

THE MISSION OF GOD

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Part 2: Our Relationship to the World Today

Two Questions as we develop a vision for the future

- How do we view the world around us?
- What is our relationship to this world?

Last Week: The Post-Churched Society

- What does this mean for the church?
 - Realize that the society has changed . . . and so must we.
 - Become outward focused, instead of inward
 - Build bridges to the community
 - Rely on the ministry of Lay People

Our Relationship to the World Today

- A Calling, not a Tragedy
- Called to be Priest to the Post-Churched Society

Babylonian Exile

- In 586 BC, Jerusalem destroyed
- The people taken to Babylon
- Israel was in a strange society far from the churched culture of Jerusalem

A Calling, Not a Tragedy

They were to see this as a calling

- The ministry of Daniel and others
- The conversion of Nebuchadnezzar
- More people heard about the true God than at any other time in the Old Testament

Forward in Faith

March 25, 2007

The Church in the Post-Churched Society

- Not a tragedy, but a calling
- We were raised up for such a time as this

Called as Priests

- 1 Peter 1:1-2
 - “Elect Exiles”
 - “Sanctified . . . for obedience to Jesus Christ”
 - “for the sprinkling of his blood”
- What is a Priest?
 - Priesthood of all believers
 - The priest stands between God and the people who can’t come to God on their own
 - We are priests to those who “can’t” come to God; the “Can-do” people for those who “Can’t”
 - We are priests to the unbelievers

St. John’s Lutheran Church

- Chosen in the foreknowledge of God
- Sanctified by the Holy Spirit
- Called to be obedient to Jesus Christ
- Sprinkled with his blood as priests
- Called to standing between God and those who can’t stand before God, the unbelievers
- This is our calling!

Living As Priests

- Pray for those who can’t pray
- Pray for your mission field

Next Week

- What does this mean for the future ministry of St. John’s
 - Are we called to build up St. John’s?
 - Are we called to change our community?