



The Buck Stops with You

“There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land. You make vows and break them; you kill and steal and commit adultery. There is violence everywhere—one murder after another. That is why your land is in mourning, and everyone is wasting away. Even the wild animals, the birds of the sky, and the fish of the sea are disappearing.”

The Lord | Hosea 4:1-3 (NLT)

Are You Focused on the Wrong Things?

COVID. Political division. Violence. Economic uncertainty. Social unrest. Fraud. Wars.

The list seems endless.

When I read these words from Hosea recently, I thought, "This could

have been written today!" We tend to think our times are uniquely troubled, but Scripture tells a different story. History is filled with plagues, wars, oppression, corrupt leaders, droughts, and societies in decline.

Despite all our advances, the human heart hasn't changed much.

In Jesus' day, the Jewish people longed for relief from Roman oppression. They wanted a savior who would crush their enemies and restore their nation. Yet less than a week after welcoming him with palm branches and praise, many turned against him.

Why?

Because he wasn't the solution they wanted.

Jesus was no political solution.

Reflect: What solution do I long for most right now?

Today, many people place the same hope in government. If the right person wins. If the right party gains power. If the right policies are enacted. Then everything will be fixed.

But has that ever truly solved humanity's deepest problems?

The pressure for answers has created deeply entrenched camps. People increasingly turn against one another. Anger grows. Hatred spreads. The media cycle fuels outrage twenty-four hours a day.

Everyone has identified the culprit.

"The politicians are to blame."

"The media is the problem."

"The other side is ruining everything."

Meanwhile, I can almost picture Satan sitting back with a grin as people consume themselves fighting one another.

Consider: Is my finger pointed in the wrong direction?

My son, a history major, once told me, "If people knew history, they would make much better decisions. The problem is they don't."

History matters. But God's response to Israel's crisis matters even more.

"Don't point your finger at someone else and try to pass the blame! My complaint, you priests, is with you." The Lord (Hosea 4:4)

Then he says:

"My people are being destroyed because they don't know me. Since you priests refuse to know me, I refuse to recognize you as my priests." The Lord (Hosea 4:6)

That should stop us in our tracks. A royal priesthood, followers of Jesus are priests.

God's complaint was not directed at politicians, governments, or neighboring nations. It was directed at his people.

The problem was not simply external.

It's root was—and still is—that too many people do not know the Lord.

How well do you really know him?

Do you see the world the way he does?

*Imagine: **Now's the ideal time to carry out your Mission.***

Some explain today's events as signs of the End Times. Perhaps they are. Perhaps they aren't. What we do know is that we're one day closer to Christ's return than we were yesterday.

Over the past year, one theme surfaced repeatedly in my devotional reading: the urgency of sharing the Good News.

Most recently I read this passage:

“The day of the Lord is an awesome, terrible thing. Who can possibly survive? That is why the Lord says, ‘Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Don’t tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead.’ Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish. Who knows? Perhaps he will give you a reprieve, sending you a blessing

instead of this curse.” (Joel 2:11-14)

Those words carry urgency. Not panic. Not fear. Urgency.
How much time remains? No one knows.

What matters is what we do today.

Today is the day to align our hearts with God's heart and share the
Good News.

Jesus is the King who will ultimately save the world. He alone
transforms hearts. He alone reconciles people to the Father. He alone
answers our deepest need.

So where should we focus our energy?

Not on winning arguments.

Not on assigning blame.

Not on endlessly consuming the latest outrage.

We should focus on enlarging the Kingdom of Heaven by embracing
the Great Commission.

*“Jesus came and told his disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in
heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.
And be sure of this: I am with you always.’” Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-*

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The buck stops with us.

Not with politicians.

Not with the media.

Not with the culture.

It stops with you and me.

If people are being destroyed because they do not know God, your response is clear: use your gifts, experiences, relationships, and story—the unique testimony of your saved life—to help them know him.

And be a little salty!

That's your assignment.

That's your calling.

That's your Mission—your role in fulfilling the Great Commission.

The world doesn't need more outrage.

It needs more disciples.

Stop waiting for someone else to fix what's broken.

Stop arguing about the darkness.

Start shining light into it.

Today is the day to refocus.

Today is the day to engage your Mission.

The Buck Stops with You.

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- **Reflect:** *What have I been focusing on instead of my Mission?*
- **Ask:** *What will I do to redirect my focus?*
- **Challenge:** Carry out your Mission today!
- Further insights: [Fish Closer In](#); [Who Does This Anymore?](#)
- Don't know my Mission—[Start here!](#)

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

My Missional Focus: Change Begins with Christ.

"With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

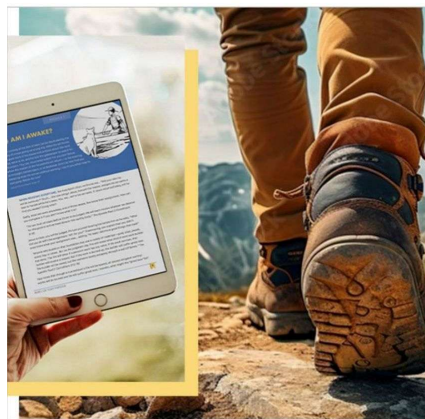
But that isn't what you learned about Christ. Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.”

The Apostle Paul | Ephesians 4:17-24 (NLT)



Don't know your Mission?

Our "Mobilize Your Mission Self-Guided Workshop" will guide you to it.



This focused workshop progresses down a proven path where you'll receive your Mission (the work God has you here to do) and the passion filled story that powers it. Along the way, discover the four life transforming Foundations of Mission and find yourself challenged to enter the Adventure of Your Life.

1. **Create deeper intimacy with God**—His greatest desire for you
2. **Find the power of your life’s Mission**—inspired work, aligned life, direction
3. **Tap into the passion of your life’s story**—why you are perfect for your Mission
4. **Create a plan to Mobilize Your Mission**—this will change your life!

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“If one is seeking direction in life and looking forward to new adventures, **this workshop is the perfect trail map** to get you to your destination!”

~ DAN B.
Life Mission: *Shaping radical existence in the everyday*



Mission Curve Process—Guaranteed



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