

S, N - March 5, 1912 A.M.

Jer. 13:33A

THE FIELD IS THE WORLD

Matthew 13:38

INTRODUCTION:

In this sermon I hope to give to you the recognition of the capacity of the Christian to rise above great heights of sacrifice on behalf of this great objective, Christian missions. The greatest enterprise in the world.

This week in our church we will be giving special opportunity and emphasis to the matter of Home Missions. *Annie Armstrong - 1/2 of support for 2,200 Home Miss -*

People are divided into two groups. There are those who are indifferent to the missionary cause. And second, there are those who are opposed to it.

I hope to arouse the apathy of those who object, and to moderate the contempt of those who think this not necessary.

The missionary cause brings forth the elements which are sublime in human purpose.

When the church ceases to be missionary, she is on the way to cease existence.

I. THE GRANDEUR OF THE OBJECT v. 36

In an enlarged sense, the term "the field is the world", speaks of vastness, greatness, majesty.

Our design will be to see how missions affect the temporal, and the eternal interests of the whole race of man.

First, statistics. We can survey the field and find that there are hundreds of

millions of people who inhabit our globe or our world. *800 M - China -*

Of these, if we should be willing to allow, that half of them may already be disciples. That would still say to us, millions are left to whom the Gospel must be sent.

Second, geographically. We look at the geography of this world of our own United States and there is room for mission work. The world lies in wickedness.

We see nation after nation needing evangelization. Many are in need of missionaries.

The superstitions, the evils in Africa, and other places of the world - sit in the realm of the shadow of death.

Third, the miseries of this world. As I think about the vastness of the field, there are many many places where the human mind has been shackled by ignorance and by vice. And standards have dwindled.

There are places in the earth filled with the matter of cruelty.

We have to consider these beings immortal who are exposed to external misery.

The question with us, is not whether a heathen, unlearned in the Gospel can be saved. We are willing to admit that he can.

But if he be saved, he must possess (holiness of heart). For without holiness, no man shall see God.

And where shall we find holy heathens. Where is their purity of heart.

Among the unevangelized today. Their gods are lusts - and it is even a shame to speak of them.

As solemn as the thought is, we believe that dying in their present state - they will be exposed to the wrath of almighty God.

We do believe that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son. That whosoever believeth on him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

Our object is to convey to those who are perishing the news of this salvation.

We must furnish every family on the face of the whole earth with the word of God, written in his own language.

We must send to every neighborhood a preacher of the cross of Christ.

Our object will not be accomplished until every idle temple shall be utterly abolished, and a temple to Jehovah erected in it's place.

But all this is not to be accomplished without the labor and exertion.

II. THE MAGNITUDE OF THE OBJECTIVE - V. ~~30, 31, 32.~~ 34

Our field is the world.

Our objective is to influence the entire human race.

The objective is a moral revolution. And has great magnitude.

A large moral mass is not easily and permanently affected.

A little leaven, V. 33, was not soon leaven the whole lump to produce a change. In a single nation this is not easily accomplished.

And in the case before us, it is not just a nation, and a homeland, but it is a whole world to be re-generated.

This is not speculation - if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.

Nothing short of this new creation will answer our purpose.

We go forth not to persuade men to turn from one idol to another, but to turn universally from idols to serve the living God.

We call upon those who are earthly to set their affections upon things above. We go forth to exhort men to forsake every cherished lust, and present themselves a living sacrifice, wholly and acceptable unto God.

Now this is not just for a family. Not for a tribe, or for a nation. But a world which lies in wickedness.

We have to operate upon a race - divided into different nations, speaking thousands of languages. Living under different forms of government - to all these nations must be sent the Gospel and it must be translated. And missionary penetration made through the preaching of Christ in Him crucified.

It will take wisdom for the missionary who goes abroad and those who stay at home and manage the society. He, who goes forth, must go forth unprotected to preach Christ, to badly governed nations. He must be as wise as a serpent and as harmless as a dove. He must become all things to all men, that by all means he

may gain some.

Great abilities are also required in him, who conducts the mission work abroad and at home. He must awaken men and exert powerful influence upon them.

The magnitude is felt - there are foxes like Herod living today. There are Pilates in our midst, who wash their hands of Christ. There are Agrippas who are almost persuaded. There are Pharisees and hypocrites - like whited sepulchre. There are Sadduces, who have no thought of the life to come. And there are wonderful young men who go away sorrowful because they are not prepared to part with their possessions. There are Judas' who betray their friends. There are Demas' who drop out of the picture altogether. There are people, who are good people, to whom the cross of Christ is a stumbling block and a scandal. When it comes to Christ and his resurrection, there are people who defer hearing it further and want to wait for a future time.

The church faces this today. As when God walked upon the face of this world in the beginning. There was darkness. The missionary today is not just dealing with the fashions of the world. He is not dealing with the heresays that get into the church.

I am afraid that the Christian today, if he is not blind, must hear and bear in his own heart the lacerations of the body of Christ. The scandal of division and he must discover that there must be a mighty stand - because there will be no let up on the church of Jesus Christ.

III. THE MEANS WHEREBY THE OBJECTIVE MAY BE REACHED - V. 43

In a word, the preaching of Jesus Christ and in Him crucified - is the means

and it is in going forth and telling the lost that God so loved the world that he gave his Son to die for them. This is the lever by which we believe that the moral universe is to be raised. This is the instrument by which the sinful world can be regenerated.

There are reasons that teach us to rely upon this with confidence.

First, we see that all which is really terrific in the misery of man, results from the disease of his moral nature. If this can be healed and restored to happiness - Jesus Christ is the remedy, sent for that purpose.

Second, it is also easy to be seen that universal obedience to the command - thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and thy neighbor as thyself - would make this world a Heaven.

By nothing other than the Gospel of Christ can persuade men to disobedience. Reason cannot do it. Philosophy cannot do it. Civilization cannot do it.

The cross of Christ alone has power to bend the stubborn will to obedience. The love of Christ constrainth us because we thus judge that if one died for all - then we are all dead. And that he died for all, that they which live should not live to themselves, but unto him that died for them and rose again.

Third, the preaching of the cross of Christ is a remedy for the miseries of the fall which has been tried and by experience over 1800 years, and has never failed in a single incident.

This gives me reason to believe that this power has been witnessed too. And the word of the living God has been successful and will be as it is proclaimed throughout the whole world. Since man's first disobedience.

Now this gives great dignity to our objective and to the missionary enterprise.

Here is a high moral and intellectual power. That if it is executed, it will bring about change.

You, today, are involved. This is a work in which every one of us is permitted to do something. None is so poor, so weak, so insignificant - but a place of action is assigned to him. And the cause expects every man to do his duty.

First, you may assist in it by your prayers. We know that this is one means by which we must work or else everything will be in vain, without the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Paul said it is God who giveth the increase. And these influences are promised. And promised only in answer to prayer. Ye then, who love the Lord, keep not silent. And give him no rest until his praises are heard in the earth.

Second, you may assist by your personal exertions. V. 38. This cause requires a vigorous universal and systematic effort.

This is exactly what is attempted through our church. That annually, a systematic effort is put forth. It requires that a spirit should prevade every one of us. And prompt us to ask himself every morning - what can I do for Christ today.

It should make each individual feel ashamed if at the evening he were obliged to confess that he had done nothing.

Each one of us is as much obliged to be the missionaries ~~to be the missionaries~~ - as the missionaries themselves.

To do all in his power to advance the cause of Christianity.

We, who have embraced the Gospel, must know that none of us liveth to himself. But the obligation rests upon each man that he may produce the greatest effect. Each one of us may influence others, to embark in the undertakings.

Every individual must be self-extended through this system as God's elect.

I challenge you to awake brethren from your slumber. The offense continues and so the preaching of the cross must continue. And only those who feel his responsibility will be the man who does something about it.

The one whose conscience is deeply disturbed because he knows almost to the point of déspair, how inadequate all his doings are in the face of the anti-Christian forces about him. I say there is no responsible preacher or missionary today who will not time and time again, fall on his knees seeking light and guidance, and assurance, at the feet of the cross.

He will not pride himself on anything, save his faith in the crucified and risen Christ.

God's assault on this world is amazing. And God will not let this world go.

Remember this, there is new - very few things in history. But there is always two things that are new. One is, there are new men being born in the world. And these new men need the Gospel preached to them - that as they respond - they become new creations. (A new man in Christ), Jesus.

If only God could open our eyes and our hearts that we could see this

Who then can preach this Gospel. He, alone, can preach the Gospel - who is called by God and to whom God speaks. He must be God's mouthpiece. Only the man who allows the Gospel to judge his life - and who humbly stands before it's amazing story. Only the man who confesses the guilt which is imputed to him. Only the man who gratefully accepts Christ's forgiveness, and is cleansed of his sin, and endowed with the high power of the Holy Spirit. Only the man who acknowledges the dark forces of this earth - that slew our Lord long ago in Jerusalem and is still operating in the world. Crying out crucify him, crucify him. His blood will be upon our children.

Let us recollect that what we would be - we must do quickly. The day is far spent, the night is at hand. And whatsoever thy hand findeth to do - do it with thy might.

Third, you may assist by your contributions. By your prayers, by your personal witness, and by your contributions. An opportunity of this kind will be presented to you this week. I trust it is unnecessary to say that in such a cause we consider it a privilege to give. *85 y. p. applied for W. E. Miss Service last yr. Only 35 could be appointed.*

That we should give a worthy portion which providence has given us, in sending to our fellowmen who sit in the regions of death and need a knowledge of God. Let us use the mammon of unrighteousness.

Some of you perhaps are already burning with a desire to testify your love to the crucified redeemer.

Enthroned in the high and the holy place - God looks down at us this moment. Upon every heart, and he will accept our offerings. If it be but the widow's mite.. If it is given with the widow's feeling.

In the last day of solemn account, he will acknowledge it before an assembled universe - in as much as you have did it unto me - unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me.

May the God of grace enable us so to act that on the day we may meet with joy the record of the doings of this week. And it will go down to his name and to the Glory of Christ.

Many years ago a young Chinese student having heard about the life-changing Gospel of the Saviour of man, enrolled in a Christian mission school. One day many years after he was graduated from the mission school, he heard that his beloved teacher had returned to visit the city and was staying in the American Hotel. Eagerly he made his way to the hotel and as he reached for the hotel door to open it the doorman rudely refused to admit him. But determined to see his missionary friend and teacher, he managed to make his way into the lobby where he explained his desire. "Get out!" said the desk clerk. "But I want to see my teacher. He's a missionary and I. . ." "I don't care if he is a missionary, or your friend," came the coarse reply. "We don't want any Chinese cluttering up our hotel!" The young man walked away. He thought in his mind, "So that's how Christian Westerners act! So that's what they really think of Chinese!" This lonely act of unkindness, spoken by an anonymous American was used by Satan to flood his soul with hate. His humiliation had been complete! Who was the student we have been talking about? (MAO TSE TUNG), head of the Communist Party in Red China. Today is ruthless, Godless, loveless, materialist! The world today might well be different if a small Christian kindness had been shown that young man on that day many years ago.

The opportunity is now
The challenge is now
The future is now