

micah global 

God's Liberating Agenda

Integral Mission Forum

15th March 2017



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Liberation

- Liberation is a core theme in the Bible
 - Exodus story – foundational in Jewish nation
 - Let my people go – so that they may serve me (Ex 7:16)
 - God wanted to liberate slaves & reclaim his people
 - **An integrated response of liberation for service / Lordship** – otherwise we develop political activism without evangelism and worship
 - Exodus represented liberation from economic, political, social and spiritual slavery
 - Jesus inaugurates his ministry in Luke 4 – freedom from oppression / release of the oppressed

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What do we Believe?

- Some Life Questions:
 - Why did God create us?
 - What are God's people on earth for?
 - What does God expect from us as His people?
 - What purpose or mission do we exist for?
 - What are we called, commanded, sent to do?

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Summary “what for’s”

- **God's Mission is our Mission**
 - We therefore have a Mission
 - Scope:
 - the whole earth – be caretakers
 - all Nations – to be a blessing
 - revelation of God's character – through how we live God's way (righteousness and justice)
 - mirror, reflect, demonstrate the New Kingdom – manifest the already in the midst of the not yet
 - leaders, guides, ambassadors to the vision of life in all its fullness (John 10:10) - free of poverty, injustice, conflict.
- We have to live our mission, represent our mission, attract others to our mission

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Missional Lens

Why we question?

- To explain
- To interrupt assumptions
- To re imagine



Approaching Scripture

- 1) Character of God**
Throughout the Bible – ultimate revelation in Jesus Christ: Hebrews 1 – we are looking for **CONSISTENCY**
- 2) Interpretation**
Timeless Teaching or wrapped in a specific cultural context
- 3) Context of the Passage**
How would this passage be understood within the context it was written.
- 4) God's Missional Agenda**
In what way does this passage reflect God's mission and how does this apply to our co text today
- 5) Be aware of our Baggage**
We all come at Scripture with our own history



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Colossians 3:17, 23



- 17: *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*
- 23: *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.*

1. Both verses start with **What ever you do**
 - Vs 17 = doing things **in the name** of the Lord Jesus
 - As his representative or as his proxy
 - Vs 23 = doings things **under** the Lord Jesus
 - As his servant

 **Both Responses in Ministry**

- In our relationships we are to treat others in both ways:
 - As representatives of Christ**
 - Ambassadors of Christ
 - Authority in Christ
 - Kingdom of God Perspectives
 - God's Mission – God's Purpose is our mandate
 - "What would Jesus do?" – drives our response
 - As servants of Christ**
 - Serve as if you were serving Jesus
 - Note – it follows instructions to slaves
 - Ministry of love for the hungry and thirsty, the sick and naked, the stranger and prisoner – **whatever you did to the least of these, you did to me**
 - Mother Teresa: let each sister see Jesus Christ in the person of the poor.

 **Revolution**

- We serve in the name of Christ as if we were Christ
- We serve for the sake of Christ as if we were serving him

1 Tim 4:12 – set an example in your life, in your words, in the way you love and live, in your faith, in your integrity

 **In the World, but Not of the World**

- In 2000 we agreed globally 8 Millennium Development Goals – a shared vision for the poor and vulnerable
- In 2015 we agreed 17 Sustainable Development Goals – a vision that **no one is left behind**
- SDGs represent an opportunity to reveal God's love for all
- The **Theology of the Common Good** – but this must be linked with God's Mission
- Come, let us rebuild together



 **Sustainability Development Goals 2015 -2030**



 **The Common Good**

- All** made in the image of God: Gen 1:26
 - Given authority over the creation
 - Given command to be care takers
 - Blessed and called to fruitfulness
 - NB: all this given to both men and women
 - **Human dignity for all:** regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, ability, status
- All** have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God – therefore all are in need of restoration and liberation: Rom 3:23

 **Rooted in Scripture** 

- Genesis 1:26
- Lev 20:26 / 1 Peter 1:15-16
- Matthew 25:31-46
- 2 Cor 5:19
- Isaiah 1:17
- Jeremiah 29:7
- Proverbs 31:8-9 / Ps 140:12
- Psalm 146:5-9 / Is 58:6-11
- Deut 15:4-8,10-11

Task:

- Discuss the Scripture and report back as to what the implications are for our action today.
- Link to one or more of the SDGs if possible.
- Apply a "liberating agenda in your suggested responses

 **Group Work**




 **Feedback** 

- Briefly state what the Scripture is telling us for today.
- Are there any SDGs that could correspond?
- State implications for the:
 - Individual believer
 - The local church
 - Discipling a nation
- Any revelation / insight feel compelled to share!

 **Christian Position**

- **Ecclesia:** the name Jesus gives for the church – a people called out to take responsibility: Matt 16:18
 - Commanded to care for creation: Gen 1:26
 - Commanded to be Holy
 - Commissioned to seek justice for all: Deut. 10: 12-19
 - Tasked with a Ministry of reconciliation: 2 Cor 5:19
 - Required to protect the vulnerable: Is 1:17
 - Characteristic of Jesus: love, compassion, mercy, inclusion
 - Called to be transformers – to demonstrate the Kingdom of God – to move us towards Shalom (John 10:10)

 **Isaiah 61:1-4**

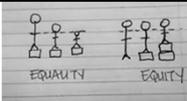
¹The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour. ⁴They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

Luke 4:18-21 ...“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

 **Signs of the Spirit**

John the Baptist checks – “are you the one”, Jesus replies (Luke 7:22):
Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.

1. God's love rescuing of the poor and destitute
 - It is not simply words but clear action: **Rescue**
2. Year of the Lord's Favour: Year of Jubilee (Lev 25:8-55: **restoration will follow obedience**)
3. Redeemed lives will become oaks of righteousness – for the good of others: actions lead to **rebuilding**: advocacy and action

 **Dignity** 

- Equality and Equity
- Governance that favours one to the detriment of another is wrong
- All have access to basic essentials of life
- God has supplied us with the resources for all basic needs to be met

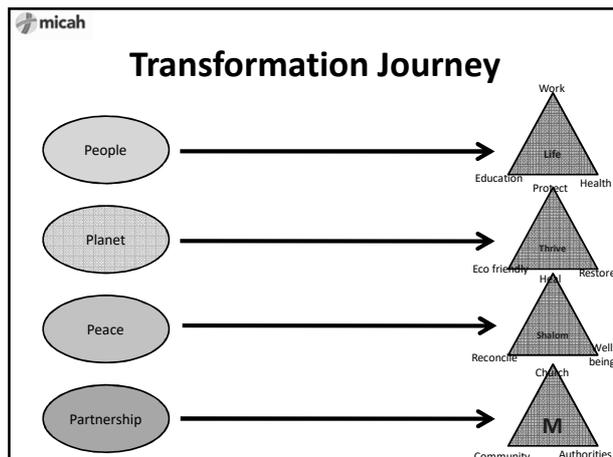
Isaiah 58:6-10 & Matt 25:35ff

- Food:
 - Is 58:7 – share your food with the hungry
 - Mat 25:35-36 – I was hungry and you fed me..
- Water
- Housing
- Clothing
- Health care
- Social integration

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have **life**, and have it to the **full**.

A → B



Leave No One Behind

<p>GOAL 1</p> <p>End Poverty in all its forms - Everywhere</p>	<p>GOAL 4</p> <p>Ensure inclusive, equitable, quality education for all</p>
<p>GOAL 2</p> <p>End Hunger – Food Security - Improve nutrition – Sustainable Agriculture</p>	<p>GOAL 5</p> <p>Achieve gender equality</p>
<p>GOAL 3</p> <p>Ensure Healthy Lives – Promote well being for all</p>	<p>GOAL 6</p> <p>Ensure sustainable water and sanitation for all</p>

Embracing the Consequences

Goal: Restoration / Reconcile of all things to God (Col 1:20): **Shalom**

- The Good News impacts every area of life:
 - Social
 - Cultural
 - Economic
 - Political
 - Spiritual
 - Creation

Shalom

COURAGE for change

1. Material wellbeing / physically ok
2. Being a blessing
3. Safety and security
4. Justice: Shalom describes the ways things should be
5. Straightforwardness / integrity: no corruption
6. God’s will
7. Good News!

What does Shalom look like through the eyes of others?

- What does the UK look like if God answered our prayer for it?
- What does church look like with God’s mission as the Goal?

Enabling and Inspiring to Act Together

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- EndPoverty2030 initiative led by Carwyn Hill with:
 - Ian Hamlin
 - Ben Solanky
 - Gareth Wilde