

# Safeguarding & Mission Sunday - We are Valuable

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Preacher: Chris Willis

[ 0 : 0 0 ] Matthew 25 verses 34 to 40. Then the king will say to those on his right, enter you who are blessed by my father. Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation and here's why. I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was homeless and you gave me a room. I was shivering and you gave me clothes. I was sick and you stopped to visit. I was in prison and you came to me. Then those sheep are going to say, master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you? Then the king will say, I'm telling the solemn truth. Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me. You did it to me.

We're going to start things off slightly this morning with a heads and tails quiz. For those of you who are regular here, you'll recognize this. We've done it before. If you're not regular here, in a moment, I'm going to ask everyone who is able to stand to your feet. We're going to do a series of questions. For this time, I want you to tell me, I'm going to show you a series of items and I want you to tell me if each item you think is more valuable or less valuable than the previous one.

If you think it's more valuable, put your hands on your head. Less valuable, hands on your hips. If you get it wrong, sit down. We'll keep going to see how many people make it to the end. So if we can have the PowerPoint on the screen, please. How much is it worth? So if you can, please stand to your feet.

There we go. So we're going to start things off with a holiday worth £5,000. So obviously, we've got nothing to compare this to. So if you think the next item is worth more than £5,000, hands on your head. If you think it's worth less than £5,000, hands on your hips. There are no trick questions. Every item is either worth more or less than the previous one. So our next item is, I'm going to read out the exact description for you. A Jackie leather shoulder bag from Gucci in Burgundy released this year. If you think it's worth more than £5,000, hands on your head. Less, hands on your hips.

Three, two, one. It's worth £2,600. Still, in my opinion, a ridiculous amount of money for a bag. But if you had your hands on your hips, you are still playing. That was quite a few people caught out there. Our next item. So the value to be is £2,640. The next item is the iPhone 16 Pro. That is the latest iPhone to have been released in whichever colour you like. If you think it's worth more than £2,640, hands on your head, less hands on your hips. Three, two, one. It is worth £999.

[ 3 : 4 9 ] Okay, still a few people left. The next item is the Lego Death Star set with 4,016 pieces, 23 mini figures.

It's the standard version. I'll give you a slight clue. You can no longer buy this from the Lego store. It's out of order. They don't produce it anymore. You can buy it from Amazon, though. So if you think it's worth more than £999, hands on your head, less hands on your hips. Three, two, one. It's worth a staggering £1,045.

You won't catch me spending that much on Lego. Our next item. We are not buying the helicopter.

This is for an ultimate flying experience. 45 minutes of helicopter flight instruction. If you think it's worth more or less than £1,045. Three, two, one.

£200. It's our cheapest item so far. Our next item. This is the Callum Ring. A diamond-encrusted 2.97 carat diamond ring.

[ 5 : 14 ] It's worth more than £199. Hands on your head, less hands on your hips. It's worth £50,000. Okay. Have we just got two people left? Okay. This is Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

First edition, first print, signed by J.K. Rowling. Do you think it's worth more or less than £50,000? Three, two, one. One sold at auction earlier this year for £135,000.

Okay. I think that's everyone out. Well done to the two people, to Peter and Joseph for making it the furthest. We will go through the rest of the questions. There's just a few left.

So they get a little bit easier for the next one, I think. This is a house in Wimbledon that is currently on sale with seven bedrooms and five bathrooms. So everyone can join in for this now. So hands on your head or hands on your hips.

The previous value was £135,000. I will say I wish I could buy that house for £135,000. It's worth £9.5 million.

[ 6 : 44 ] Our next item. And in a moment, I've requested a volunteer if they can start making their way to the front for me. But our next item. This is the Bugatti La Voiture Noire, the most expensive car sold this year.

Is it worth more or less than £9.5 million? We've got some split opinion here. Only one of this car was ever made and it sold for £14.4 million.

Can my volunteer come to the front? So the value of the car is £14.4 million. Kate is one of our young people at the church, started year seven this year.

Is Kate worth more or less than £14.4 million? If you're hesitating over this, I'm going to have some words with you later. Kate, you can be encouraged.

Actually, I can tell you that we're going to the Bible for this one. Because the Bible says very, very clearly. It says throughout the Bible, but Jesus also says in the New Testament. Kate, you are worth more than everything else they're put together.

[ 8 : 04 ] All of you. Every single one of you is worth more than everything put there together. Everyone that we meet at home, at work, that we pass on the street, are worth more than everything else they're put together.

I did this, a shortened version of this quiz in St. Jude's a couple of weeks ago. And the way that I said it to them is, think of the biggest number. Sorry, think of the most expensive thing that you can think of.

Then multiply that by the biggest number you can imagine. And you are still worth more than that. Thank you, Kate. That's what today is about.

There's two things, two aspects of today. We're going to start off by doing a little something regarding safeguarding, because we have to do this. We're supposed to do this every year. And then we're going to spend the rest of the service thinking about mission.

So that video gives an overview of everyone's responsibility. Actually, there's two things that we can all do. As the video said, we can all treat each other with kindness, with respect.

[ 9 : 17 ] We can all treat each other with the value that we know and we believe that everyone deserves. But if there is anything that you are ever concerned about, if you are worried or concerned about a person, please do not keep that to yourself.

If you're not sure, I'm the designated safeguarding lead, or designated person for safeguarding at the church here. And we have a deputy designated for safeguarding, who's Janine Rose.

If for any reason you can't come to me, if you can't get hold of me, or actually it's something that I can't know about, then you can go to Janine.

Both of our contact details are on the blue board and the front hall, the left of the brown doors, and also the blue boards as you come out of the back hall as well.

So safeguarding is a really, really important thing, and we need all of your help to do it as well. If you would like to read our safeguarding policy, the most up-to-date version will be going up onto the website on Tuesday, but it's also available in the office and can be emailed to you if you would like it to be as well.

[ 10 : 23 ] If you've got any questions about it, please just come to me and ask. There is no such thing as a wrong or a stupid question, because we'd rather make sure we get this right to make sure everyone we're working with is safe and comfortable and valued.

I'd like to invite the mobilization team from OM to come up and to share with us a little bit more about what OM do.

Good morning, church. How are you? Doing good. All right, so before we start, we just wanted to introduce ourselves. So I'll just hand over to my team to introduce themselves, and then we'll get started with the presentation.

Good morning, everyone. My name is Mickey. I come from Ecuador. It's a small country in South America. And yeah, there's a fun fact. We have the Galapagos Islands. So yeah, I forgot my flag, but yeah, that's a fun fact for you guys.

Hi, good morning. My name is Edrey, and I come from Mexico. Hi, I'm Dana. I also come from Mexico. Good morning. My name is Rosa Maria. I am from Guatemala.

[ 11 : 46 ] Hello, and my name is Warona, but everyone knows me as Wawa, so feel free to call me Wawa. And I am from Botswana.

If you haven't heard of Botswana, it is right above South Africa. And recently in the Olympics, we won our first gold medal in the 200 meters.

Nice. Can we have the slides up? Let's see if this works. Yes.

All right. So for this next part, I'm going to need 10 volunteers to come up to the stage. Five ladies and five guys, five men.

Any five. And then I need you guys to stand as male, female, male, female.

[ 12 : 54 ] And as they come up, I have a question. What do you think the world population is at the moment? Six billion?

Seven billion? Nine? Eight billion. Yeah. So there's roughly about eight billion people in the world today.

How many of this eight billion would you say are considered unreached?

Six billion? I hear three and a half million Christians. Five billion? Okay. So with my 10 volunteers up front, we will find out just how many people in the world are considered unreached.

Let me just get to my notes. So like I said, there's about eight billion people in the world. And these 10 people represent the world population.

[ 14 : 08 ] Now for each of these people, we will categorize them according to the world and different statistics of the world. So the first person or the first category we have is Christian.

How much percent do you think in the world there is of Christians? Now by this, I'm talking about Bible-believing Christians, people that have really given their lives and are really following Jesus.

Looking at the world, how many people, or from these 10, how many would you think represent Christians in the world?

Three people? One person. Yes. So of the eight billion people, about 12% are considered to be Bible-believing Christians in the world.

Then the next category we have is nominal Christians. Now by nominal Christians, sometimes some people would call them skin Christians.

[ 15 : 16 ] These are people who say they are Christians, but the way that they live their lives doesn't really reflect that. They may go to church sometimes, but other than that, other than them saying that they are Christians, nothing really about their lives represents Jesus.

So from these 10 people, how many would you say represent the non-Christian or the nominal Christian population? Two people?

Three? Two? Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. So the answer would be two. So our next two people here would represent nominal Christians, and they are about 21% of the world population.

The next category we have is reached non-Christian. Now by this, we're talking about people that haven't yet made a decision to follow Jesus, but they may have heard about Jesus.

This can also include refugees from different countries living in a country that has a larger Christian population, where they do have the access to the gospel.

[ 16 : 31 ] They do have an opportunity to hear about Jesus. They can interact with Christians. They have access to a Bible, but they just haven't made a decision to say yes to Jesus.

So from the remaining seven people, how many would you think represent this group, reached non-Christians? Four?

One? Three? I hear three. I hear two. Okay. Okay. The correct answer would be three people.

So about 21% of the world's population represent reached non-Christians. Now for me, at some point in my life, I was, I fell in this category, in that I wasn't a believer.

I lived in Botswana, which is a largely, has a large Christian population, and, but my parents went to church, but I never really believed.

[ 17 : 38 ] Then I got to hear about the gospel, and I became a nominal Christian, where every Sunday I was going to church, but the way that I lived my life didn't really reflect Jesus, but through discipleship, through really taking some time to sit down and have a good understanding of what the gospel means, of what salvation means, I then became a, I then became part of the 12% of the world.

So I think a good question for us to reflect is where among this group do we fall as, as an individual? If you are a nominal Christian, it is not the worst thing, it's not bad, but it's just maybe you might need a little bit more help, a little bit more discipleship, taking time to be intentional about investing in your relationship with Jesus so that you too can be part of the 12%.

But as well, a challenge to those that are part of the 12%, these people here are as well people that you can as well reach out to.

They as well need that effort. They may not be in this church, they may be outside the church. So the family and friends that you have that are not believers, they are people that you can be reaching out to as well.

So these six people would be considered or would fall under what we call the reached world, that people that have heard the gospel, that have had an opportunity to hear.

[ 19 : 12 ] And now we have our last four people at the end. And they would fall under the unreached people or they will be considered unreached. Now by unreached, we're talking about people groups or countries that have a Christian population of less than 2%.

So of the country itself, less than 2% of the population would be considered believers. So they can, you can give them the sign.

And these people are then broken down into other major religions.

Do you guys know what the three other major religions other than Christianity are? Yes? Judaism. Judaism. Judaism. Okay.

Yeah. Not quite, but yeah. Hinduism. Yes? Buddhism. And Islam. Yes. So, from these four, we first have Muslims.

[ 20 : 24 ] Muslims are represented by two people. The reason why they fall under two people is because of the world's largest religions outside of Christianity, they form about 25% of the world's population.

So they are one of the largest non-Christian beliefs in the world. Muslims. The next category that we have would be Hinduism for one person.

And then the next one, the last two that we have is Buddhism and as well as, well, it'll be represented by one person actually.

But, and the reason why is because Buddhism and what we call Chinese folk religions, as you might know, China has one of the largest world populations.

And within China, there are lots of other smaller folk religions that people follow. Some might be closely related to Buddhism. So, those two then fall under the same or would fall under the last person.

[ 21 : 39 ] As an organization, as OM, our heart is to reach the unreached. We have as our mission that we want to see vibrant communities of Jesus followers amongst the least reached.

And just to give you guys a brief overview of who we are as an organization, I'm just going to play this short video. We are a global community of Jesus followers.

United to share God's love with those who don't know it. Christ's generous, limitless love is our example. Shaped by his presence.

Overwhelmed by his sacrifice. And transformed daily by his power. We will never be the same. His love fuels our passion. For all to hear the gospel.

I know the deep life-changing love of our Creator. So, we go. No place was too hard. No people too far.

[ 22 : 43 ] No idea too crazy. No dream too big. No dream too big. And our failures did not hold us back. Tens of thousands have joined us. And hundreds of millions have heard the gospel. But we are not done yet. We believe that the love of Jesus has the power to change everyone and everything.

Including the reality of those who are oppressed, forgotten and marginalized. We believe it is God's mission to transform lives and communities as He reconciles the world to Himself. We have the privilege of joining with Him in this mission.

This transformation isn't reserved for those we serve. It happens to us too. When we step out in faith, we start to change as well. Our hearts are changed. And so, we're not going to come in.

And so, we are not going to come in. It happens to us too. It happens to us too. When we step out in faith, we start to change as well. Our hearts are changed. And so we are.

It happens to us too. It happens to us too. When we step out in faith, we start to change as well. Our hearts are changed. And so are our attitudes, relationships and priorities. Our soul is refreshed.

[ 23 : 43 ] And we find significance in who he has made us to be. And what he has made us to do. We are a group of people who don't fit a mould. Who don't sit still. And who love the adventure of serving Jesus.

We listen first and don't just show up in a new place. And project our way of doing and thinking. We wake up each day. With the confidence that the God who created the universe.

Who knocked over the walls of Jericho. Who healed the blind. And raised to death. Is with us. This emboldens us. Empowers us. And keeps us moving forward. We believe everyone was made for God's purposes.

Our talents. Our gifts and our passions. Are his tools in us. If God's wired us to design. Then we design. If he wired us to organize. We organize. If he wired us to build. Then we build.

We want our work and our words. To shine his light. So that those we live amongst. Will see it. And glorify God. His love and mission fuels our passion.

[ 24 : 48 ] To cultivate bright thriving communities of Jesus followers. That in his time will touch every person on earth. On earth. We are OM.

We are OM. We are OM. We are OM. We are OM. Come join us. Or lion frantic Friendship on earth.

Through their lives. And these three billion reasons that we have are these three billion people that are loved by God, that are precious to God, that we also want to see having an opportunity to hear about Jesus, having an opportunity to have that relationship with him.

And of that three billion, every day about 55,000 of them are dying without ever having an opportunity to hear. That is 55,000 people that will be born, live their whole lives, and die without ever having an opportunity to hear about Jesus, let alone interact with another believer within their own community.

God, though, has a purpose for each and every one of us. How I got involved with OM was through a short-term missions outreach where I really just wanted to go and see what it was about.

[ 26 : 24 ] And it was through that that I then got to learn, got to get my eyes opened and see that there is a need in the world and there is something that I could do.

And there is really something that each and every one of us can do from young despite the age. Within OM, we serve in many different countries. There are offices in about 110 different countries.

In some countries, we are openly OM. In other countries, we need to be a little bit more creative in how we present ourselves. But about 12% of our workers are working within America and Oceania.

21% within our ship's ministries. And we'll talk a little bit about that a little later. 23% in the Middle East and Africa. 21% in Europe. And 23% in Asia.

24% in Asia.

[ 27 : 53 ] 24% in Asia.

where there are little to no believers. And really trying to be intentional in breaking cultural and language barriers to be able to reach those people.

So as we come into communities, to not come in and impose ourselves, but to come in and learn to build relationships, to build friendships, so that we can get to a place where we can share the gospel in a way that they are then better able to receive it without feeling like they are being pulled out of their own culture.

Because that is one of the bigger barriers that prevents people from following Jesus. And in achieving this, we have areas that we want to focus on.

And these are just some of the areas. Obviously, OM UK has a focus in UK. But we also have a focus in Europe and the North Caucasus. In the Arabian Peninsula and North Africa within those countries there.

[ 29 : 26 ] In the Sahel, which is a region within Africa that is along the Sahara Desert from Senegal all the way through to Eritrea on the east.

And we also have the Muslim Southeast and the Muslim Southeast Asia region as well. Scripture says in Matthew 28 verses 19, 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 our heart really is to see people becoming disciples. People are following Jesus, giving their lives to Jesus so that they can be followers of Jesus.

Within OM, we have different opportunities that we can be involved. One of that is by prayer. And you can sign up at our desk to receive our monthly prayer update so that you can keep praying for the world.

But we also have this app that you can download on the Apple App Store or even on Google Play. And through this, you'll receive daily prompts about a country or a people group that you can pray for.

[ 30 : 39 ] Our international director says, We are on a mission to bring the gospel to the farthest corners of the world, fulfilling the Great Commission in its generation.

There is no place too far, no task too difficult, and no human we won't try to reach. Now, I'll invite Michaela up to share about different opportunities that we have within OM.

Okay, hello. Yeah, I will just quickly share how you guys can get involved in all of these ministries. We basically offer different types of ministries. We have a short-term program that starts from one week to one year.

We also have training for missions. We have gap year programs, university placements, long-term programs, and career breaks. So these are all the different types of options that we offer if you would like to get involved with missions.

So I will just quickly share a little bit more. We have, I know that you guys have been hearing a lot about a ship. If you haven't heard of the OM ship, we have two ships called Logos Hope and Dulos Hope.

[ 31 : 50 ] It's a ship that travels around the world. We have a crew of over 60 different nationalities on board. We have people from the UK currently serving on the ships. And yeah, you do not have to have any background, any specific study, any involvement on ships.

You can just come as you are. We have a lot of young people, a lot of people with careers, a lot of different people, different times in their life that they choose to join the ship.

And basically the ship has a book fair and we just travel around the world sharing knowledge, help, and hope. We have a commitment of one to two years or we have a step program that is three months.

I joined the ship. I had the opportunity to have a different experience actually. I joined the ship initially with my parents. So I joined when I was 16. And I always thought, how is God going to use me, a 16-year-old, on a ship?

It doesn't make sense. But God really surprised me. And I came as I was and God changed my life forever. My experience on board was truly life-changing and one of the highlights of my life.

[ 32 : 56 ] So I really encourage you. It's a time where you will really grow spiritually but also get the chance to reach out to all these people that have never heard the gospel or help disciple people who are growing in their faith.

I will quickly show a short video explaining a little bit more about the ship so you guys can get a visual of how it is. Welcome to Logos Hope.

My name is Nathan and I'm a stepper on board this ship. What is STEP? Well, it stands for Short Term Exposure Program. It takes around three months. But let me show you what it actually means.

It's a great adventure to live in a community of people from all over the world, from around 60 nations, with different languages and customs that travel the world together, sharing knowledge, health and hope.

We are assigned to work in different areas on board to help with the running of the ship, such as the book fair, cleaning teams, catering or other departments. We receive trainings to do this work, developing different skills and forming new friendships, all while serving God in the process.

[ 34 : 06 ] But it's not all about on-board activities. One day a week, we participate in a Connect Day. Sea Days help provide exposure to different ministry opportunities, allowing us to discover and grow our passions.

This is a great opportunity to connect with crew members from other departments, creating lifelong memories, and to build relationships with local people, learning from them along the way. Go!

Go! Go! Go! Everyone joining Logos Hope goes through different safety trainings, such as water survival or firefighting. But it doesn't stop there, because we take part in training for life, through different courses, workshops and unique experiences.

These trainings help to equip us to share and live out our faith with those we meet, during our time on board and beyond. Ship Life also involves attending in different community events, such as Sunday services, worship nights and prayer nights, and much more.

They help bring us closer together and bring us closer to God. And this is going to be something that is going to change your life forever. You're going to return home, and you are not going to be the same person.

[ 35 : 13 ] You're going to change the life of others when you share your testimony, and you share what God is doing in the rest of the world. What are the needs? Then I encourage you to join. It's a very short time of period in your life, but it's going to change the rest of your life.

And guess what? Every three months we welcome new crew members to our floating family. Join us and experience life in a multicultural setting to explore what God might have planned for you. Why not take your first step today?

For more information, please visit our website. Okay, yeah. Oh, sorry. So yeah, that's basically the ship ministry.

I encourage you, if you're interested in knowing more, you can find us over there in our corner. But we also invite you guys to pray for the ship ministry. We need a lot of prayer and a lot of our ministry supported by prayer.

So I encourage you guys to also pray for us. We also have a mission coach in the OM world. So if you want to be involved in missions, but you're not sure where, you don't really want to join the ship, but you want to do something maybe a little bit more local or with your career, you can also contact a mission coach.



[ 36 : 20 ] And he can walk with you and just, yeah, help you discover what is this thing that you can use to serve God in the mission field. We also have trainings.

We have, one of our trainings is called Reach. It's a five-month program. And yeah, the UK offers that program. You can get also more information at the back, but it's, yeah, it's a mission training. If you're a bit more spontaneous and you like a bit more of adventure, we also have our Race Across Europe program.

It's a backpacking trip across Europe and you're just able to meet different people, talk to different churches. It's really fun. So I encourage you if you are more into that. And we also have our Teen Street program, which is where a lot of teenagers come together and they just have a lot of fun.

These are the dates that it's happening. And we usually have a lot of programs involved with our Teen Street. And yeah, that's a bit of what we offer as OM, but I really encourage you, if you're more interested in knowing more about our mission opportunities, you can find us in the back.

We have so many more. Or you could also visit our website, OMUK. And yeah, any questions, just find us. Now I will hand over to Edrey.

[ 37 : 31 ] He's going to share a little bit more. Thank you. Morning. So yeah, you probably heard it three times already, but I'm going to say it again.

Our goal is to see vibrant communities of Jesus followers among the least rich. And even a word doesn't stop us from doing that. So yeah, so we heard some of you are going to Ukraine.

I think, am I right? You will be sitting? Ah, you previously went to Ukraine. So I'm really happy personally that you went, because that's really why we came.

Because we just don't want people to know about missions or just to know the statistics or to know all the religions in the world. No, we want you to actually go and serve those who have not reached, we have not reached.

So yeah, we're just going to give a little report on what happened in OMUKraine. So yeah, the main goal in OMUKraine is, yeah, to bring help to those who are in need, because this is a very sad circumstance of what's happening.

[ 38 : 38 ] But the main goal is to empower the church so they can reach more people. Because yeah, there's need, but there's also opportunity for the church to show extraordinary love and extraordinary help to those who need it.

And they do it through different ministries, through church planting, or there's a ministry that's called SportsLink. They teach especially kids and teenagers how to express themselves through art or through sports.

Specifically, I think they have a kickboxing youth group. They also give essentials. I think you already know about that part.

They provide essentials for people in need. And also they give medical help. So these are one of the few activities that they do.

And we encourage you to keep getting involved in those opportunities you have that God has given you. Because as we read in this morning, like if we see someone who has need and we serve them, it is like we do it to our Lord himself.

[ 39 : 53 ] And yeah, so there are five areas specifically in which they work in Ukraine. I can't pronounce them because I don't know if I will pronounce them right. But yeah.

And here's a little testimony that they put on the report. It says, praise God, this year we saw nearly 110 teens express repentance and faith during our summer camps, three of whom have now decided to be baptized and are now undergoing preparation for it.

So whether you believe it or not, you are all part of this because you have prayed, you have given, you have went already. So we thank you. And we also encourage you to keep getting involved in what God is doing.

Thank you. We would like to finish with one final song together if I can ask the band to get ready. But while they're getting ready, I've got one final question to leave you all with.

We started the service by talking about how valuable everyone we meet is to God and how valuable they should be to us. We've heard about the things that Ruth and Ben can do to show how valuable people in their local community are.

[ 41 : 04 ] We've heard about some of the OM projects all over the world that show that value. But what are you going to do? Maybe it's getting involved with a mission project. Maybe it's doing something for your neighbours or for your colleagues at work or for your family.

Maybe it's giving financially. Maybe it's prayer. Going away from this morning, what are you going to do to show the people around you how valuable God says they are?

I'm going to finish this off by just re-reading from Matthew, the very end of Matthew 28, what we know as the Great Commission. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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 to the very end of the age. Amen. Amen.