

# God on a Mission

19 - God's Covert Agents  
Church on the Park I Sunday, 25 SEPT 2016

**Text:** Judges 7:19-24

**Theme:** God is on a mission. Lose sight and you'll lose the fight.

**Intro:** Last week we talked about the final weapon Gideon used—the torch. The light of the torch and the sound of the shofar, caused shockwaves in the enemy's camp. It so rocked Israel's enemies that they started to kill one another. Today, I'd like to continue to talk about the torch and the way in which we can be a light to one another and then to the world (Matt. 5:14-16). Specifically, we will focus on the Lord's mission, our love for Jesus, the gifts of the Spirit and the fruit.

## 1) Jesus is on a mission and we are his mission base (1 John 3:7-8).

- **Focus** on Jesus' mission. Don't get **sidetracked** or distracted. Lose **sight**, lose the **fight**.
- Just like Gideon's mission was to **overthrow** Midian, Jesus' mission is "to **destroy** the works of the **devil**" (1 John 3:8)
  - The devil oppresses, lies, causes division, shackles you with sin, accuses and confuses.
    - He's behind all these riots in America; he's also behind much religion as well.
    - But, I don't want to focus on him.
  - *How it was possible for Gideon to get three hundred soldiers to do the most ridiculous mission? To blow trumpets and shine torches against an army as innumerable as locusts?*
  - It's hard to get five people to **agree** on anything.
    - That's why God had the **sorting** and **sifting** process before the mission.
    - He was looking for a certain **quality** of people that would **obey** God and their **leader** in the face of **danger**, even if it looked like the dumbest strategy in the world.
- This week I saw a very insightful video. A **female fighter pilot, Carey Lohrenz**, talked about her time working on an **aircraft carrier** as a **F-14 Tomcat pilot**.
  - One of the things I learned was that being a jet pilot is **not all** jet pilot's do. They have a **regular job** on the aircraft carrier during the **day**.
    - It reminds me of being a **pastor**. Many think that all your doing is preaching and teaching. While that is the most important thing a pastor can do, there is so much more that goes on to make that happen.
    - But here's what stood out to me. Everybody of the **5000 person crew** on the aircraft carrier knows their **one purpose: the safe take off and landing of every jet on a mission**.
      - They **all work** with **one purpose** so that the jets can **fulfill** their mission—and it takes a huge **team** each functioning in their **specific roles** to make that happen.
  - The **church** is like an **aircraft carrier**. There's **food** on the aircraft carrier, but its **not about the food**. There's **training**, but it's not about the training. There's a **hospital** and **laundry**. But its not all about **healing** and **washing** up. The aircraft carrier is about **one thing: the safe fulfilling of the missions of the jets**. Everything else **serves** that **purpose**.
  - In **God's church** there's food, training, healing, spiritual cleansing and helping one another. But these things are **all** for **servicing** the **grander purpose** of **fulfilling Jesus' mission**.
  - *Do you know Jesus' mission?*
    - **Matt. 28:18-20. Make disciples.** In other words, **reproduce** people that are **like Jesus**.

- **Being and making disciples of Jesus** is the **ONE THING** we are about as a church.
  - Also, we can say, our chief mission is to **glorify God**. We do this by being and making disciples.
- Jesus reminds us of this in the story of **Martha and Mary** (Luke 10:38-42).
  - “But **one thing is necessary**.”
- When you are a **disciple** of Jesus you are **light** and when you are a light you **enable** others to be a **light** and when you enable others to be a light you **scatter** the **darkness**.

## 2) Your mission flows out of a loving relationship with Jesus (Rev. 2:1-8).

- Love Jesus first and receive his love. The **fuel** for **Jesus’ mission** is **love**. Love is both the fuel and the light.
- Now here’s the **thing** that makes us a **bit different** than an **aircraft carrier**.
  - At the **heart** of your mission is a **burning love for Jesus**. If you are going to be like Jesus, you need to be totally in **love** with your **heavenly Father**.
- Your mission flows out of **relationship** with God. **SITTING AT HIS FEET**.
- Let’s look at **Revelation 2:1-8**
  - First, the **church** is the **golden lampstand**.
    - Our mission: **shine the light**. That every believer becomes a burning torch wherever they are.
  - *How does that light burn?*
    - It’s **not** just by **toil, hard work and perseverance**.
      - Every **army** needs those things, but **God’s army needs something much more**.
    - Second, look at the **devotion** to **mission** in Ephesus. Yes, the **mission** is **critical**—God is on a mission.
  - But here’s the **full perspective**: the **overarching theme** of Revelation is Jesus is the **Bridegroom** and he is coming back for his **bride**.
  - What fuels the **light** (the torch) is **LOVE—Jesus** being your first **love**.
    - By this I mean that you have continually **intimacy** with Jesus and are constantly **receiving** his **love** and giving your love to him.
      - You can’t just say, **I love God** and **not** have **intimate fellowship** with him.
  - Now, think about a **young man** when he is trying to **win a woman’s heart**. He constantly buys her flowers, opens the door for her and gives her his coat. He has long talks with her and goes out of his way to give her special treatment. Then, he wins her and marries her. After that, often all that **special treatment stops**. He gets **familiar** and his **love grows cold**.
    - He then becomes all about **making the money** to keep the house and raising kids. The love is replaced by mission.
  - Jesus **doesn’t want** your **mission** to die, but the whole mission is based on the fuel of **burning love** for **Jesus** and the **Father**.
- **2 Timothy 2:6-7 - POWER, LOVE and DISCIPLINE**
- Here’s the word that the Lord spoke to me this week from my **journal**: “Without power, you will not have love. You’ll have human love, not God’s love. God’s power transforms you to love, God’s power through you manifests love. Love must be the heart of God’s power, otherwise the power you speak of is just witchcraft. And realize, there is no love without discipline. For how can you say you ‘love’ your wife and not discipline yourself not to think lustfully on other women. So, power, love and discipline go together. And the greatest thing lacking in God’s people is discipline. Discipline, hear me, sustains the love. My people have despised discipline. Discipline develops the character of love. It’s like tracks of a train—it keeps power and love on track. Warn my people to live a disciplined life! You’ve been

touched by my power and filled with my love, but without discipline you put these into cracked pots that leak. I want my people to move beyond a touch from me and be those who are continually filled with me, carrying my glory to their workplaces. I see cracked pots that I need to mend.”

- The lampstand of love must be tended with fresh oil and trimming the wicks.
  - Trimming wicks reduces soot and causes the light to burn longer.
- This is where the gifts of the Spirit come in.

### 3) The gifts of the Spirit are all about producing the fruit of the Spirit.

- The **fruit** of the Spirit is **love** which makes disciples, people like Jesus.
- **Share** your gifts to **keep** the **fire of love burning bright**. It's the grace of the fruits that produce the gifts.
- Through the **gifts of the Spirit** we **show love** to our fellow brothers and sister.
- First, the **Spirit's gifts** and then the **Spirit's fruit**.
  - In other words, share the gifts so that the fruit will come.
- Think about the early church at **Pentecost**. *Do you think those who were filled with the Spirit were spiritually mature?*
  - Forget about it! They were **babies** in Christ. Peter had just forsaken Jesus. The rest ran from the cross. Now fifty days later, after the resurrection, they are endued with power.
  - The gifts are the grace of God through us to love God's people. The gifts produce the fruit. And the fruit sustains the gifts and keeps them on track.
- **1 Cor. 12:4-11**
  - “But to each **one** is given the **manifestation** of the Spirit for the **common good**”
  - You'll always find that the gifts are in the **context of love** (Romans 12:3-13).
- The **gifts** of the Spirit have a **purpose**: they **mature you** in the **love** of God so that we can **fulfill Jesus' mission**.
- We often **over complicate** the gifts of the Spirit. The gifts are just the things the Holy Spirit has given you to share with God's people and the world.
- **Through the gifts Jesus and his Holy Spirit are Lord** of the church and bring freedom to every member.

**Conclusion:** Jesus is on a mission. We are his mission base and his mission is fueled by love. Burning love for him and one another. And that's the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit: sharing and cultivating love among us so that we can fulfill Jesus' mission.

## END NOTES

### Misc Personal Notes

- This first love also includes loving one another.
  - The whole message of 1 John is that you can't say, "I love God" and not be obedient to him and not love one another (\*1 John 3:8-12).
- Our light is our love for Jesus and our love for one another.
  - Your love for one another is actually Jesus' love in you for his people.
    - We are talking about a love that transcends human love or even our will.

The Ephesians left their first love.

With that, they also seem to have lost their love for one another.

Power, love and discipline are like a three strand cord that are eternally bound together.

The power had a purpose.

The fire set their hearts on-fire with love for Jesus.

The gifts are given for the common good.

The gifts are first about the Word of God going out and then about that Word being fulfilled.