

# Four Mandates for the Christ Follower

Rev. Mike Van Prooyen | Colossians 4:2-6

## MESSAGE

Watch the sermon. As you watch, use the outline to follow along or take notes on anything that stands out to you.

## NOTES

For people who call themselves followers of Jesus, God's Word is not simply a book of guidelines. What is written is expected to be lived out. In Colossians 4:2-6 there are four mandates all followers of Jesus must follow:

### Prayer (v. 2-3)

- Being devoted to prayer means:
  - Thanking God not only as lip service but through obedience and action.
  - Asking God for opportunities to share the gospel and recognizing that it is God who opens doors and touches the hearts of people.

### A Clear Gospel (v. 4)

- THE METHOD: Clear, accurate, and simple to avoid confusion. (2 Corinthians 11:3)
- THE CONVICTION: It is your individual responsibility to engage other people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Use Time Wisely (v. 5)

- The Word of God and the souls of men are two things that are eternal, and so it is vitally important that we should spend time on them.

- How you live your life will be reflected in eternity.
- So much of Scripture deals with relationships with people, and much of that is centered on engaging people with the gospel.
- The end is near. Your love of other people and your knowledge of what is to come should motivate you to share the gospel to the people in your life who do not know Him?

### Gracious Preaching (v. 6)

- Gracious speech is a distinctive of Jesus' teaching (Luke 4:22). Many of the things Jesus said were against culture, yet He was known for His gracious preaching.
- Gracious in OFFENSE (proclaiming the gospel)
  - How you present the Truth of God's Word should be marked by His love and compassion in order to attract them to His message of grace.
  - Acts 20:24
- Gracious in DEFENSE (responding to questions about our faith)
  - 1 Peter 3:15
  - If you are living your faith publicly, it will cause people to wonder about you, and so you must be ready to answer questions about the hope that is in you.

## REFLECT and DISCUSS

1. Take a few minutes to talk about the message.
  - What part of the teaching had the most impact on you?
  - If you are a follower of Jesus, how convinced are you that it is your PERSONAL responsibility to actively share the gospel?
2. Honestly evaluate your life as a follower of Jesus. Are you fulfilling your mandate? In what way(s)?
3. Which of these four mandates are you struggling with the most? What makes it difficult for you? How are you involving God in this area?

## PRAYER

Close your time together with prayer.