

WEEK4: Integrating a God's Global Mission in Our Lives

In order to fulfill a God-centred mission in our lives, we require 'Spiritual Disciplines' to stay focused on the cause of Christ which is to live for God's glory. God's desire is that we tell the whole world about Him and His salvation.

Discussion:

1. What are spiritual disciplines? Why are they important for us if we are to integrate the cause of Christ in our daily lives?

- Spiritual disciplines are spiritual means and responsibilities that believers utilise to deepen their personal relationship with the Lord.
- Spiritual disciplines are not ends in and of themselves, but the means to the end of getting to know God better.
- Some of the spiritual disciplines are prayer, meditation, Bible study, fasting, worship, evangelism, awareness, and choice.

Spiritual disciplines are important because:-

- Godliness and Christ-likeness are not natural progressions (Psalm 29:15). Believers must train themselves to be Godly. (1 Timothy 4:7-8; 1 Corinthians 9:27)
- The example of Christ and Godly people in the Bible show the importance of spiritual disciplines. (Mark 1:35, 6:46)
- Nearness to God comes only as we choose to draw near to Him. (James 4:8)
- The Christian life is a daily battle. (Luke 9:23; 1 Timothy 6:11-12)

2. How Can We Practise Spiritual Disciplines in our lives?

It begins with the right perspectives, which should be God-focused and Global-oriented.

What does a God-centered perspective look like?

- Spiritual disciplines should not bring attention to one selves but are utilised so we may further know, love and live for Christ. (Philippians 1:21, 3:7-10)
- God Himself should be the conscious centre of all our spiritual activity. (Deuteronomy 4:39; Psalm 100:3; Isaiah 43:21)
- God is to be our sole motivation in doing what we need to do in order to accomplish what He's called us to do!

What about 'a Global-oriented Perspective'?

- We must practice spiritual disciplines in light of God's heart for all nations to intimately know Him. Our heart shouldn't be only just for our local community and nation but also for the world.

3. Key areas of Spiritual Disciplines

Below are some areas of disciplines that would help us integrating the global-oriented perspective in our lives. Discuss what each discipline means and what we can practically do to integrate them with such perspective in mind.

Discipline of Awareness

- Be aware of God's activity in the world
- Know He is drawing nations to Himself. (Habakkuk 1:5)
- Be more aware of current events: TV, radio, newspaper...use that as a time to pray for countries as you see things going on
- Visit some resourceful website such as www.joshuaproject.net

Discipline of Prayer

- Pray for missionaries, unreached people groups and global current events. (1 Thessalonians 5:25; Ephesians 6:19-20; Nehemiah 1:4)
- Pray for personal requests in light of our responsibility (roommate troubles, meeting in worship, financial, health etc.)to bless others with the gospel. (Psalm 67:1-2)

Discipline of Choice in Everyday Living

- Constantly ask yourself, "*Do the choices I make reflect God's heart to bless the nations?*"
- Does the way I spend my time (Psalm 90:12), money (Matthew 6:19-21), and energy match my responsibility to reach the nations with the gospel?
- How do the choices I make about lifestyle, relationships, location and future reflect God's heart for the nations?

This question may not be so much fun to deal with. In light of any relationships we have, it might be worthwhile to ask ourselves these questions. Are they on the same page in regards to fulfilling the cause of Christ? Make a list of qualities needed for your close friends/future spouse (let God do it). How can you biblically grow together (spiritually) with those closed ones if they don't have the same global perspective? If this is going to be your ministry and purpose in life, how can you pick a partner in ministry that doesn't have the same strategy/purpose/mission, etc?

Discipline of Evangelism and Discipleship

- Witness to people that God puts in your life. See how they fit into the global purpose of God. Some of the your non-Christian friends could be future missionaries! They just need to hear the gospel and see Christ's love through you. God has huge plans for them once they become believers. Practically, get involved with our Brisbane Salt & Light team and some campus outreach activities.
- Practice cross-cultural witnessing. Utilise mission opportunities, international students, immigrants, etc. (Acts 1:8) There are many international students in Brisbane. Some are from families that are

prominent and/or leaders in their country...very influential. They will be going back to their country to become the next leaders!

- Begin to mentor or disciple new believers or young Christians to grow in the Lord.
- Support native missionaries (visit www.gospelforasia.com) in our life group
- Taking part of a short-term mission trip

Any other areas of disciplines you can think of?