

REDEMPTION CHURCH

Mission 24 | Mission Statement

OUR MISSION

We exist to help all people experience redemption, live in freedom, and become partners in the Gospel.

MATTHEW 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

This weekend we kicked off our year of studying the Word of God together and began this new series, Mission 24, about our church's mission statement.

Why? We see it most clearly in Matthew 28 as we see Jesus sharing His mission for the disciples before His ascension.

Notes:

Looking to Matthew 28, the disciples were being obedient and worshipping Jesus; but He gave them a mission as well. Obey, yes; worship yes; **but we need to be on mission too!**

Four Reasons to be on Mission:

1. **Jesus instructs us to be.** His message to them is to us too.
2. **Personal Transformation.** The mission starts inside each of us: *"I love Redemption because _____"*
3. **Personal Participation.** The mission extends out of each of us. Some of our greatest joy comes witnessing others experience redemption.
4. **Church unity.** We have so much to accomplish together!

Our mission (above left) reflects the truth and call of the Gospel. So, over 2,000 years later, we look out at the world and wonder what to do. Thankfully, He already told us! *"Go and make disciples,"* or, said a different way, *"Help ALL people experience redemption, live in freedom and partner in the Gospel."*

All people? Yep! Because only the Gospel can change a life!

Romans 1:16 points out that we shouldn't be *"ashamed of the Gospel."* Why would anyone be ashamed of the Gospel? We see why in [1 Corinthians 1:18; 22-24](#). The Gospel is absolute foolishness to anyone who hasn't had it break into their heart and then accepted it. And who would reject the power of God? Well, Jesus tells us a story to help us understand in Luke 14:15-24.

Jesus shares this parable set in Jewish culture. He's at a party

Luke 14:15-24

.....
 When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" **16**But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. **17**And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' **18**But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.' **19**And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.' **20**And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' **21**So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' **22**And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' **23**And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. **24**For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

and telling a story about a party. He doesn't mince words. As we say around here, Jesus is spitting some **Clear Truth**. **Clear Truth is the unfiltered Word of God convicting and compelling hearts and minds.**

First, Jesus challenges the assumptions of who's "in" and who isn't. (vs 15-17). This man assumes he is in. But, is he; and is the Gospel: like everything else –like the Jewish religion or other false religions/philosophies; only for the good, the rich, the Jew; those without checkered pasts, with certain educations or accomplishments; for certain types of people depending on personality, geography, or era? Is there a different Gospel now than there was years ago; is it different by culture or race? Jesus answers all of those with a resounding **NO** here.

Second, He makes it clear that the dividing factor is the excuses we make, and not the life we were born into (v18-20). The world wants to divide us (by race, culture, era, age, past, etc). Jesus says, no –we're all pretty similar; but, what we all share is a natural love for self and the tendency to be good at making excuses.

Excuse 1: Lover of the world.

Excuse 2: Worry, anxiety, and fear.

Excuse 3: I've already got basic, human responsibilities.

Third, Jesus loves a full house (v21-24). And who does He fill it with? All those you'd never think of –the least of these. His incredible love says **bring them all**.

But... they are outcasts, have been forgotten by society, can't help, aren't educated, don't have money, disagree with us on some important issues. Bring them! Sounds foolish, right? The Gospel's is completely different!

Now What?

Don't put yourself in the place of the banquet holder from the parable, or as the person who'd get invited first. We are not! We were the blind, the poor, and the crippled! **We were the forgotten ones, and what happened? He brought us into the party!**

Why? Because He is good, He loves us, and so that we can tell other people (**ALL** people) about the party!

Stop making excuses and elevating idols, come to the party, live for the Master, and get on mission!