

Date: July 26, 2026

Series: Own the Mission: Belong. Become. Be Sent

Title: Mission Minded vs. Goal Driven

Text: Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21



Introduction: Life Under the Sun

- Most of us are not short on sincerity. We're short on **aim**.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:2–3, 9; Matthew 28:19-20

"It is impossible to find a life of unshakable identity, meaning, purpose, contentment, and joy if you only look horizontally." Paul Tripp

- Life under the sun will leave you empty; life on God's mission gives **eternal purpose**.

I. Salt and Light: The Practice of the Mission (Matthew 5:13–16)

- Salt and light are simply what a heart transformed by Christ **interacts** with the world around us.
- Our mission turns ordinary resources into **tools** of light and grace.

"Our post-Christian neighbors need to hear and see and taste and feel authentic Christianity, hospitality spreading from every Christian home that includes neighbors in prayer, food, friendship, childcare, dog walking, and all the daily matters upon which friendships are built." Rosaria Butterfield

Scriptures: Matthew 1:23; Matthew 28:20; Colossians 3:23–24

II. Ambassadors for Christ: The Motivation of the Mission (2 Corinthians 5:14–20)

- We are driven by Christ's love, not the pressure of **outcomes** or how easy someone is to like.
- Every day is another opportunity to encourage people to take their next step **toward Jesus**.

Questions for Growth and Mission:

Look Back: Understanding the Message

1. Solomon had wisdom, wealth, power, and pleasure, and called it all "vanity — vapor, mist, smoke." Where have you chased something horizontal — career, home, body, bank account — expecting it to give you identity or joy? What did you find when you got it?
2. Think of your closest relationships — family members, a friend, a coworker. Where are you most tempted to turn a person into a project — something to manage or check off — rather than someone to know and love?
3. Jesus says, "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world" before His disciples had done anything to earn it. Do you relate to God as someone still building an identity, or as someone already given one? What would change in your average day if you believed the second one?
4. Salt has to leave the shaker and touch what it's preserving; light only helps from a stand, not hidden in a drawer. Who is the one person God has already placed close to you that you've kept at arm's length?
5. Paul writes that Christ's love "controls" or "compels" him. What actually controls most of your days — approval, the fear of falling short, the pressure to produce a result? What would it feel like to be controlled by love instead?

Look Forward: Owning the Mission

6. "We regard no one according to the flesh." Be honest: who have you quietly filed away as either useful or in the way, rather than a soul carrying God's own image? What would it look like this week to see that person the way Christ sees them?
7. Think about your money, time, home, skills — even your "toys." Do you tend to guard them as proof of what you've earned, or offer them as tools of light for someone else's good? Name one thing you could lend, share, or open up this week.
8. Paul says he plants, another waters, but only God gives the growth. Where have you been carrying pressure to fix, convince, or change someone that was never actually your job to carry? What would it look like to hand that back to God this week?
9. If someone looked at your calendar, your bank statement, and your last few conversations, would they see a goal-driven life or a mission-minded one? Name one real person and one ordinary next step you could take this week to help them move closer to Jesus.
10. Solomon could see the emptiness of life under the sun but never the way out. We have what he didn't: Christ has already died, risen, and promised, "I am with you always." How does knowing Jesus himself is present with you change the weight you feel to make the mission "work"?