

MOBILIZATION FOR MISSIONS

Matt. 28:19 - 20

From the time that our Saviour gave the Great Commission to his Disciples, ascended to Heaven and sent the Holy Spirit, He intended that the central thrust of the message concerning him should be outward to those who have not heard.

Priority for hearing his Gospel rested upon preaching to Jer., Judea, Samaria, uttermost part. Matt. 28:19 - Luke 24:47.

Clarity of the Kings command rested upon obedience - even when he was absent.

Proclaiming the Good News of forgiveness is nearest the heart of God.

We must not be side-tracked or the missions will perish.

Transmitted by missionaries who are evangelist, doctors, teachers - not specialist but men who will seek the lost - plant churches - make believers.

Early missionaries went forth expecting danger and hardship. Sense of mission.

Going from nation to nation.

Daniel and Nehemiah included themselves in their prayers of guilt. Dan. 9:3-19, Neh. 1:4-11.

Promotion, publicity, polities, popularity, prosperity, we have an abundance.

Death of God - empowered, men and women with a deep love for the Saviour, unconditional commitment.

Utilized each day - Wm. Carey - conversant in 33 Indian languages.

God made us such men!

Quality of the message, almost invariably reflect the character and texture of the messenger. If the messenger has a deep sense of sin and the Gospel. Interest is not praise of men, not like a political figure, or entertainer. Identified with the message.

20th century - manpower shortage? Can Christianity survive the crisis.
Outnumbered. Gap between masses.

Task is frightening. Frustrations.

This is not the first time the church has faced overwhelming odds.
It has happened before - it is happening again. Church enters the crucible of testing - greatest trials.

How is it to stand in this crisis?

Gideon.

David - odds - Goliath.

Jonah - city.

Elijah versus the state.

Not hour for morbidity - hour for mobilization.

Greatest problem not manpower shortage. Problem is manpower wasteage.

Christians do not extend themselves to capacity for God.

Many entertain delusion they are exempt from responsibility to God and to their fellowmen.

Not aware - personal accountability to reach others for Christ.

Disqualify themselves, feel select minority specialize in missions.

Churchill's war time eulogy - "Never has so much been owed by so many to so few".

Sense of duty is never easy to impose - but Christians must have obligations through a sense of loyalty, love, and missionary relationship to others.

He has no choice - Jesus said "I have chosen you and ye must bring forth fruit.

Lifetime of service. Not short turn.

Not depend upon skilled professionals to do the work.

Jesus left no doubt as to responsibilities. His church and ministry was founded upon personal evangelism.

New methods - media - never outdate, out mode or abandon this obligation.

He sought people where they were. Peter, Andrew, James, John fishing. Matt. customs office.

Many Christians experienced eternal life but not enjoying the abundant life. Witnessing and soul winning.

Deficiencies that plague the church disappear. Christians witness.

This is not a new issue.

Apostles, not exhort, scold, urge miss.

Assumed - automatic - spontaneous - continuous - contagious - evangelism and miss.

Paul not have to repeatedly ehort for money.

Concerned explain what faith is, practice of.

Not feel necessity to repeat Great Commission.

Church continued to expand - increase in missionaries.

Four things in Acts 2:46-27. Spontaneous expansion. "Continued one accord - breaking bread - gladness of heart. Praising God for favour. Lord added to church daily.

Acts 6:7 - multiplied.

Acts 9:31 - Walking in fear of the Lord, were multiplied.

Acts 16:5 - Est. in faith.

Spontaneity - effortlessness in account church. Word of God increased.
Walked in fear - established in faith - converts "added daily".

Healthy church.

Mission minded - failure, poor spiritual condition.

Exhort a car to cross ocean as a sterile church to respond to miss.

Missions not optional in N. T.

Jesus not say - ye may witness.....

Nor is evangelism coercive -- ye must be.

Acts 1:8 - Spirit empowered Christian was to witness etc.

Divine indwelt.

Not witness because elected to, compelled to, but they could not help it.

"We cannot help but speak the things which we have seen and heard .

Acts 4:20.

Jesus promised John 14:12.

What Jesus had done in the world these believers would do, embodied by the same spirit.

Early Christians not less human than we - subject to temptation. Weakness, their world hostile yet they witnessed - unanimous. Acts 2:42.

II Tim. 4:5 - Exhortation to do work - evangelism. Instructions - Christian living etc, but appeals foreign miss. absence. Duty of miss. at home and abroad - natural outcome!

Jesus expects every Christian to witness.

Because he promised Holy Spirit.

Missions and witnessing proceeds out of fellowship. Desire extend the fellowship. Great joy in it.

Father told it to Jesus, He told it to Disciples, they told it to us, and we tell it to others!

World has nothing to compare fellowship Christians.

Whatever influence individual Christians may have on the world - depends upon his relationship with other Christians. Fellowship is fundamental to personal evangelism.

Sending out by two by two not accidental.

Reconciliation between Christians is an absolute. Walk in light.
Have fellowship one with another.

Paramount - fellowship with God. They love one another. Sin sick men not understand.

Stumbling block to miss. and evangelism. Way Christians treat each other in the church.

Faithful work of many Christians. Neutralized by attitudes and actions within Christian family.

Corporate image of the church often nullifies faithful witness of individuals.

John 13:35 by this all men know that ye are my Disciples, if ye have love one for another.

Matt. 5:23-24 - Offering to altar - ought against a brother - first reconcile.

Ministry of the spirit.

Evangelism - vocation - N. T. believers. Holy Spirit equipped.

Method - F. M. offering.

Paul - Christ gives gifts to the church - Eph. 4:11-12.

Each Christian is equipped, empowered, becomes able to testify.

Able to communicate to others the facts of Jesus.

Witness to Christ in everything he does - where ever he may be - all he does - Glory of God.

What must be done to bring Christians to this place of positive, effective witness to missions.

1. Each Christian must be made to realize the work of the ministry belongs to every Christian. Not reserved for professionals, or groups. H. S. promised to every believer. Great Commission is personal obligation every Christian.

2. Keep this vision of total involvement in constant view.

View Christ, mission in history, death.

3. Must know the warfare in which we are engaged is spiritual.

Only weapon is Holy Spirit and Word of God. Ep. 6:17.

4. Must learn to lean upon Holy Spirit. Know weakness of methods.

5. Must join in fellowship, share burdens, pray for one another, study the Scripture together.

6. Must conceive of our lives as constituting a plan of God. Task fulfilled for him, is for eternity as those of the Pastor.

7. Christians must be encourage to be themselves as God has gifted them, to give themselves. Rom. 12:1-2.

Living sacrifice - demonstrated.

Living in faith.

Found faithful.

*Hint - When I woke up saw you, thought I was in heaven.
Good association but don't rush if up for me
(car accident unconscious)*

8. Must continually recall John 15 one "abides" in Christ and "word abides in Him", brings forth "much fruit".

Christ promised this.

Obligations and opportunity before us.

Eph. 4:12

Mission in world will come by renewal of the church.

There were no books on faith, slavery, sex, public opinion.

Many talk about our difficulties, of our time, as though we should wait for better days before Christians take root.

Early Christians were on fire with convictions that they had become sons

of God and were founders of a new Kingdom.