

# Missional Identity\_@1

## *Script References*

### Introduction

**Alexis:** Hey, everyone. I'm Alexis, and this session is about understanding your missional identity. God's mission of redemption didn't stop when Jesus resurrected.

Jesus made it clear to his followers that he was going back to his Father in heaven so that he could send them the Holy Spirit because through his followers, God was going to continue the next phase of his mission.

In what we call "The Great Commission," Jesus tells his followers:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:18-20)

This is our mission in a nutshell, and this is what we're unpacking in this session.

### The Greatest Commandment

But today, before we get into all the action involved, we're going to start by digging into the motivation that should propel us on this mission.

Motivating the Great Commission is what Jesus calls the "Greatest Commandment." In Matthew 22, someone asks Jesus which is the greatest commandment. Listen to how he responds. He says:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. (Matthew 22:37-40)

Love for God and love for others - that's what motivates someone to go all in on God's mission. And if someone's not all in, then likely a failure of love is to blame.

I want you to take a minute and ask yourself- *Can you say that love for God and love for others is the primary motive propelling your daily life? If not, what is? Write down your thoughts.*

## Idolatry

As human beings, we are driven and shaped by our loves, by the desires of our hearts. It's how God wired us. He made us to love and be loved by him, and in that loving to be formed in his image.

The problem is, sin has corrupted our love - it's twisted our hearts so that instead of desiring God - the giver of all good gifts - we desire the gifts apart from the giver.

This misdirected love is what's called idolatry, and it'll mess us up if we let it. Idolatry is when you worship and serve anything that isn't God.

Now, don't get me wrong, you're supposed to love other people and even things - but you're supposed to love them as gifts from God, and your love for them should lead you into deeper love for God.

But with idolatry, we cut God out of the picture. We love the created thing instead of the Creator - and we serve it for its own sake rather than for God's purposes.

Idols can be anything - money, relationships, career ambitions, social media, you name it. None of these are bad in themselves, but they become idols when they get in the way of our love for God.

In Mark Chapter 10, Jesus tells the story of a young man who thought he wanted to go all in for God. Since this guy was a kid, he kept all the commandments, and he came up to Jesus to ask him if there was anything else he had to do to inherit eternal life.

Listen to what happens next. The text says that **Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said, "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."**

**At this, the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. (Mark 10:21-22)**

Now, don't miss the point of this story. This guy's problem wasn't his wealth. His problem was that he allowed his wealth to come between himself and God.

And Jesus - being Jesus - knew that, so out of love for this guy, he pointed out the idol that was standing in his way.

*Pause the video right here and read Mark 10:17-31. Put yourself in the place of the young man. If you asked Jesus the young man's question, what idols do you think he would point out in your life? Spend time in prayer, repenting and asking God to help you love him with your whole self.*

## **Detachment**

As sinners saved by grace, we always need to be on guard for idolatry in our lives. Our desires are always going to be pulling us in different directions, and it takes intentionality to direct them again and again back to God.

One way to train yourself against idolatry is to practice the spiritual discipline of detachment. Being detached from something doesn't mean you don't care about it. Instead, it just means you're not clinging to it or depending on it for your sense of identity.

Think about a romantic relationship as an example. A boy and girl start dating, and they really like each other. In the idolatrous version of this relationship, the boy and girl put their relationship above God - everything in their lives becomes about making the relationship work. Their whole sense of self worth depends on what their significant other thinks of them. They even start ignoring their other responsibilities and friendships because they're so attached to the romance. I'm sure you've seen it happen.

In the detached version of this relationship, the boy and girl still really like each other, but their priority is serving God. Each of them base their sense of self and worth on their relationships with Jesus, not each other. And you know what - because of that, they're actually able to love each other better because they're not relying on each other for the satisfaction that only God can give.

That's the beauty of loving God - the more fully you love God, the more fully you'll be able to love and appreciate God's good gifts - whether they're people in your life, or your career, or anything else.

*Pause the video for a moment and ask yourself - in what areas of your life do you need to practice detachment? Write down your thoughts. Make plans to ask a faithful friend or mentor to help keep you accountable as you submit these areas to God.*

Before you can get the Great Commission right, you've got to get the greatest commandment right.

It's like Paul puts it in 1 Corinthians 13, you can have all the skills, all the opportunities, all the walk to back up your talk, but if you don't have love, it's all for nothing.

Next time, we're continuing this session on missional identity by looking at the flip-side of the greatest commandment: Loving your neighbor as yourself.

See you then!