



Sermon 2

Transforming Cities: Following the Example of Jesus

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Matthew 9:35

“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness”.

Introduction

Today, we are going on a spiritual journey inspired by Jesus, exploring how we can carry out effective missionary work in cities. Let’s imagine a bustling city full of challenges, similar to what Jesus faced in His time. But before we dive into this exciting topic, let me share a short story.

A few years ago, in the heart of a great city, lived a young man named David. Amidst the constant hustle and bustle of the city, David felt overwhelmed by the lack of hope and purpose he observed in the lives of many people around him. However, one day, David experienced an encounter that would change the course of his life forever. He crossed paths with an elderly man named Elijah, who shared with him the story of Jesus’ ministry in the cities. The elderly man took his Bible and read the Gospel of Matthew 9:35:

“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness among the people.”

David paid attention as Elijah explained that this verse highlighted three key actions that Jesus performed for the benefit of the cities, represented by the three main verbs in that verse.

Development

1. First Verb: Teach

Let's start with the first crucial verb: “teach.” Jesus spent time sharing His wisdom with the crowds in the cities. In Matthew 9:35, it says, *“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues.”* However, His teaching wasn't limited to words; it was also reflected in the way He lived His life. His life conveyed lessons of love, compassion, justice, and faith.

Now, let's continue with David's story. After his encounter with Elijah and his newfound passion for following in Jesus' footsteps, David felt compelled to do something truly significant. Instead of being swept away by the city's routine and superficial distractions, he decided to take action. One afternoon, while strolling through the city park, David came across a group of young people discussing spirituality and religion. Intrigued, he approached and began to listen. These young

people were eager to learn more about God and the Bible. David was impressed by their genuine interest in delving deeper into their faith.

Motivated by these young people's desire to learn, David volunteered to be their mentor. He shared what he had learned and helped them navigate the challenges of city life from a spiritual perspective. Additionally, he shared online resources on spiritual topics and recommended books and podcasts that had enriched his own spiritual understanding.

Young city missionaries, take inspiration from what Jesus did and from David's experience. It's time to take action and make a difference in your city! Here are some tips:

- *Organize Bible Study Groups:* Gather your friends or even people you don't know and organize Bible study groups in welcoming places like cafes or parks. It's not just about reading the Bible but exploring what it means in everyday life.
- *Be Mentors:* Become mentors for other young people who need spiritual guidance. Help them navigate life's ups and downs, share your experiences, and grow together in faith.
- *Share Resources:* Share books, podcasts, and online materials that have impacted you and that discuss God and salvation in a relevant and engaging way for today's youth. Think about what you would like and share it enthusiastically.

Remember that teaching is not just about imparting information; it's about being a role model for others! Show love, compassion, and faith in your daily life, and you'll see how your light shines in the city. Ready to make a mark in your community? The time is now Young Adults!

2. Second Verb: Preach

Now, let's move on to the second key verb: "preach." Look at Jesus; He was truly a master at this. He not only shared His wisdom but also eagerly told everyone the most exciting news in history: the Kingdom of God was here, full of hope, forgiveness, and reconciliation!

Do you remember our friend David, the young man who once felt lost in the city and searched for purpose in life? After his encounter with Elijah and his new passion for following in Jesus' footsteps, David felt compelled to do something truly important.

One day, while David was at his school, he had a perfect opportunity to put the verb "preach" into practice. His teacher, who identified as an atheist, asked David why he believed in God. Right then and there, in front of all his classmates, David spoke with courage and conviction about the reasons he had faith in God. He explained the wonder of creation and how the Bible had a transformative impact on his life. The group of students listened attentively to every word David said, and even the teacher was impressed by the firmness of his convictions!

After speaking for about ten minutes, David took a deep breath and shared the amazing story of Jesus and how his faith in Him had transformed his own life. He spoke of the hope and forgiveness found in God, and how reconciliation can change everything.

He did it with bravery but also with humility and love. He didn't try to impose his faith but shared the truth in an authentic and respectful way. David's passion and genuine love shone through his words.

David's preaching brought hope to those young people who listened. Just like Jesus, David proclaimed the good news with courage and love, and in that moment, he made a difference in the city's school.

So, boys and girls, "preaching" is not just about speaking from a pulpit but finding everyday opportunities to share God's love with those around us. Let's follow Jesus and David's examples and let the good news shine in our city. You too can be bearers of hope and change in daily life!

3. Third Verb: Heal

The third crucial verb on our spiritual journey is "heal." Jesus didn't just teach and preach; He also healed the sick and comforted the afflicted! In the Gospel of Matthew 9:35, it tells us that "He healed every disease and sickness among the people." But remember, it's not just about curing physical ailments; it also refers to healing spiritual and emotional wounds. That's an essential part of our mission in the city.

Let's return with David. After listening to the young people, he came to understand the importance of healing. One day, after delving into the study of the Bible, David felt in his heart that God was calling him not only to teach and preach but also to serve in a more tangible way.

David noticed that in his city, there were many homeless people in need of food and clothing, and there were also elderly individuals who rarely received visitors. He decided to speak with his church pastor and express his desire to get involved in a service group. The pastor informed him about a group of church members who had a ministry of providing food to the homeless.

David didn't hesitate for a moment and joined this group. Every Saturday, after church service, he joined his fellow members in preparing around two hundred meals and then went out to distribute them on the city streets. This work filled David's heart with joy, and this is where he understood one of the ways we can fulfill the verb "heal."

Healing doesn't just mean treating the sick; it also means taking care of those in need. It's about providing food, clothing, and assistance to the homeless, visiting the sick in hospitals, spending time with the elderly in city nursing homes, visiting the widows, showing love to the orphans, it's about doing what you can for those who are marginalized in your city.

Like Jesus, David understood that healing goes beyond the physical; it's about touching hearts

and alleviating the burdens of those who are afflicted. And so, like all of us, David found a powerful way to fulfill the "heal" verb in the city.

So, young *City Missionaries*, let's follow Jesus and David's example. Let's look for opportunities to serve the needy. You can make a difference in the city through your actions filled with love and compassion!

Conclusion

David, the young man in our story, followed Jesus' example in his city. He learned to teach, preach, and heal, and his missionary work transformed the lives of many people. Today, as young missionaries in the cities, we have the same opportunity to be agents of change. ***Remember that following Jesus' example involves teaching with wisdom, preaching with love, and healing with compassion.*** By doing so, we can be instruments of transformation in our cities, bringing hope and God's love to those who need it most. Let this mission be our passion and commitment. Amen.