

Stepping Into...

Missional Thinking

1. Does God really care?

2 Peter 3:9, 15 (NIV)

⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, **not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

¹⁵ (a) Bear in mind that our Lord's **patience means salvation...**"

Jonah 4:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. ² So he prayed to the Lord, and said, “Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for **I know that You *are* a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.** ³ Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for *it is* better for me to die than to live!”
⁴ Then the Lord said, “***Is it* right for you to be angry?”**”

“Knowing the heart of God is not the same as identifying with the heart of God.”

*Jesus became one of us to save us.
He didn't run away from us; He ran toward us.*

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

2. Do I really care?

2 Cor 5:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ Now then, we are **ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God**.

1 John 2:6 (ESV)

⁶ Whoever says he **abides in Him** ought to walk **in the same way** in which He walked.

John 4:28-35 (NIV)

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him. ³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” ³³ Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?” ³⁴ “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵ Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

John 4:36-42 (NIV)

³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour.”

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, **“He told me everything I ever did.”** ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴² They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world.

“All Christians should become expert in their knowledge and use of the gospel, not simply so they can share it faithfully with non-Christians, but also so they can speak it to themselves every day and experience its benefits. In fact, if Christians would do more preaching of the gospel to themselves, non-Christians might have less trouble comprehending its message, for they would see its truth and power exuding from believers in indisputable ways.”

Milton Vincent

“Open Your Eyes and Look at the Fields”

John 4:31-35 (NIV)

³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” ³³ Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?” ³⁴ “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵ Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

3. Remember Why

Matthew 22:37-40 (NKJV)

³⁷ “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

³⁸ This is the great and first commandment.

³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two

commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ “Go (*as you are going*) therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

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