

Christ completed 27 missions while on earth.
Take up the 4 he assigned to you.

THE
JESUS
MISSION.

STEVEN K.
SCOTT

AUTHOR OF *The Greatest Words Ever Spoken*

Praise for
The Jesus Mission

“Read about Jesus accomplishing the twenty-seven impossible missions that the Father gave Him, and your heart will be filled with awe and wonder. Discover the missions that Jesus gives you, and you’ll experience His love and purpose beyond anything you have ever imagined!”

—DR. PAT ROBERTSON, chairman of the Christian
Broadcasting Network

“Only Jesus can meet the deepest longing of a woman’s soul. If you have ever wondered how, as a woman, you can have a more intimate and miraculous relationship with Him, *The Jesus Mission* will take you there.”

—JULIE CLINTON, president of Extraordinary Women

“Steven K. Scott reminds us of Christ’s commands in a way that makes them understandable. The practical action items in *The Jesus Mission* will get you on the right path to a more intimate relationship with God.”

—JOSH McDOWELL, speaker and best-selling author

“Using the statements of Jesus, Steven Scott shows us how to love God the way He wants to be loved—the way that literally opens the heart of God to you and brings you into a whole new level of intimacy with Him. And as you discover the incredible missions Jesus accomplished, you will see His glory as never before.”

—DR. GARY SMALLEY, author of *The DNA of Relationships*

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—MARK BATTERSON, lead pastor of National Community Church, Washington DC, and author of *Primal* and *In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day*

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“*The Jesus Mission* gets straight to the point of Christ’s mission to set the captives free. It will change your life and empower you to make an impact in the lives of others that will last for eternity.”

—NICK VUJICIC, evangelist and author of *Life Without Limits*

“Be prepared for something incredible to happen as you experience Christ’s words penetrating your heart. Steven K. Scott does a masterful job of helping us grasp the close relationship with God that we deeply desire.”

—DR. CHUCK LYNCH, author of *I Should Forgive, But...*

“In *The Jesus Mission*, you will see the Savior as you have never seen Him before. Any misconceptions about who He was, why He came, and what He wants His followers to do and to be will be replaced with His truth, according to the words He spoke. It’s time to make His priorities our priorities!”

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“Steven K. Scott provides a practical and doable path to living each day supernaturally. His chapter describing how to experience intimacy with God is profound, yet so clear. It all is based on Jesus’ words. If you have ever wanted a comprehensive handbook on what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ, you are holding it in your hands.”

—DR. DAVID STOOP, author of *You Are What You Think*
and founder of the Center for Family Therapy

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WATERBROOK
PRESS

THE JESUS MISSION
PUBLISHED BY WATERBROOK PRESS
12265 Oracle Boulevard, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80921

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ISBN 978-0-307-73049-7
ISBN 978-0-307-73050-3 (electronic)

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Cover design by Mark D. Ford

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Published in the United States by WaterBrook Multnomah, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House Inc., New York.

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Scott, Steve, 1948-

The Jesus mission : Christ completed twenty-seven missions while on earth : take up the four he assigned to you / Steven K. Scott.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references (p.).

ISBN 978-0-307-73049-7 — ISBN 978-0-307-73050-3 (electronic)

1. Christian life. I. Title.

BV4501.3.S3935 2011

248.4—dc23

2011021538

Printed in the United States of America
2011—First Edition

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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*To the King of kings and Lord of lords,
the One who paid the ultimate price that no one else could pay and
freely gave me that which cost Him everything. Oh what a Savior!*

*To my Heavenly Father,
who willingly gave the One He loved above all others
for those of us who didn't even care.
How can You love us so? Let me love You and Your dear Son
the way You desire to be loved.*

*To the Holy Spirit,
whose ministry has delivered the miracle of the second birth
to millions since that glorious day He was sent to earth.*



*To my sweet wife, Shannon,
who selflessly supports every aspect of my life and ministry,
has a selfless love for our family,
and is my wonderful example of someone with a true,
childlike faith in the Lord.*

*To my children and grandchildren:
May following Christ and living in true intimacy with God be
your diligent pursuit and experience throughout your lives on earth.*

*To Jim Shaughnessy and Gary Smalley:
Oh how God has used you both
to make me want to be more like Jesus!*

*To Pastor Keith Craft:
Your life, ministry, faith, and prayers have made
an eternal difference in every aspect of my life and ministry.*



And this is eternal life, that they may
know You, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

—*Jesus*

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My wonderful partners at Random House Inc. and WaterBrook Multnomah. Steve Cobb, thank you for your efforts to make this project a reality. Ron Lee, as always, your editing and wisdom have made such an invaluable contribution to the readability and ultimate impact of this book. To the marketing, sales, ministry, and design teams at WaterBrook. Without your efforts this book would never be read. I am so grateful for you all!

Jan Miller, you are such a gift to me and to all whom you represent. Your wisdom, professionalism, faith, and energy are the reasons our works are published and taken seriously. For me, you are truly irreplaceable!

THE
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CHAPTER 1



THE GREATEST MISSION THE UNIVERSE HAS EVER WITNESSED

If Jesus were to fail, the earth and everyone on it would be doomed.

About two thousand years ago, all the hosts of heaven watched in amazement as God sent His only begotten Son on a mission. While living on earth, God's Son would take on the form of a man and give up His divine rights. As a man, He would be tempted in every area of life in which ordinary men and women are tempted. If the Son succumbed to even one temptation, His mission would be aborted, and the earth and its inhabitants would be doomed.

Though He lived as a man, the Son's communion with His Father remained unbroken. His obedience to the Father's will was nothing short of perfect. The close communion He enjoyed

with His Father was crucial to the successful completion of His mission.

But the Son's mission on earth was *not* just one mission. In His teachings, He revealed that He came to accomplish twenty-seven seemingly impossible missions. If He failed in even one, all would be lost. Each of the twenty-seven missions had to be completed, and without error, during His brief life on earth. And amazingly, He did it!

THE MISSIONS JESUS GAVE TO US

While most Christians are familiar with the Great Commission from Matthew 28:19–20, which is Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations, many may be unaware that before Jesus left the earth, He commissioned His disciples—and everyone else who would follow Him in the future—not with just one Great Commission, but with four lifelong missions that all believers are to focus on.

As believers, we often struggle with what God wants from our lives. What is His specific will for each of us, and how should we invest our lives to advance His work on earth? Jesus did not leave us in the dark, to guess at what God desires for us. The missions He left for us to carry out give us eternal purpose and a clear focus for our lives. As we pursue the four missions He gave us, we will experience the ultimate Christian life.

Far from being overwhelming, these missions sharpen our focus and intensify our faith. Out of all the opportunities and possibilities that believers could pursue, Christ points us to the missions He chose for us. There is no reason for believers to guess

about what God wants or to worry that they are not hearing from God. In His teachings, Jesus has already revealed it all.

In the words of Christ from the four gospels, we have our job description. Jesus chose to give *us* the glorious opportunity to *partner* with Him in the same way that He partnered with His Father. As we pursue the four lifelong missions, He gives us His miraculous power and grace to fulfill each one. Jesus said, “Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father” (John 14:12).

As we carry out our missions, we will live in an intimate relationship with Him that is modeled after His relationship with His Father. Just as Jesus relied on His Father and drew wisdom and power from Him, so can believers today draw near to Christ in the most intimate relationship on earth. This is not restricted to a few special Christians or limited to the most holy. Jesus invites all His followers into an intimate relationship that mirrors the relationship He experienced with His Father when He was on earth.

Before we look at this relationship with Christ, there are a few realities we need to consider.

BETTER THAN A CRYSTAL BALL

It’s tempting to think that life would be much easier if only we could know what lies ahead. If we had a crystal ball that would allow us to see into the future, we could take the risk and uncertainty out of decision making. Think about it: you could win the lottery *every week*. If you’re an investor, you could read tomorrow’s *Wall Street Journal* today and make a fortune overnight. You

could steer clear of traffic jams and dangerous motorists. You could ensure good health by avoiding the threats of disease and disaster. If only you had a crystal ball, you could become your company's most valued employee by next week—and without relying on hard work and business acumen.

No longer would you be uncertain or indecisive. With an infallible crystal ball, you could see the long-term benefits and consequences of every decision and choice. You would have the potential to avoid making mistakes in every area of your life.

But that is all it would be—potential. That's because you would still be lacking one critical element. Even if you knew everything you needed to know about the future, you still would not have the *power* to change your life. You would not have the will to do the right thing in every instance, and you would still be subject to circumstances over which you have no control.

Knowing the future would not replace sadness with joy, emptiness with fulfillment, or death with eternal life. It would not eliminate the guilt you experience when you do something wrong. It could not empower you to love others unconditionally. For all the changes a future-seeing crystal ball could bring, it couldn't bring the most important changes that you need or desire. And worst of all, it could not bring you even one step closer to an intimate relationship with an eternal, infinite God.

What you will discover in this book is infinitely better than a crystal ball. You won't be able to read the future, but you will find out how you can enjoy the most intimate, powerful, and miracle-filled relationship possible with God. This relationship, which Christ offers to us, *can* replace sadness with joy, emptiness with fulfillment, failure with accomplishment, and most important, death with eternal life. Imagine having a relationship with

God in which He reveals Himself to you in new ways every day. He will reveal His loves and desires, His values, and even His miraculous power in unique ways—to you, one of His closest followers.

Imagine experiencing Christ's presence every moment of every day. Imagine being so close to Him that He whispers in your ear His thoughts, His guidance, even His perfect will for every decision you face. Imagine knowing that you are the focal point of His amazing love. In turn, you will gain the power to love others unconditionally in ways you never thought were possible. Imagine gaining the power to love and forgive even the people who have lied about you, betrayed you, and violated your trust.

This is the life of power and supernatural love that Christ lived on earth, and it can be your life as well. When you live in an intimate relationship with Him, He teaches you how to abide in His love and power. He directs your steps and opens your eyes to choices and decisions that produce a life of eternal significance.

GETTING OUT OF THE WATER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Imagine that you are alone in a small rowboat. You have only one oar and no sail. If you are floating on a quiet lake and not drifting a great distance from shore, you should be able to make your way back to dry land. That is, unless a storm erupts and pushes you in the opposite direction.

Most people assume their lives should go smoothly, with only minor interruptions and reasonable obstacles to overcome. They don't see why they should have to deal with major setbacks such as serious illness or financial misfortune. They expect a life

of steady progress, with few detours and with the support of close relationships.

I see this all the time. Many go about their daily lives with little sense of direction and purpose, expecting success but not making the sacrifices necessary to achieve their goals. They don't realize that the dam that lies beyond their field of vision is about to break. The quiet mountain lake will suddenly turn into a raging torrent that will pull everything on the lake to the breach in the dam. The current will force the rowboat and its occupant over the broken dam. That destiny will be inescapable.

Your life can seem to be as peaceful and nonthreatening as a quiet lake. But a life that appears to be a comfortable refuge, protected from adversity, is never what it seems. No one is spared the hard realities of life on earth. The only real question facing us is, when will the dam break?

Most of us expect the status quo to remain. We have no sense of urgency pushing us to refocus our lives on what is most important. We justify the way we live by saying, "I'm doing okay. Surely God doesn't expect *that* much more from me." We find it easy to compare ourselves to others who make worse choices than we make. "Maybe I'm not Billy Graham, but I'm not Adolf Hitler either." Oddly, we feel good about landing somewhere in the middle. "If God grades on the curve, I'm probably between a C+ and a B-."

Here's the truth. God *doesn't* grade on a curve. He sees you as you really are. He knows your words and actions, your true motives, and the intentions behind everything you do and think. Even more, He measures your actions, words, and motives against *His* standards, which reflect His perfect righteousness. Jesus gave us a glimpse of God's perfect standards when He said if you have

been angry with someone, you are just as guilty as one who committed murder (see Matthew 5:21–22). If you have failed to love your neighbor in the same manner and degree that you love yourself, then by the standard of God’s love, you have *not* loved your neighbor.

And here is something many have missed that prevents them from experiencing the ultimate intimate relationship with God. If we don’t love God in the way *He* wants to be loved, then our love for Him is worthless. Ouch! That’s bad news for all of us. But the great news is that He loves you and me anyway! He loves us so much that He has made the ultimate sacrifice (the death of His Son) to bring you and me into a miraculous, love-drenched, eternal relationship with Him.

THE FOUR-DOLLAR FRAME WITH A HIDDEN TREASURE

As he walked through a Pennsylvania flea market in 1989, a young man picked up an old painting that was for sale. He later described it as “dreary,” but he liked the ornate frame and thought he could find a print to replace the ugly painting. And the price was only four dollars.

When he got home and started to remove the frame’s backing, the frame fell apart. He was upset at first but then noticed a folded piece of paper that had been tucked beneath the painting’s backing. It appeared to be a printed copy of the Declaration of Independence. It was in such good condition, however, that he thought it must have been put there by a recent owner.

The buyer of the painting was wrong. This copy of the Declaration of Independence was produced by a printer named John

Dunlap at the request of Alexander Hamilton and the Continental Congress on the night of July 4, 1776. It was one of an estimated two hundred copies that were printed to be circulated in the thirteen colonies. By 1989, there were only twenty-four copies known to exist, and this was one of the three most pristine. This copy of the Declaration had been hidden right after it was printed, because to be caught with a copy would result in being hanged as a traitor. The man who purchased a frame and a dreary painting for \$4 sold a rare copy of the Declaration of Independence for \$2.4 million. A few years later it sold at auction for \$8 million.

The previous owner of the ugly painting, who sold it for four dollars, had made the greatest financial mistake of his life. His error was that he had assumed the worth of the painting was limited to what could be seen. But as the flea market customer realized later, the true value was determined by what was hidden on the inside—that which could *not* be seen.

How do you value yourself? By your physical appearance, income, possessions, or job title? We all tend to measure our success, the quality of our lives, and our worth by the things that can be seen—the same mistake that was made by the previous owner of the ugly painting in the ornate frame. The truth is that we *all* resemble that old painting in the ornate frame. The painting is our nature that has been beaten up, bruised, and blurred by years of disappointment, hurts, and self-centeredness. The ornate frame represents the external features of our lives, which we rely on to try to appear more important and valuable. But hidden beneath it all are our souls, hopelessly trapped by self-centeredness and our sin nature.

We would be lost but for one thing. Standing nearby is God

Himself. His vision for you and me is not limited by outward appearance, lack of the trappings of success, or our inborn self-centeredness. God said, “For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7, NKJV).

As you read the chapters that follow, you will discover how God wants to liberate your soul and give you an eternal Declaration of Independence. You will see that He desires to set you free to be all that He designed you to be. And just as the Declaration of Independence created a new nation with an unparalleled destiny, when God sets you free, your destiny will not only change, but it will also take on eternal significance in your life and the lives of countless others.

THE CORE OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

We can live in an intimate relationship with God only because of what Christ has done. None of this would be possible if He had not first accomplished all the missions He was given. Imagine, a God who loves you so much that He sent His Son on a mission to rescue and liberate *you*! This is the God you are going to come to know and love more intimately than you have ever imagined possible.

The Jesus Mission will take you to the core of Christian faith, clarifying what God wants from your life and showing you the difference between subscribing to a religious belief and actually following Jesus as He desires. This book is broken into three sections, with each one exploring what Jesus taught, promised, and commanded. *The Jesus Mission* builds from the starting point

(being born again and experiencing real intimacy with God), to the four missions Christ has given us (what God wants from your life), to the way Jesus reveals Himself and the work He did on earth (the twenty-seven impossible missions He accomplished).

We'll start at the beginning. In part 1 you will learn from the words of Christ exactly how God wants to be loved and how *you* can live in an intimate love relationship with Him.

PART 1



INTIMACY WITH GOD,
THE WAY *HE* WANTS IT