

Eleutheros Newsletter

October 2018

News of Interest

A resource for Christians!

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Eleutheros Books reaches out to believers in Africa!

A mission trip to Ghana is scheduled for late October or early November!

Also, a flash drive containing 30 lectures on soteriology will soon be sent to Rwanda!

The Mission of Jesus

For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many. ([Mark 10:45](#))

The verse quoted above indicates great reasons why Jesus was sent to this earth. As the King of Kings He very well could have insisted that others take good care of Him and offer Him many worldly luxuries.

It was the Father's will that it be otherwise.

The primary mission is obvious, but we will look at three reasons for his mission here on this earth:

First, He came to show His love.

He demonstrated His *agape* love in several ways.

For instance, He prayed urgently for believers and His disciples.

I have manifested Thy name unto the men which Thou gavest Me out of the world: Thine they were, and Thou gavest them Me: and they kept Thy Word. I pray for them: I

pray not for the world but for them which Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine ([John 17:6, 9](#)).

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that He may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not... ([Luke 22:31-32a](#)).

In addition, He showed great emotion when He saw and heard about the suffering of people.

When He came to Bethany and saw how the people of the town grieved over the death of Lazarus, *Jesus wept* ([John 11:35](#)).

During a teaching/preaching tour in various cities and villages, ministering in the synagogues and throughout the entire countryside, He showed a strong emotional attachment for the people:

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd ([Matthew 9:36](#); see also [Mark 6:34](#)).

Consider also the fact that even though there were many who suffered from nasty diseases and demon possession; and even though they came at all hours to seek His help, He showed great love in healing them all:

For He healed many, insomuch that they pressed upon Him for to touch Him, as many as had plagues And unclean spirits, when they saw Him, fell down before Him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God ([Mark 3:10-11](#)).

Second, He came to train His disciples.

He did this in a number of ways. Even though He was extremely busy (and no doubt exhausted physically at times), He trained His disciples by His example of great patience and hard work.

After delivering the parable of the sower ([Mark 4:3-9](#)), the disciples asked Him what it meant. Jesus did rebuke them mildly (as He often did when they showed a lack of faith and/or significant ignorance), but then explained in considerable depth what the story meant.

When our Savior was in the garden, agonizing over His upcoming betrayal, trial, and soon to come crucifixion, He desired to have His followers pray with Him, approaching them three times! What abandonment! And yet, He had the patience to say, *Sleep on now, and take your rest; behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners* ([Matthew 26:45](#)). How many of us would have reacted that way!

Jesus also trained His disciples through His amazing work ethic!

The Gospels give many accounts of His non-stop efforts to minister in one way or another, but perhaps the most outstanding example is found in John 5 and 6. Here we see Jesus working day and night to meet the needs of the people and His beloved disciples.

In John 5 He healed an impotent man on a Sabbath day, facing the criticism of various Jewish leaders.

Then in John 6, on that same day, He *went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias* (6:1). When He arrived *a great multitude followed Him, because they saw the miracles He did on them that were diseased* (6:2).

In short order He went up into a mountain (6:3) and eventually performed the miracle of feeding five thousand men (beside the women and children in the area).

A group of men wanted to make Him a king (6:14-15), but He departed into a mountain (no doubt, to pray). That evening, His disciples decided to enter a boat and sail toward Capernaum (6:16-17). Jesus then came down from the mountain and soon was seen walking on the water in the middle of a great storm (6:18-19).

The next day many of the people came again to see Jesus Who delivered to them His message on the bread of life (John 6:26-58). Many of the people who had followed Him while He was performing miracles decided that such a strong message was not for them; so they *walked no more with Him* (6:66). Then He asked His twelve if they would forsake Him also (6:67).

Quite obviously, this was more than a twenty-four hour work day! Jesus had healed, fed a multitude of people, prayed, preached, and had to suffer the indignity of seeing many leave Him!

It was all in the service of the people and in the will of the Father, but it had to be very exhausting! No doubt this was in an effort to train the disciples to expect their ministries to be filled with hard work.

Further training can be found in His admonitions, especially in His post-resurrection ministry.

In [John 21](#) our Lord sought out Peter who had previously denied Him three times. In His own powerful way He mildly rebuked Peter, asking him three times if he loved Him. The first two times Jesus used the verb *agapao*, inquiring if Peter had a deep love, but the third time He used the verb *phileo*, questioning if he had even a friendship kind of love. Peter was grieved, but he also received a wonderful commission from our Lord.

Peter was told three times (in a different way each time) to feed His sheep! What Jesus did was make Peter accountable for his failure but then gave him the assurance that He had a great ministry for him to perform! What important training this was!

The most quoted example of an admonition in Jesus' post-resurrection ministry is found in the Great Commission: *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world* ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)).

Just as Jesus had ministered to every person and every need He faced, He presented His disciples with the amazing challenge to go and make disciples all over the world!

We will continue these thoughts in the November newsletter.

Rescue the Perishing

Fanny J. Crosby

*Rescue the perishing,
Care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
Weep o'er the erring one,
Lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save!*

*Down in the human heart,
Crushed by the tempter,
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore!
Touched by a loving heart,
Wakened by kindness,
Chords that were broken will vibrate once more!*

*Rescue the perishing!
Care for the dying!
Jesus is merciful!
Jesus will save!*