

A people who are passionate about God's purposes

- > We do not want to be just individuals, but to be a **people**,
- > We do not want to be just a people, but to be a people who are **passionate about God**. God's people!
- > We do not want to be just passionate about God, but **passionate about God's purposes and what he wants to do in us**.

What is our mission, what should we be passionate about, what is God's purpose for us that we should be passionate about?

Read Isaiah 42: 1-9 - God the Father talking to his son and setting out his mission.

⁷to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

1. Getting people to see *⁷to open eyes that are blind*

God's talking not about real eyes but **spiritual** eyes to see the truth about God, about themselves, and about their future.

2 Corinthians 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

God opens people's eyes **through his Spirit working** in their lives, showing them their true state and convincing them to do something about it (John 16:8-11) He has **chosen to use us to help him** do this - to tell them the message. Unless we tell them how will they hear?

¹³for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

¹⁴How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵And how can they preach unless they are sent?

2. Freeing people *to free captives from prison*

The prison God is talking about here is - **Sin and death** - God says the people of this world are held captive by sin and death - from the beginning because of Adam's choice to believe Satan rather than God.

Rom 5:12 just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned

Jesus brings freedom from sin through **forgiveness** and a **transformed life**.

Our mission is to help people get freedom from both the penalty of sin and the addiction to it. To proclaim the **message of grace** - grace of God to forgive, but also the grace to God to live a transformed life.

3. Bringing people into the light *to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness*

The dungeon here is the **darkness** this person is sitting in - Jesus came to bring people out of this dungeon of darkness **into his light**. Jesus says in John that many actually choose to live in a dungeon because they are afraid of having to own up to being wrong:

John 3: ¹⁹⁻²⁰ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed

Being this way is like a dungeon because **the very deeds people are trying to hide** as we found in 2 **are keeping them captive**. Unless they are brought into the light they will just stay sitting there.

Lets be a place where they can experience the light and be given the opportunity of being released from this dungeon of darkness they are in.

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 12:46 I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

Now Jesus is in heaven - we are to be the light.

Matthew 5:14 You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

Conclusion

A people with a passion for God's purpose.

A church full of **transformed** people with a secure future with Jesus.

Each one of these three aspects of God's mission or purpose involves a transformed life.