

Jesus on Mission for Us and with Us

Luke 19:1-10

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Dan Iverson

We came all the way from Japan to bring the message, and we are so glad to be here. We are so thankful for Columbia Presbyterian Church, our home church that sent us to Japan. When you sent us 33 years ago, we had five kids. We came back with nine. Now, we've had many more. There are six spouses and 29 grandchildren. Our daughter Sarah Beth, who was about six months old when we came here to be an intern out of seminary, and right now, pray for her. She's on a flight from Chittagong to Dhaka to Istanbul to Dulles with six kids while Eric closes down things in Bangladesh. So, please pray for Sarah Beth. That's pretty hard what she's doing today to arrive tonight, we pray. So, it's hard. She's there because of our text today. They're doing what they do because of the promise and what Jesus tells us, that the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Having all these kids, when they were little, Carol and I joked that we would be on the edge of the bed at 2:00 a.m. with a feverish baby chanting to each other to believe the promise children are a blessing, children are a blessing. And now, they're grown. At family reunions, we see our children and our grandchildren, and we say, wow, children are a blessing. This is easy. But we see our children and our spouses chanting to each other, "Children are a blessing," because it's not easy. But it is a blessing.

And we are so grateful for you sending us to Japan, and then sending the Coulbournes and Linda Karner to be such partners with us all these years. You sent us to this city, Tokyo, Metro Tokyo. It's an incredible city. There's 36 million people. If you can imagine, that's six times the size of Maryland. It's like Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, D.C., North Carolina is only 30 million people. This is the city you sent us to. Why? Because Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.

That's our text today. Turn in your Bibles, please, to Luke 19. I'll be reading verses 1-10. You sent us to Japan because of the truth of this text. And it was slow and hard. The language was tough. We were so discouraged. We came back to you after the first four years, had seen virtually no fruit, had an office in the house next door. And we were discouraged. And you encouraged us, prayed for us, sent us back. And that next year in a city the size of Columbia that had zero churches - and I looked this morning and saw Columbia has more than 60 churches, many good gospel proclaiming churches - in this suburb of Tokyo with no church at all, we started a church. A friend of mine says some people want to start the coolest church in town. What's really cool was to start the only church in town. We had the great privilege to go start the only church telling the good news of Jesus in the suburb of Tokyo. So, thank you for sending us. You guys are such partners with Carol and with me and our whole team these 33 years.

Let's hear God's word from Luke 19:1-10.

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." [ESV]

That's our text. That's the mission statement of Jesus, and it is ours, too. Can we say that together again? Say it after me. "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Say it at home. Lets pray together.

Lord, we do pray that you'll help us from this wonderful passage of your word to know more about your saving us, that you're on mission for us. And Lord, you call us to go on mission with you for this lost world. Bless our time together we pray. It's hard to do this. It's hard to speak to just the camera. I pray you'd help me, help all of us as we listen to hear you speak to us and to know more of your love, you're seeking and saving us. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Have you heard of this guy Commander Fuchida? He was the leader of the attack on Pearl Harbor. He woke up that morning on his aircraft carrier, December 7th, U.S. time, 1941, praying to his 8 million gods that the ships would be in the harbor, that he could kill many Americans that day. He hated the Americans. He wanted to kill many, and he did. He and his 300 planes that he led killed more than 2,000 Americans that day.

Jacob DeShazer was an American airman in the Army Air Core before the days of the Air Force. And when he got that news that morning in California, he broke his coffee cup against the wall, and he was so angry. I want to go kill Japanese people. And he volunteered for a secret mission. It turned out to be the Doolittle Raid, Army Air Core bombers taking off from American aircraft carriers to attack Japan just months after Pearl Harbor. And he wanted to kill many Japanese people, and they did. And the plan was for them to crash land in China to be rescued by the Chinese underground fighting the Japanese occupation, the brutal Japanese occupation. But Jake was captured by Japanese soldiers and he was brutalized in his jail cell in China.

But in that jail cell, this hater of Japanese people, he got a Bible. They let him have a Bible. And as he's reading the story of the cross, he reads, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And Jake was moved by this and converted there. No one told him the gospel. Jake comes to Christ in the jail cell. And there he believes in Jesus. And he begins to grow. He tries to love his guards. Do you think he loved them perfectly? I'm sure he didn't. But he grew in loving those guards who were his captors. And many didn't get out of that jail, fewer than even the Nazi prison camps got out of there. As God the Holy Spirit worked in his heart, he prayed to the Lord, if I get out of here, I want to go be a missionary in Japan.

How counterintuitive is this? He is a new creation in Christ. This is what God does. Jesus came on mission for him in that jail cell and worked in his heart a new creation to want to go on mission for Jesus even in the country that was brutalizing him. Why? Luke 19:10, our main text today, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Jesus is on mission to find lost people like Zacchaeus, like DeShazer, like Fuchida.

And guess what happened? Jake went to Tokyo as a missionary. One day, someone knocked on his door and wanted to know about Jesus. And guess who it was? Commander Fuchida. And Commander Fuchida came to Christ and became an evangelist and became a friend of Jake. If these two brothers trying to kill each other's countrymen could be brothers in Christ, I think with our struggles of unity, the gospel will help us get through that. People like Fuchida saved because of Jesus seeking them. People like me, proud, self-righteous Pharisee me, younger brother and older brother all mixed together, like you, Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.

In fact, the name "Jesus" means "to save." The angel says to Joseph, you shall name Him Jesus because He will save His people from their sin. That's the meaning of His name. He comes and He makes us new. And then He puts us on mission with Him for the sake of this lost world.

Let's look at this Zacchaeus story, Jesus on mission for us. Why did Jesus come? He came to seek and to save the lost. Let's look at verse 2. We see this guy Zacchaeus. He's rich. Are riches ever enough? Obviously, they weren't enough for Zacchaeus. He's longing for something. He's a grown man climbing up a tree to see Jesus because riches are never enough.

Now, Japan is notorious for a high suicide rate. Sometimes I ask people, do you think that the suicide rate in Japan was higher when it was poor after World War II? It was dirt poor. It was so hard. Or do you think the suicide rate in Japan is higher now that Japan is one of the richest countries in the world? Richest in the world depending on how you measure it. And people say, oh yes, I'm sure it was higher after World War II. But no. Again, counterintuitive. But there is a higher suicide rate now that Japan is so much richer. This shows us, like with Zacchaeus, that the riches will not satisfy. They will not meet the deepest needs of our hearts. Think of the stock market decline the last weekend. Even though we have so much in our country, way more than 10 years ago or 50 years ago, it's so easy to worry and fret and to think that those things matter. And they don't. There's something bigger than money that fulfills us and makes us truly joyful.

And I use that illustration about Japan after World War II and now. There was a poor man, actually a homeless man, who kind of mouthed the answer back to me of which do you think had the highest suicide rate. And what do you think he said? He said, when Japan was poor, because in his mind, his problem was that he needed to be richer and then he'd be happy and fulfilled. And how about that rich person? They think they just need more of what they have. And we know it doesn't work. True abundance, as Jesus said in John 10:10, "I came that they might have life and have it abundantly."

We see that Zacchaeus is also powerful. Verse 2 says he has a high position. He's the chief tax collector. He must have been very happy and fulfilled because he's the chief. Well, evidently not. He's lost in his sin and self-centeredness. Promotion and position can be an idol. We think, if I get that next step, I'll be satisfied, I'll be fulfilled. Has your selfishness and sin and the things you pursue, has it ever been ultimately fulfilling? It's not.

I think of myself and my struggles. My story is a Marine to missionary career. Until God led us to the mission field, I was a Recon Marine. I was a Christian and I knew Christ. But it was the idols of my heart to be successful in the Marine Core. It was so powerful on me.

The same with Zacchaeus, was he satisfied by his wealth and powerful position? No. We see in verse 3 that he's seeking to see Jesus. He's searching for something. All of us, we struggle with these things even in ministry, right Randy? We want to be a successful pastor. For me in Japan those first years, there was no fruit. It was so slow. It was good for my heart to ask, is my hope in Jesus? And is my satisfaction in Him, not in being successful in my work? Money, security, comfort, power, position, promotion, looks, none of those things will satisfy.

I know we're having the Olympics this summer in Tokyo, at least we hope we will. Maybe we'll have Olympics with no fans watching. But the last time we had the Olympics in Tokyo was in 1964. Famous marathon runner whom everyone expected to be number one, Kokichi had the pressure of the country on him. He had pressure from himself to be the number one marathon runner in the world. Hey, if you were the third best-looking person in the world, if you were the third richest, the third best preacher, the third best at whatever you do, whatever your tendency toward a counterfeit god, would third be enough? Well, he came in third, not first. And do you know what he did? He took his own life. He was third in the world, and he took his own life. If he had been second, do you think he would have been fulfilled? Or first? But no, it's never enough. As we see with rich powerful Zacchaeus, I wish someone could have told Kokichi about the true bread of life and the savior of the world, Jesus, who came to seek and save the lost.

There's obviously nothing wrong with sports and the good things we do, our talents. Our son Micah tomorrow night is going to be on The Voice, the NBC show tomorrow night. And you know, as he went through the screening for it and singing for it, at first it was, yeah, I hope I can make it to this next level. And we prayed for him. Imagine being on national TV tomorrow night, you know? Do you think it was maybe the most dangerous for his heart, or at least me as a father worrying about him knowing my own heart, when he was at the beginning of the process or when he's narrowed down to 80 people out of

tens of thousands that started? What do you think? Surely, once he's really being successful, it won't be as hard on his heart if he doesn't make it. No. It's so dangerous isn't it? It's never enough.

They gave a sneak preview yesterday. And our family iPhone chat is buzzing with people saying, Mike is on TV. You can see him on YouTube, 500,000 hits, a million hits. Oh, maybe he'll make 2 million. Well, this morning it's 2.5 million. I don't know what it is right now. All you people watching at home, you tell me if the viewer numbers go down. But don't go look to see them. Wait until after worship. But yeah, I pray for Micah. What a great opportunity he has. And yet, will it ever be enough? No. We need Jesus as Zacchaeus seeking Jesus, Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.

We see in verse 5 when Jesus came to the place, now we see Jesus going after Zacchaeus, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." Isn't this great? We see Jesus going after Zacchaeus. Out of all the other people there, he zones in on Zacchaeus. Are we moved today that Jesus came and sought us?

Can you save yourself? You know the story of Jessica Buchanan captured in 2011 by Somalia land pirates. Every two days, they moved her demanding a \$40 million ransom. She was a young American, 32-year-old serving the people in Somalia, brutalized, no hope, 93 days in captivity surrounded by her brutalizing evil guards, and she desperately needed saving like you and like me and like Zacchaeus. And in the middle of the night, she had lost all hope and thought she was going to die. In the middle of the night, all of a sudden chaos breaks loose in the camp. And she's thinking, oh no, another group is coming to take me, I can't do this, I can't go through this again. And she pins herself to the only possession to her name, the camping mat that she had and carried with her everyday as they had moved every two days. And all of a sudden, the chaos stops. And she's pinned down with the mat. She feels a man's hands on her back, and she's fighting against it. Just imagine, 93 days, brutalized young lady thinking, what's going to happen? Who are these bad guys that got me? And all of a sudden, she hears, "Jessica Buchanan, we're taking you home," in perfect American English. And she looks up and it's a SEAL team, six guys. She didn't know that yet.

And he starts to try to throw her on his back to run toward the landing zone to be rescued. And she said, hey, I got this. I can save myself. Anybody think she said that? No. She cannot save herself. They performed a parameter when they thought it was dangerous. And three of them put their bodies over her to rescue her. And we think, what a great story.

We have a better story. They flew from America, parachuted in, marched through the night secretly to rescue her. And our savior Jesus came from heaven born as a baby, took the lowest place, died on a cross for our sins to rescue us who could not save ourselves. This is what Jesus has done.

And also, hopefully, we're moved by that, by our rescue. But I think we often get used to it, don't we? And we love a story like that, but our story is better. And like with Zacchaeus, Jesus calls him by name in verse 5. This is another thing that should move us. Worship leader, you alluded to this. John 10:3, "He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out," particular atonement, this great doctrine that it should move us. He called me by name.

If you believe in Jesus and trust Him, is it because you're smarter than other people, more moral than other people, just a better person, lucky? No. It's because He called you by name. He came and He sought you. When Jesus calls Zacchaeus by name, is that precious to you?

And isn't it dangerous that we get used to these truths? Actually, Google Jessica Buchanan and listen to her story on *60 Minutes* when she could finally talk about it. And one of the things she says that was so moving to her was that SEAL team 6 guy, "He called me by name." And then she finds out the president name and said, go rescue her.

Our story is better. The king of the universe calls us by name. And then we see He takes our shame. Verse 7 shows the love of Jesus and why Zacchaeus is so changed in verse 8 because in verse 7 we see when the crowd saw it, "they all grumbled, 'He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.'"

Now, think about this. Zacchaeus is watching Jesus, and Jesus chooses him, the bad guy that everybody hates because he's a crook tax collector. You know, the guy who's supposed to take \$1,000 but takes \$2,000. And Jesus calls him by name and goes to his house. And the crowd is like, Jesus is identifying with this evil, bad guy. Jesus loves him and goes with him. And Zacchaeus sees that. Think about that. How much more do we know about Jesus taking our shame on the cross? He took my shame, my guilt. He who knew no sin became sin for us. Are we moved by that? How could that not move me?

Jessica Buchanan said the three SEALS put their three bodies over her to take whatever might come to her, a bullet or whatever. And hey, it's a great story. I'm moved by that. But really, I should be infinitely more moved in my heart by what Jesus has done for me, that He died on the cross for me, that He took my guilt and shame. How could I not? Why do I get so used to this, this gospel? Don't we? Don't we get used to it? We sing about it. We talk about it. Lord, one of our biggest sins maybe is we get used to this gospel of what Jesus has done for us.

And we see Zacchaeus's response in verse 8. There as to be a response to such grace. We see his repentance in verse 8. He stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." One of the fruits of being changed by Jesus is we become generous. We say, I want to respond and make things right. It's the fruit of the gospel. There has to be a result.

The mission statement of Jesus, this verse 10, becomes our mission statement. We see this tax collector, this bad sinner who said, I'm going to go to the people I defrauded and give them fourfold of what I took from them. Imagine Zacchaeus, this evil guy. Everybody hated him. He goes to their houses. They see him. Imagine when he shows up at the door, you know? And he says, I'm here to give you fourfold of what I took from you. What a change. He's different. He's new. He has to say something about it.

We see in John 4 the woman at the well. When she meets Jesus who sought her and saves her, what does she do? She tells the whole village. See, this is what happens to us. Jesus is on mission for us, but then He puts us on mission with Him as we're new creations in Christ. We want to tell other people. 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come." New for what? Just new for sanctification? Just new for growth and grace? That's always the way I looked at this verse. I did not think about it in terms of new on mission. I am a covenant child that really came to faith with Carol at college and began to grow as a Christian. And this verse, new in Christ, I wanted to be sexually pure. I wanted to know Christ. I wanted to live a life that was pleasing to God.

But when you look at the context, 2 Corinthians 5:18 says, "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." New in Christ to be part of His mission with Him. And verse 19 is the same. That is that "In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation." That's what we believe. Let scripture interpret scripture. New in Christ, verse 17, verse 18 and 19, new to be part of reconciling the world. Yes or no? This is of course new in sanctification. But how did I miss this all these years? Yes, reconciling the world to Himself.

You know, our daughter is leaving, and her husband is staying in Bangladesh. She's flying back with the kids. Why? Because this is what we do. All of our calls are different. To rescue Columbia, to be part of loving and reaching this city that needs this love of Jesus Christ and reaching lost nations of the world.

I really want to encourage Columbia Presbyterian Church. I see this tendency. I'm asking a lot of people at churches as I go, how many of you in this PCA church have come to Christ and been baptized as an adult in this church? And out of a bunch of our churches, no one raises their hand, not one person out of a hundred or 200 people has come to Christ and been baptized as an adult believer in that church. And

one of the things about Columbia Presbyterian Church is we always see people coming to faith in our city. Praise the Lord. Don't be proud. Be thankful. This is our mission for our city.

But one of the things I see, as we're on a six-month home assignment visiting a lot of churches, is that we have seen a lot of our churches that care about foreign missions. Let's give money to reach the world, but maybe not doing such a good job in our own city to love and reach the lost. We see the other thing as well. We see some churches now that are really on fire to reach their city but not thinking about the nations and the world. God calls us to both. It's concurrent. Acts 1:8, our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, the utter most parts of the earth. And pray we continue to do that, those of you listening, that God is calling us to do both, to reach places like our city suburb of Tokyo that you sent us to start a church, in a city the size of Columbia suburb of Tokyo with no church. And how many places around the world are like that?

Being in America these last six months, and we go back, Lord-willing, next month as a lot of things are up in the air, but I'm amazed how many Christians I meet here. Last weekend, Carol and I were at a mission conference in Charlotte. We split our forces and she stayed there while I flew up to Northern Virginia to preach in one of our churches in Springfield. And I get to Springfield, flew into Dulles. The Uber driver was a Christian, a real brother in Christ. I go into McDonald's to get some food, and there's a guy with a Bible open reading the Bible. And this is within hours of each other. And in that McDonald's, I went to the restroom and I heard music. I thought, that sounds like Christian music. And I went over, and it was a Christian worship band in a McDonald's. And it wasn't a Chick-fil-a. I was just thinking, wow, praise the Lord.

You guys think, maybe, how lost America is. I come back and I say, wow. Isaiah 43 that we read today, got back from Japan, went to a barber shop, and there's a guy reading Isaiah 43. He's a brand new Christian. He's the barber that cut my hair. We had a great talk. In Japan, that has happened to me maybe ten times in 33 years.

Now, you need to hear that. You guys listening need to hear that as we seek to reach our city, we've also got to care about the world like Jesus does. He came to seek and to save the lost. Like, our country, maybe there's half a percent of gospel believing Christians if that, and one percent who profess some kind of profession of faith in Jesus Christ. With our giving, with our going, you guys have supported us so faithfully in sending us to Japan. There are people, I can't say their names, who were members here when I was an elder and an intern and you all sent us to Japan, there are people who went to other churches because they moved or they're living in other states now, several who have never missed a month in 33 years supporting us in Japan. Are they part of our work? God called some of us to go but all of us to be part of it, of reaching Columbia and reaching the world.

Do you think it was only those 20 SEALS? How many of you out there are military people? Was it only 20 SEALS who rescued Jessica Buchanan? How many do you think it was? A thousand, maybe 2,000? Think about people who fix the airplanes, who pack the parachutes, the satellite guys who tracked her for every two days that they moved her in the dessert where they could go right to her and get her? And that's a good illustration of who we are as the church, that we're all in this together to reach our city. Just the way Jesus came to seek and to save us, we say, here I am Jesus. How are you calling me to be a part of this?

Modeling this is so important. I appreciate my dad so much, and I remember as a teenager watching him. My dad and my mom had this young guy who was really struggling with drugs and a bad background, and they took him into our home, loved him, disciplined him, fed him, poured into him. They did this all the time. And then the guy steals our family's money and runs away. Would my father have been just to get the police and put him in jail? Yes. But he goes and finds him, brings him back to our house, continues to love him. He hid our family's money a little better after that, right. Where did my father learn to do that? From Jesus who came and sought him, a self-righteous, proud sinner like we all are who needs Jesus. And it affects our kids as they see mom and dad and grandma and grandpa not just

singing “all for Jesus,” but I don’t really see much that seems to be in alignment with what you’re singing. But in response to what He has done for us, we say, Jesus, what are you calling me to do at my age, my station, my gifts, old, young, all of it to go be a part of this?

In Japan after the tsunami, a young girl from Park City’s Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas, came on one of the teams. You guys sent people, too, to come and help us after 20,000 people were killed and Japan was devastated. This young girl, she’s in a truck with a man who was part of our staff. He had come to Christ through singing soul/gospel music. He had never opened a Bible in his life, had never been in a church in his life. He came to faith in Jesus. He quit his job and was helping us take teams up north. And this young girl from Park City’s Presbyterian Church says, what do you want to do with your life? And he says, I came to Christ through singing gospel music, and I want to go to Jackson, Mississippi, to seminary at RTS where I can sing gospel music with the real thing. And she said, how are you ever going to pay for that? He says, I have no idea. He didn’t speak English well at all, you know. And she said, I want to give you \$10,000 so you can go do that. She said, a relative of mine has died. They left me \$100,000. And her mommy and daddy taught her to give her money in a biblical way from when she was little.

And she gave \$10,000. He graduated. He was ordained in the PCA, Mississippi Valley Presbytery in December. I got to go and preach for his ordination service in an African American and white PCA church in Jackson, Mississippi, and hear that gospel group with him and his wife being a part of the singing. But with that girl as an example, all of us are part of this. You see how God is leading us to be a part of it?

You think of the opportunities before us now with the coronavirus. I don’t know what we can do. I know after the tsunami, some missionaries fled to Osaka. And maybe that’s what they should’ve done. We said, Lord, what can we do? We remembered listening to that message by Tim Keller about during the Roman Empire and the plagues that took place and how Christians served and stayed, and all of us have to pray and decide how we’re going to do that, you know? But how do we do that? I know God’s going to use this. I think you put out that message from our team in Tokyo, how God is using the third week of shutdown there, there’s more people coming to homes that have never been to worship in their lives to listen. How might God use this situation as we seek to reach the world with the good news of Jesus Christ?

I started with a story of Commander Fuchida and his change and how he became an evangelist. God saved him because Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. You know, there was a young girl who was a part of his coming to know Christ, a young girl who Jesus had saved. And she became part of missions with Jesus. Her family were missionaries in Yokohama, right below Tokyo, Japan. And as the war drums were beating and it was getting dangerous for Americans to live in Japan, her family fled to the Philippines to continue as missionaries. Like all of our nine kids, she was sent to America to go to college. And she gets the word that Japan immediately after Pearl Harbor invaded the Philippines also in trying to kill Americans. Her family fled to the mountains, and the Japanese soldiers found her family and they killed her mom and dad. And she gets the word in America. And imagine the heartbrokenness.

But she knew Jesus. And the word comes down. She hears it advertised, we need Americans who speak Japanese who can serve in the hospitals of the Japanese prisoners of war who are wounded and in our hospitals. And guess who volunteers? Peggy. She volunteered to go serve the people who killed her parents. You think she loved them perfectly? I don’t think she did. But she evidently loved them and served them. Why? Because she’s new in Christ, because Jesus came to seek and save her. And she saw that modeled by her mom and dad, and she loves these soldiers. And guess who one of the soldiers was? Commander Fuchida’s mechanic. After the war, he goes back to Japan, he finds his Commander Fuchida who led the attack on Pearl Harbor and killed more than 2,000 Americans, and he tells his commander about Peggy. And Commander Fuchida, when he got that little pamphlet in Tokyo walking on a city street that told about Jake DeShazer, from hate to love, he went and knocked on that door and met Jake DeShazer.

This is what Jesus does on mission for us. May the Lord move us with that and on mission with Him to love our neighbor. Maybe today, it's for you to say, rescue me. Maybe today is that day for you to say, Jesus, I've tried everything else. Rescue me. Or maybe today say, Jesus, forgive me, I have not been moved by your rescue of me. I want to be on mission with you for our city and for our world that needs this gospel so much. Let's pray.

Lord, we thank you. We praise you that you have come and rescued us. We bless your name. Thank you for this good news. Lord, may we all indeed joyfully receive your rescue. Save us. We cannot save ourselves. And Lord, we do pray you'll help us to know how we can serve those around us in our neighborhood, in our city, and in the world with the time you've given us, the gifts you've given us, the resources you've given us, for the glory of your great name. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.