

5 core values 6: The Missionary Jesus

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Bugb statement
missionary Jesus

- # Jesus was a 'man with a mission' the reading we had are like bookends on his ministry, sharing the good news runs like the words through a stick of rock, wherever you crack open the gospel accounts you see it.

- # He was sent Luke 4.42-44:

- the next morning Jesus went out to a place where he could be alone, and crowds came looking for him. When they found him, they tried to stop him from leaving. But Jesus said, "People in other towns must hear the good news about God's kingdom. That's why I was sent." So he kept on preaching in the Jewish meeting places in Judea.

- # He had a message

The gospel Jesus brought was not just 'Good News' in prophetic (repent the kingdom is at hand), inclusive (the sick need a doctor, not the healthy) and sacrificial ways, it was also the message of the kingdom of God, with miraculous demonstrations of the nature of that kingdom.

Matt 9.35-38: Jesus went to every town and village. He taught in their meeting places and preached the good news about God's kingdom. Jesus also healed every kind of disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them. They were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, "A large crop is in the fields, but there are only a few workers. Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest to send out workers to bring it in."

- # He was empowered: Luke 4 – he returned from the temptations in the power of the Spirit, and then began his preaching and healing ministry

- # He stayed focussed

- In his ministry Jesus had an awareness that he was 'sent', and even as he became popular and successful in one region he stayed focused on his purpose of going to other regions where he had not been encountered¹.

A Missionary Community

Since Jesus authenticated the ultimate reality of God's love by giving himself for the life of the world, and commissioned his followers to go as witnesses locally, nationally and globally, we believe as Baptists, that we must be true to our roots by

¹ Mark 1.38

being a missionary people. Corporately and individually we are obliged to seek to bring other people to a personal experience of God's saving love and to a faith-relationship with him and to demonstrate in our words and actions God's forgiving and healing love.

- We are a people with a mission: Matt 28.16-20
- # We have been sent: by Jesus, to the world – strategy in Acts 1.8 Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria & rest of the world.
- # We have a message
 - God loves you, your sin has broken your relationship with him, Christ has died for you and made a way back as you trust him, turn back to him and follow him.
 - As followers of Christ, Baptists also seek to embody the good news through proclamation of salvation into God's Kingdom, alongside works of reconciliation, healing and mercy. The vocation of being a missionary people "gives us a radical view of the world and our daily life in it"² inasmuch as we are ambassadors of another kingdom – we live within our culture but as pilgrims traveling through it³. We see and know what 'the world' does not, and are obligated by love and compassion to share it.
 - As a Missionary Community, Baptists share the truth of Christ's redeeming sacrifice, and the offer of peace with God, and seek to live consistently with that message, while proclaiming and demonstrating it with others in relevant, respectful and humble ways.
- # We have been empowered: Acts 1 – the Spirit has been poured out, he fills us, and is our invisible ally
- # We will stay focussed
 - he sent his disciples out, having authorized and empowered them, and finally commissioned them to go and instruct subsequent believers to do likewise⁴ "we are a church family who look up to God and out to the world to make effective disciples for Jesus Christ."
 - So how will we seek to do this?

² Five Core Values p.11

³ 1 Peter 1.1

⁴ Matthew 28.18-20

In the local church:

- To be communities of welcome, characterised by forgiveness, reconciliation and healing.
- To present the gospel as an invitation to an upside-down kingdom which reverses the values of a secular, materialistic age.
- To get to know and understand the community around us, in order to be able to reveal the love of God relevantly within it,
- To share our Christian convictions humbly with people of other faiths,
- To identify, train and use those with the gift of evangelism, and to encourage all members to recognise that daily life should reflect the love, mercy, peace and compassion of Christ, and to be able to tell their faith story.

In the denomination:

- To encourage and help churches to develop an understanding of themselves as missionary congregations.
- To deepen commitment to and partnership with the Baptist Missionary Society and other mission agencies through prayer and giving.

*“If the local church is to be faithful to its mission, it must know both the Gospel and the people to whom the Gospel is to be proclaimed.”
Edward Patey.*

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