

Vision Casting

The Honey Bee...

If the average life span of a honey bee is 6 weeks,
and during that life span it can collect $\frac{1}{12}$ of a teaspoon of honey,
how can a hive produce, on average, 40 kgs of honey a year plus
feed itself through the winter?

Message Series

“...By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you love one another.” John 13:35

OVERALL QUESTION:
What does love LOOK like from the outside?
How will someone see that you love one another?

 Get your journal out or your phone to take notes!

#10 Spur One Another On

Mission / Commissioning

Hebrews 10:24–25 / Matthew 28:18–20

“By this everyone will know...” John
13:35

Turned the Corner & on the Straight

We already were doing **Fellowship** then...

We have weeded and turned over the soil.

Stopping destructive habits:

Bad speech • unnecessary burdens • bitterness •
gossip • pride

Then we started to grow something beautiful:
encouragement • hospitality • unity

Today: love pushes outward.

Opening Prayer

Take us on a journey...

Open our hearts.

Stop us from being offended and start listening.

Help us grow.

Help us stop being spectators.

Help us become people who help others take the next step.

Help us get comfortable with being uncomfortable.

Review

Speaks life — not burning the church down.
Helps wisely — burdens and loads.
Forgives (and restores where possible).
Goes direct — talk to them, not about them.
Goes low — takes the towel - Serve.
Builds courage in others.
Makes space for people — hospitality.
Fights for unity.

Last Time



Love fights for unity.



Mature love values people above preferences.



Jesus made us one.



Now let's live like it.

Share and Encourage each other!

Who did you tell about the message?

Who helped you do the challenge?

Where did you choose people above preference?

Ice Breaker

Who helped you take a step you were afraid to take?

A parent?

A coach?

A teacher?

A friend?

A Christian brother or sister?

What did they say or do?

Think Back –
Who helped you to decide to become a ‘Follower of Jesus’?

Today's Big Idea

Love One Another #10

We are not called to be only “nice Christians.”

Mature love helps people move toward obedience, mission, and Jesus.

Love pushes each other outward to help others.

Hebrews 10:24–25

Let us consider...

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another,

and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Notice the Word

Hebrews does not say:
“Let us accidentally encourage someone if we remember.”

It says:
“Let us consider...”

Think about it.
Plan it.
Notice people.
Help them take the next step.

“Stir Up” / “Spur On”

The word carries the idea of provoking, stirring, or sharply prompting someone into action.

Not harsh pressure.

Not nagging.

Not manipulation.

But not letting them off with feeble excuses either

Loving provocation toward love and good works.

The Same Word Can Cut **Two Ways**

Acts 15:39 uses the same word family for Paul and Barnabas' sharp disagreement.

We can provoke people toward conflict.

Or we can provoke people toward unity in love and good works.

Which direction do we push people?

Take Note



Every church/organisation provokes their people.

The question is not whether we influence one another.
(WOKE, only social justice, our only own selfish desires, pet hobbies, etc....)

The question is:

What do **we want** to we provoke one another toward?

Encouragement vs Spurring

Encouragement says:
“Keep going.”

Spurring says:
“Let’s go.”

Encouragement gives courage.
Spurring gives direction.

Both are needed at the right time.

Not Just “Be Nice Christians”

Christian love is not passive niceness.

It does not merely say:
“Hope you are okay.”

It asks:
“How can I help you follow Jesus?”
“What is your next step?”
“Who are you helping?”

Matthew 28:18–20

The Great Commission

18 “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...

20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Notice the Commission

Jesus does not say:
“Go and make church attenders.”

He does not say:
“Go and gather religious consumers.”

He says:
“Make disciples.”

Teach them to obey everything I commanded.

All Authority

The mission does not begin with our confidence.

It begins with Jesus' authority.

All authority belongs to Him.
Therefore His people **can** go.

Mission begins with worshipful obedience.

I Am With You Always

Jesus does not send us alone.

He sends us with His authority.

He sends us with His presence.

He sends us with His Spirit.

“I am with you always.”

Faith Is Contagious When Obeyed

Faith that is **only** discussed often becomes stale. Often fades!

Faith that is obeyed becomes contagious.

When one disciple obeys Jesus,
it gives courage to others disciple to obey
Jesus too.

Acts 1:8

Witnesses

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,

and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria,

and to the end of the earth.”

Witness Starts Close

Jerusalem.

Judea.

Samaria.

Ends of the earth.

Mission is not only overseas.

It begins with the people and places God has already put near us.

The Gospel

Sin separated us from God.

But God came near in Jesus.

Christ died for our sins.

He was buried.

He rose again.

Forgiveness and new life are offered through repentance and faith.

Romans 10:9–10

The Gospel received and passed on

⁹ because, if you **confess** with your mouth that Jesus is **Lord** and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

The Sent Saviour

Jesus did not stay distant.

The Father sent the Son.

The Son came to us.

The risen Jesus sends His disciples.

Sent people become sending people.

John 20:21

As the Father sent Me...

Jesus said to them again,

“Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me,
even so I am sending you.”

What Kind of Love Is This?

Love does not stop with us.

Love sees people far from God.

Love sees new disciples.

Love sees timid believers.

Love sees stuck Christians.

Then love helps them take the next step.

Two-sided Coin

HEADS — My Nature
Stay comfortable
Stay safe
Stay quiet
Expect others to do it

TAILS — What Jesus Wants
Move outward
Encourage obedience
Help someone grow
Send and be sent

Only one side looks like a disciple of Jesus.

The World Loves Spectators

At the World Cup Final:

22 players were on the field.

88,966 watched in the stadium.

Nearly 1.5 billion watched around the world.

The world says:

Consume.

Watch.

Comment.

Critique.

Wait for someone else.

This same spectator mindset is eating away at the Western Church.

Jesus' Way

Follow Me.

Obey Me.

Love one another.

Make disciples.

Teach others to obey.

The Kingdom has no spectators.

No Spectators

Unity was not the finish line.

A united church now asks:
“What are we united for?”

We are united under one Lord,
for one purpose,
to make Jesus known and save lives.

Love Pushes Outward

A loving church does not become a closed circle.

A loving church builds courage, makes space, protects unity, and then looks outward.

Love equips and pushes each other outward.

Who are you helping take their next step toward Jesus?

A child?

A neighbour?

A seeker?

A new believer?

A weary Christian?

Someone who has simply stopped moving forward?

Disciple-making starts with noticing one person.

What Is Their Next Step?

Not everyone needs the **same** next step. Maybe it is to:

Read Scripture and obey what they discover.

Begin praying.

Repent, or forgive someone.

Reconnect with the church family.

Be baptised.

Begin serving.

Tell their story of what Jesus has done for them.

Talk to someone else about Jesus and his gift.

You don't have to take them ten steps.

Just help them take the next one!

Who Are You Sending?

Who are you sending?

Not necessarily overseas.

Sending may mean encouraging someone to obey Jesus where they already are.

Home. Work. School. Neighbours. Family.

Sending Can Be Simple

“I think you can talk to them.”

“Can I pray for you before you go?”

“Tell me how it went.”

“Who else needs to hear this?”

That is love spurring someone on.

Mission Does Not Start on a Stage

It starts at:

A kitchen table.

A hospital bed.

A school gate.

A work lunchroom.

A phone call.

A quiet conversation.

Ordinary disciples obey Jesus in ordinary places
with ordinary people using everyday language.

Avoid the Two Ditches

Left Side —  Pushy Pressure

Guilt trips.

Manipulation.

Religious bullying.

Forcing people before they are ready.

That is not biblical spurring.

Avoid the Two Ditches

Right Side —  Comfortable Silence

Never challenge.

Never send.

Never ask.

Never tell.

Never expect obedience.

That is not biblical love.

Middle of the Road



Biblical Spurring

Truth with love.

Courage with gentleness.

Challenge with support.

Equip with Modeling.

Obedience with grace.

Mission with prayer.

“Let’s take the next step together.”

What Kills Mission?

Comfort.

Fear.

Business.

Consumerism.

Low expectations.

Waiting for professionals.

Forgetting people are lost and dying.

What Protects Mission?

Prayer.

Simple obedience.

Encouragement.

Accountability.

Training by example.

Courageous ***everyday*** conversations.

A church that expects disciples to obey Jesus.

Practical Examples

This week you could:

Pray with someone.

Invite someone to read Scripture.

Encourage someone to serve.

Help someone share their testimony.

Send someone to care for a neighbour.

Ask someone what God is asking them to obey.

The Question

Who needs your encouragement?

Who needs your ***gentle*** push?

Who needs you to say:

“Let’s go.”

“What is stopping you?”

“I will help you take the next step.”

Diagnostic Questions

Am I mostly a spectator or a disciple?

Who am I helping follow Jesus?

Who am I encouraging toward obedience?

Who am I sending?

Am I going out?

What next step is God asking me to take?

Take Note



Love pushes each other outward.



Mature love helps people take the next step with Jesus.



Faith is contagious when obeyed.

Call To Action

Help **one** person take **one** step this week.

Encourage.

Pray.

Ask.

Go with them.

Send them.

Tell them the good news.

Follow up.

One person. One step.

Loving Accountability

Who are you going to share this message with that **WAS NOT** here today?

Who will ask if you did it?

Who are you helping take the next step?

Who are you sending?

Conclusion

A disciple of Jesus:

Speaks life.

Helps wisely.

Forgives (and restores where possible).

Goes directly to the person.

Serves.

Builds courage.

Makes space.

Fights for unity.

Spurs others on.

Final Word

Jesus sent us.

Now go and help someone else take the next step.

Love spurs people on.

Closing Prayer

Lord, teach us to love each other like You loved us.

Help us stop being spectators.

Help us spur one another toward love and good works.

Help us make Jesus known.

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