



# LIFE *On* MISSION

ADVENTIST CHURCH *in Sydney*

## A Whole New World

### Sermon Outline

#### **The Discoveries of a Genius**

##### *Christmas Birth*

- At midnight on Christmas Eve, when most children are dreaming about unwrapping their Christmas presents the next morning, a young woman was crying out in pain in a little farmhouse in Lincolnshire on the East coast of England.
- A couple of hours later, a little baby boy was born. They called him “Isaac” after his father. Unfortunately, though, for this little baby boy, he never got to spend any time with his father. The reason was simple—his dad had died three months before he was born.
- Little Isaac was a very small baby because he was born prematurely. He was so small that his mother Hannah joked that he could fit inside a beer mug.
- It wasn't a very promising start for young Isaac.

##### *Growing Up*

- Isaac faced more challenges when he was growing up as well.
- His mother Hannah wanted Isaac to become a farmer, but the problem was that Isaac hated farming!
- At school, he was tormented by the schoolyard bully, but fortunately this motivated him to prove himself by becoming the best student in his class

##### *The Genius Starts to Shine*

- His uncle William could tell that Isaac had some special gifts, and he talked Hannah into letting her son apply to go to Cambridge University.
- Isaac's family was not financially well-off, and so he had to work as a servant in the university to pay for his fees.
- Four years later, the plague was raging throughout Europe and across England. As a precaution to protect all the students from catching the plague from each other, Cambridge University decided to shut down and force all of their students to go home.
- This gave Isaac lots of time to think and study, and in his own time back at home, he started exploring the ideas of calculus and optics.
- One day, when he was sitting outside his farmhouse, he saw an apple fall to the ground off an apple tree

- Why does the apple fall to the ground? he thought. Why doesn't the apple float up into the air or fly out sideways?
- Suddenly, a light bulb went on in his mind—Gravity! It was gravity!

### *One of the World's Greatest*

- Everyone has heard of Isaac Newton.
- Isaac Newton was one of the first people to discover calculus, the way light separates into different colours as it goes through a prism to form a rainbow and, of course, the scientific law of gravity itself.
- Scientists around the world still recognise Isaac Newton as one of the greatest scientists who has ever lived.

### *Isaac Newton's Acknowledgment*

- In spite of the fact that Isaac Newton was a genius who discovered so many things, he frankly acknowledged that he was only scratching the surface.
- Just a few days before he died, Isaac said these famous words:

I do not know what I may appear to the world; but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy, playing on the sea-shore, and diverting myself, in now and then finding a smoother pebble or prettier shell than ordinary whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me.

- Isaac recognised that there was a whole new world that he still had not discovered.

### **The Call on the Beach**

#### *Fixing the Nets*

- There was a beach where another famous person discovered that there was a whole new world.
- The little waves lapped at the seashore, gently rocking the wooden fishing boat.
- A group of fisherman were huddled over a fishing net, occasionally walking back to the fishing boat to pick up another tool.
- It had been a hard night out on the lake. In spite of the years of fishing experience that they all had, they had not caught anything.
- The big burly fisherman at the centre of the fishing crew would have loved to have gone straight home, kick off his sandals and enjoy some freshly baked pita bread, olives and hummus that his wife had made.
- But they all knew that there was still work to be done.
- They needed to tidy up and prepare for their next fishing exhibition which would commence as the golden sun was setting behind the hills beside the lake
- This was their profession. This was how they supported their families. This was how their value in life was measured.

#### *The Call*

- Yet, even as they were stooping over their nets, a familiar set of sandals could be heard walking over the pebbles and seashells on the shore. You could tell that the Person walking along the beach had a sense of purpose and direction. He knew where He had come from and where He was going.
- He stopped by the group and waited. Sensing that they were being watched, the fishermen stopped what they were doing.
- Looking up, Peter found himself in the gaze of the familiar carpenter.
- "Jesus!" Peter started to say, "So good to see you again..." But for once, the words got caught in his throat.

- The way that Jesus was looking at him, Peter knew that this was no errand trip to buy some more fish for His mum. Jesus was there for a different purpose. Jesus was there on business on a whole new level.
- And then Peter and his brother Andrew heard those words, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” Mark 1:17 (ESV)

### *The Psychology of Peter*

- I want to pause the scene and dive into the mind of Peter with you at the very moment Jesus made that call. I want to explore all of the thoughts that Peter must have been having in that split second that followed Jesus invitation and call.
- Of course, what must have immediately flashed through his mind is, “Jesus! What do you know about fishing? You are just a carpenter!” But then, the look on Jesus’ face immediately told Peter that Jesus was knew what was doing.
- Then Peter’s mind was flooded with a flurry of reasons why he should reject Jesus’ call.
- “I am the best fisherman in the entire fishing fleet—this is where my fame and reputation lies!”
- “This is how I support my wife and family—how can will they survive if I just get up, leave my entire business and follow this up-start rabbi whose only experience is driving nails into ploughs?”
- “What if this is just another messianic marketing schemes? Lots of other people have fallen for false messiahs and been really burned in the process—some of them have ended up being crucified by the Romans!”
- “What if I end up making a fool of myself following this guy?”
- The thoughts kept flooding into Peter’s mind, wave after wave.

### *The Path that Peter Choose*

- Peter could have said “No!” But I want to explore what would have happened if he had simply turned back to his fishing nets and kept on doing his work as a fisherman that autumn day.
- There were many other fisherman in the fishing fleet on Lake Galilee—Peter would have ended up just like another one of them. Swallowed up in history. Forgotten.
- Instead, Jesus invited Peter into a whole new world and Peter said, “Yes!” That decision changed Peter’s world forever.

## **A Supernatural Ride**

### *Aladdin’s Song*

- When I was a teenager, one of the films that I really loved was the animation *Aladdin*. It is all about this homeless boy called Aladdin who wins the heart of an Arabian princess called Jasmine.
- Aladdin introduces Jasmine to his pet magic carpet and then he sings her a beautiful song, inviting her to join him in exploring a whole new world.
- When Jasmine decides that she will give Aladdin a chance, he takes her on an incredible ride.
- In her excitement, she responds:

A whole new world  
 A dazzling place  
 I never knew  
 But when I’m way up here  
 It’s crystal clear  
 That now I’m in a whole new world with you

- As they continue their journey, they sing together:

A whole new world  
With new horizons to pursue  
I'll chase them anywhere  
There's time to spare  
Let me share this whole new world with you

### *Invitation Into a Whole New World*

- There is a Prince, born in a poor village in the Middle East, who is inviting you to trust Him and allow Him to take you on a supernatural ride with Him.
- He is inviting to leave your ordinary life of playing with pebbles and seashells, of catching fish and mending nets, of living confined within the palace walls of an ordinary, materialistic Sydney life and to experience a whole new world with Him.
- So often we think that we have to concentrate on our studying, working, making money and providing for our families.
- You might feel that you have to keep working as a fisherman, that your reputation as a scientist is at stake, that you might not become known as either a fishing or physics genius.
- Jesus is saying, "Trust Me! I will show you a whole new world. Come and be part of my mission team that is focused on building my kingdom. When you look back, you will never regret following Me!"

### **The Mission Call**

- Jesus is calling you to join His mission, to search for spiritually lost people who are far away from God, to bring them home.
- Jesus is calling you to live a life of mission
- The life of Peter is one example of what happens when you accept this call.

### **Responding to the Call**

So how can you respond to Jesus' call? How can you join Him for His supernatural ride? Here are the first three steps:

1. Understand what Jesus has done for you at the Cross, that salvation is a gift that He is offering you and that you can only accept by faith in Jesus. Read Ephesians 2:8-10,
2. Ask Jesus to fill you with the Holy Spirit and set you on fire for His kingdom and His mission
3. Pray that the Holy Spirit would open up doors of opportunity for you to share your faith with the people around you. Pray also that the Holy Spirit would give you the courage and the purpose to use these opportunities.

It is important to understand that living a life on mission does not necessarily mean that Jesus is calling you to move to Saudi Arabia or China or Bolivia. Jesus is calling you to live a life on mission with Him right where you are.

You are probably asking "But how can I do that? How can I live a life of mission right where I am?" I'm glad you asked! This is the first message in a series called 'Life on Mission'. You will be hearing more inspiring messages on how to live a life on mission over the next month. Also, we've prepared a series of small group study guides so that you can get together in your small group or Sabbath School class and explore practical ways that Jesus is inviting you to live your life on mission.

A whole new world. A life of mission with Jesus.

Jesus, now we are in a whole new world with You!