called into existence by God and *in response* makes choices

Luke Timothy Johnson, **Scripture & Discernment: Decision Making in the Church**

Defining Our Terms

“Faith”

- Assent of the mind and heart to receive revealed truths
- Making explicit in the world the living truth of God in Jesus Christ
- The directing of human freedom which says ‘yes’ both to God and to the human condition

Luke Timothy Johnson, **Scripture & Discernment: Decision Making in the Church**

Defining Our Terms

“Theology”

- *Fides quaerens intellectus* – ‘faith seeking understanding’
- Search for understanding that involves active discernment of the responses to God being made by individuals as they together, as church, seek to decide in favor of God

Who is Qualified to be a Theologian?

- Everyone is required to interpret her or his life before God. This is doing theology.
- Every church's decisions are the result of doing theology, and reveal the understandings of God that were applied
- Everyone is a theologian

Three Models of Mission

- “Pilgrim’s Progress”
- “Jonah”
- “the Cross”

The first two are attributed to Lesslie Newbigin by
David J. Bosch, **A Spirituality of the Road**

Three Models of Mission: Pilgrim's Progress

- Reference to Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress"
- True Christian life consists of moving away from the corruption and disorder of the world
- To be saved is to be as otherworldly as possible until raised to Heaven
- Christ is seen as having predominantly one nature: divine

Three Models of Mission: Pilgrim's Progress

What are the implications for mission in this model?

- Emphasis on orthodoxy or ‘right belief’
- High view of Scripture
- Emphasis on the Glory of God
- Focus on spiritual condition, saving souls
- Tends not to engage in the fray, nonpolitical
- Mission tends to reflect evangelistic efforts

Three Models of Mission: “Jonah”

- Like Jonah – sent into the city to immerse in the human condition
- True Christian life consists of serving those who struggle, and advocating for health, justice and peace
- To be saved is somewhere in the working out of God’s shalom
- Christ is seen as predominantly having one nature: human

Three Models of Mission: “Jonah”

What are the implications for mission in this model?

- Emphasis on orthopraxy or ‘right practice’
- High value placed on acceptance, love and compassion
- The Gospel is largely a secular message
- Emphasis placed on creating a better society through immersion in societal & political solutions
- Mission tends to embrace the world’s views on justice and social change

Three Models of Mission: One Movement Relying on Tension

- “Pilgrim’s Progress” & “Jonah” are not two opposing movements, but part of one movement.
- “The church is always and at the same time called out of the world and sent into the world.”
- Being called out of the world sends the Church into the world; being sent into the world calls her out.

David J. Bosch, *A Spirituality for the Road*

Three Models of Mission: the Cross

A third model is needed –

- The Cross is a sign of total identification with the world - *Jesus was never more worldly than here*
- The Cross is a sign of radical separation from the world – *Jesus never stood over more against the world more clearly than here*
- Both of these realities are true at the same time

David J. Bosch, **A Spirituality of the Road**

Three Models of Mission: the Cross

What are the implications for mission in this model?

- Orthodoxy and orthopraxy become one – a holistic love response for God who loved us first, and for others
- More and more we are imitators of Christ, sharing in his suffering and sacrifice; living and dying; being rich and poor; being used and set aside

Three Models of Mission: the Cross

What are the implications for mission in this model?

- Finding a unity of witness which brings freedom to all nations [Eph. 3:4-11; Col. 1:24-29]
- Apostolic humility – mutuality in mission is not just working side by side. It is about learning from each other and supporting each other. *'There's no person not in need of support and never a situation where one person has nothing to offer.'*

Scott W. Sunquist, **Understanding Christian Mission: Participation in Suffering and Glory**

Meet “Bread of Life Church” Kozelets, Ukraine

- Easter 2019



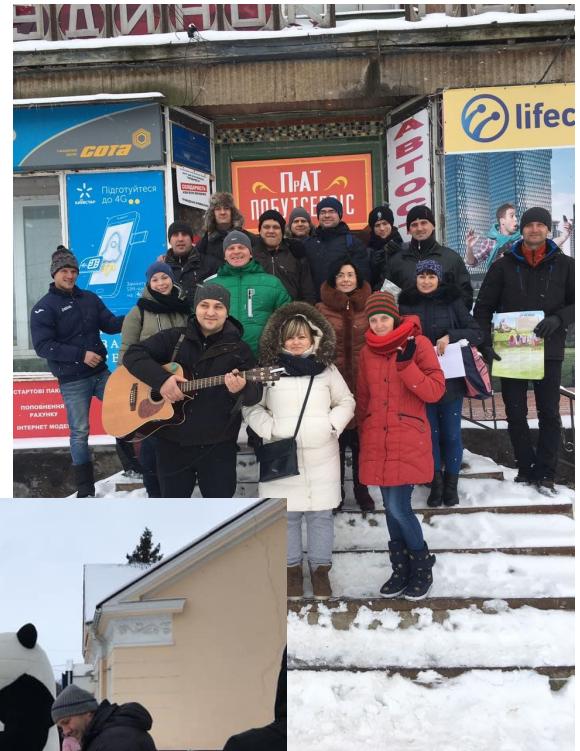
Meet “Bread of Life Church” Kozelets, Ukraine

Dental Clinic



Meet “Bread of Life Church” Kozelets, Ukraine

Christmas Evangelism



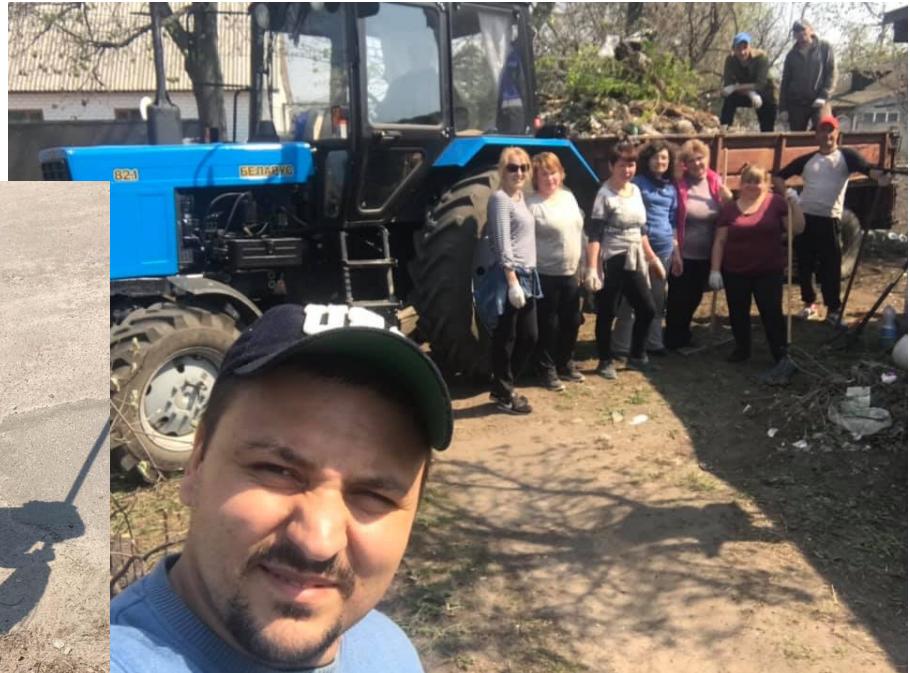
Meet “Bread of Life Church” Kozelets, Ukraine

Church planting in another town



Meet “Bread of Life Church” Kozelets, Ukraine

Church planting in another town



Meet “Bread of Life Church” Kozelets, Ukraine

Meeting of Rehab Teams



Meet “Bread of Life Church” Kozelets, Ukraine

Outreach in the park



Meet “Bread of Life Church” Kozelets, Ukraine

Inna and Timoshka



Meet “Bread of Life Church” Kozelets, Ukraine

Bogdan, Inna & Timoshka



Small Groups Exercise

In your small groups, write a theological mission statement, followed by a statement of purpose as if you were the travel team going to Ukraine:

“We believe _____,

Therefore we will _____.”

[Be prepared to share with the larger group]

Small Groups Exercise

- Discuss today's presentation on mission theology, and the additional information you learned about Bread of Life Church.
- Jot down comments and questions that could be forwarded to Bogdan.