

**Mission Possible: Unlikely Heroes 3: Avoid the Shadow Mission**

**TEXT:** Mark 10:27; John 19:30 / Matthew 27:50

We are on a mission from God. Every God-given mission is important. They make a difference. There are *other* missions available to each of us though. They are shadow missions. This morning for a few minutes let's just think about, what if the cross never happened...

The foundations of our faith is built on 3 central truths.

- ❖ The birth of Jesus: God comes to Earth. Philippians 2:6-7
- ❖ Death of Jesus: God offers a PERFECT sacrifice. 1 Jn 2:2, 2Co5:21
- ❖ Resurrection of Jesus: God gives life. Rom 6:23, 1 Jn 5:20, Jn 3:15
  - What if Jesus hadn't died? What if He never said, "It is Finished."? What if He never completed His mission.

Everyone has a mission.

- ❖ You have a MISSION and your MISSION matters. Eph 2:10
- Ephesians 2:10 (MSG) *He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join Him in the **work He does**, the good work He has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.*

- YOU were created for a DIVINE PURPOSE. That's exciting and important to remember.
- Purpose can be derailed
  - Adam & Eve were given a Mission in the Garden. "Multiply, reproduce, fill the earth." But from Gen 2 to Gen 3 the plan was derailed.

We want the authentic but sometimes choose the "look-a-like"

- ❖ This happens in life when purpose is distorted & we REPLACE:
  - Significance with Success
  - Sincerely SERVING with Being SEEN
  - Things of Substance with the Superficial.
- ❖ Everyone can accept a Shadow Mission – a Mission & purpose that looks real but isn't. It looks like LEATHER but it's totally pleather.

A Shadow Mission "It's something that looks and feels like your real mission—but it's actually an imposter. It's the good that can become the enemy of the best."

- Every person has a mission—and a shadow mission.
- Even Jesus had to battle a shadow mission; it was to be a leader without suffering—to be the Messiah without the cross.

- ❖ Jesus had a MISSION & He was offered a Shadow Mission.
  - His Mission: Seek & Save the lost. Luke 19:10, Take away the sin of the world! John 1:29, Die as our substitute. 1 John 2:2
  - His Shadow Missions
    - Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of this world. Mt 4:8-10
    - Peter tried to convince Him not to die. Mt 16:21-23
    - Garden of Gethsemane. Mt 26:39
  - Paul was offered a Shadow Mission – Acts 21
    - There was a prophecy & then everyone present... falsely interpreted it to be a warning that Paul shouldn't go... Instead it was a Divine preparation for what was to come.
    - Paul was offered a SHADOW MISSION.

What is your Shadow Mission?

- ❖ What are the things that move you towards replacing SIGNIFICANCE with SUCCESS? Self-less SERVING with being SEEN? Something of SUBSTANCE with the SUPERFICIAL?
  - Our ego & our wounds will always push us toward the shadow mission.
- ❖ Identifying the Shadow Mission
  - A shadow mission exhausts you while a true mission energizes
  - A shadow mission comes from guilt or insecurity while a true mission comes from freedom and love
  - A shadow mission is about **you** while a true mission involves you but also includes God and others
  - A shadow mission leads to resentment while a true mission lets you serve no matter the response
  - A shadow mission makes you feel more distant from God (even though you're trying to earn his approval) while a true mission brings you closer to him.
- ❖ **Let's move out of the shadows and back into the light.**

If Jesus accepted the shadow mission, there'd be no Cross & there'd be no sacrifice. There'd be no resurrection & there'd be no NEW LIFE. Thankfully, Jesus said NO to His shadow Mission. What about you?

"If we fail to embrace our true mission, we will live out our shadow mission. We will let our lives center around things that are unworthy, selfish and dark." – John Ortberg