

Rethinking the Role of Christian Missions in Modern Society

Scripture Focus: Leviticus 19:33-34, James 2:14-17, Matthew 25:35-40

Main Theme: Moving from traditional charity to "Integral Mission"—empowering the vulnerable rather than just providing relief.

1. Reality Check

- **Question:** When you hear the word "Missionary," what is the very first image that pops into your head? How has your understanding of "missions" changed since you first became a Christian?

2. Key Points

Part I: The Leviticus Challenge

Read Leviticus 19:33-34

"The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt."

- The speaker mentioned the "Benefactor Mindset"—the subtle belief that "We are the hosts, they are the guests; we are the givers, they are the takers."
- **Discussion:** In a city like Hong Kong (or your own context), where do we see this hierarchy playing out? How does remembering that "we were foreigners in Egypt" (or our own spiritual poverty) change how we treat the marginalized?

Part II: The Trolley Problem (Relief vs. Empowerment)

- **Discussion:** Can you think of a time when you saw a church or charity focusing only on "relief"? Why is it harder to do the work of "derailing the trolley"?
- **Reflection:** Read **James 2:15-16**. Why does James call faith without action "dead" in the context of physical needs?

Part III: Mission vs. Missions

- **The Distinction:**
 - **Mission (Singular):** The *Missio Dei*—God's grand plan to restore the world.
 - **Missions (Plural):** Our specific activities to participate in that plan.
- **Discussion:** "Missions" isn't just evangelism of words, but demonstrating the Kingdom (action + words). Do you agree that teaching someone fixing an engine or sharing parenting tips is "spiritual" work? Why or why not?
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3. Application: The Tool in the Hand

The sermon called for "Integral Mission"—using vocational skills (carpentry, IT, business) to restore dignity.

- **Personal Inventory:** The speaker asked for "mentorship, not just money."
- **Group Activity:** Go around the circle. What is one professional skill, hobby, or talent you possess that you rarely think of as "ministry"? (e.g., accounting, cooking, coding, teaching, repairing things).
- **Brainstorm:** How could that specific skill be used to empower a refugee or a marginalized person in your city?

4. Prayer Focus

- **Repentance:** Pray for the times we have viewed ourselves as superior "benefactors" rather than fellow beggars finding bread.
- **Intercession:** Pray for the refugees at the Thai-Myanmar border—specifically for the Karen and Karenni people mentioned.
- **Action:** Pray that God would show you one way to "cross the street of indifference" this week.