

2021 M3 Conference
Q&A with Andrew Scott
“Where Do I Fit in the Bigger Story?”

CLICK LINK TO WATCH SESSION: <https://youtu.be/wVxSoJbT0xo>

Since you are married, how do you serve in missions and maintain a healthy marriage?

Jesus told us to, 'Go make disciples...teaching them everything I have taught you...' Two things from this.

1) Making disciples was about 'all of life,' not just about a Bible study and a set of personal 'spiritual disciplines.' So, for the discipler to see, they needed to model (Christ in) every aspect of doing life, including their marriage. A disciple should be able to see from the example of the one who disciplines them what following Jesus looks like in marriage. Therefore, having a healthy marriage was not simply something I should pay attention to so I could stay in mission, it became critical to the mission in that it was one of the primary relationships through which to model following Jesus.

2) Jesus taught about marriage so that means it is also part of what we need to teach. If teaching about it is important, then it should be a high priority to us to ensure we practice what we teach. Finally, I would say that when we can see mission as not simply the idea of preaching a message to change the eternal destination of someone's soul, but the very living out of the ways of the King (at all times) so others get to see His goodness, His love, His compassion, His grace, His patience, His Kindness (the list goes on) through our lives, then marriage is a wonderful picture of that and should be prioritized as such.

How does your passion come into play in missions when you are partially equipped? How do you merge or bridge the gap in order to fulfill your purpose?

Every passion needs equipping for at least 2 reasons...

1) To see if it (your passion) is also an ability and therefore a strength. It is possible for us to have a passion for something that we are only mediocre at. In other words, our ability is low in that area and therefore this is not an area of strength for us. This means that this area should be more of a hobby and not a 'vocation'. For example, I love soccer and have played it all my life. As a child and young adult, I played it for hours every week. However, I simply did not have the ability to make this my vocation. It continues to be a hobby - something I play on a weekly basis and can use for the purpose of God, but in a more limited way as it makes up only a small part of my week. So, equipping through practice and coaching showed me that my passion was not a big enough strength to make it a vocation.

2) Equipping helps ensure my ability gets stronger and therefore more impactful. Every passion or ability we have has to be stewarded, this is how God created the world. He did not develop anything, He created; we were called to develop. He put gold in the ground, but He did not create the machinery to mine it; He created trees but did not create the saws to mill it or the hammers and tools to build a house. He put passions and abilities inside of us, but it is up to us to cultivate them, to draw them out, to strengthen through equipping. Equipping is key to effective stewardship of our SHAPE (please see Andrew's presentation for details), and deep impact through our SHAPE. However, let me say that even this is a journey. The danger many fall into is to do nothing until they feel more equipped - that is a never-ending continuum where most never act because they never feel they have or are enough. Even with your raw (undeveloped) talent, you have what the world needs - and only through using it and leaning into it will you develop it. So, with the knowledge that ongoing equipping is

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necessary for continual improvement, but never the starting point and never the qualifier...step in and do. (Go for it, you will be a blessing!)

What is it like being a missionary in a non-Christian country? What is the biggest challenge and how do you overcome it?

Every context is different. Each context has its challenges. What I have found and heard is that very often in a place where the principles of God's kingdom are not being lived out, it is much easier to stand out. Also, that as we stand out through acts of love, through a peaceful and joy-filled posture then people are attracted to that. When we do good work and reflect God, then people are drawn in as it is different. For me, the key is that we need to be there in a way that allows us to be visible. That happens when our presence makes sense to the people we are living among. Our role adds value and fits within the fabric of their society. In most cases being a 'missionary' does not fit. But being a doctor, an engineer, an artist, a lawyer or a hairdresser does fit. Also, occupations provide a way to show love, bring good, be present, so they can see God through us. Though there are still challenges, those that are doing this are finding it relatively easy to have conversations about Jesus.

I want to teach business and entrepreneurial skills to the marginalized, what organization does this?

Please visit the website for Epic Solutions that was launched by Operation Mobilization (OM) at <https://epicsolutions.org.za/>

So often we think that we have to give-up what we are good at, passionate about, and what we have or do in order to go fit into a role that is not us. You discussed in your talk that this is an old paradigm and that a paradigm shift is needed; can you elaborate more on the paradigm shift needed?

This is a critical thought for people to grasp. The more I journey through life, the more I realize this comes from my theological upbringing. My theological upbringing taught me that there was nothing good inside of me and that surrender meant letting go of anything that was Andrew, my abilities, my passions. But, what I've actually realized is that we are the image bearers of God, that we have been made in His image as masterpieces fearfully and wonderfully made, God didn't make a mistake in how He made us and the gifts and talents that He put within us. Now, satan tried to distort that, but in Christ, that has been redeemed, that has been restored, that has been made new, we are a new creation, we are back to the original intent of the Creator with all of these wonderful things. So, I honestly think that this is one of the biggest mind shifts that we have to see in the church today. God didn't make a mistake in creating you and putting the things inside of you. The apostle Paul tells us that all things were made by Him and for Him and are sustained through Him and that includes you and all of who you are.

You don't have to go to India, Pakistan or Afghanistan, you can also let your light shine locally. Can you comment on how your job is part of your ministry even locally?

I'm becoming more and more convinced of this, our message has to be salt and light right here, right now. Start now, and do it now. As we continue to do that, maybe at some point in the near future or the distant future, we can ask ourselves the question, "what would it look like for me to go somewhere else in the world to do that?" You don't have to, and shouldn't, wait until you are in the "mission field" to do this. Wherever you are, whatever you're doing, be salt and light reflecting your Father's glory through every aspect of your life. So, start right now wherever you are.

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What would you say to encourage students as they are trying to determine what to do with their life?

Thank you for that question because I think it's on the mind of many students that I meet. First and foremost, they must know that God has created them as a masterpiece with their individual gifts, talents and bents. The biggest mistake I think we have made over the years with our young people who have gotten serious about their faith, is encouraging them to jump out of their business or medical major and jump into an intracultural studies major or a "mission" theology or seminary major. Yes, there is a benefit in these types of "mission" majors, but the reality is that if they want to go into the unreached parts of the world, they will need that medical or other professional-skilled major to gain access. This is where leaning into who God has made them to be is so important, so they know if He's calling them to a theology degree or that medical degree. Put their efforts into the dreams and desires that God has placed in their heart and be who God has made them to be. That would really be one of the biggest encouragements that I would give to students. Find out how God has made them and continue to explore that and then select a major that would allow them to express how they are uniquely SHAPED (please watch Andrew Scott's 2021 M3 Breakout Session video for details). And, if they want to go to the unreached parts of the world, it's most likely going to be in the context of some of these majors (medical, business, etc.) and not the traditional, historical "mission" majors.

The principles in your book can change people's lives, how can people purchase your book, *Scatter: Go Therefore and Take Your Job with You?*

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