

The Great Mission

One day, my neighbor knocked at my door and ushered a man whom he said had been looking for me. I let the person in, and we had a wonderful time talking about old friends and previous experiences. We shared a table of food and drink and had a happy fellowship. The time went on and as my visitor proposed for the visit to end, we hugged and said goodbye to each other. But while he was at the door shaking my hand, my visitor told me to do one thing. His last words to me were kept in my mind and in my heart; I meditated on what I last heard him saying. Finally I said to myself, “Yes, I will do.” I have to do what he asked me. It is as important as his visit to me to accomplish what he commanded me to do.

The Lord of glory, the Creator of heaven and earth, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ came from heaven. He became man and made his dwelling among us to bring back the mankind to God. Men sinned against God and their sins separated them away from God; but God who is generous in love and mercy made a way for all mankind to come back to God and have new relationship with Him; **“For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”** (John 3:16)

Jesus came to save sinners from death. We are sinful, **“But God demonstrates His won love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** (Romans 5:8) **“For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost.”** (Luke 19:10) Jesus lived with his disciples and followers. He taught them many things about the Kingdom of Heaven until Jesus dies on the cross paying the price of the people’s sins. He was buried but He rose again from the dead. After His resurrection, He appeared to many of His disciples for 40 days and before He ascended to heaven He gave them His last command.

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

Jesus spoke these words only to the eleven disciples, but they who heard Him were obedient to His command. They received His word diligently and took the responsibility to speak to all people about the message of Jesus and to teach them to follow everything He commanded. Through the eleven who first carried out the mission to go and make disciples, many believed in Jesus and accepted Him as Saviour and He became Lord over their lives. They entered the Kingdom OF God and they received the assurance of having eternal life. But what made the eleven and those who heard them obey the command to go, preach, and teach, others about the Lord Jesus?

- 1- **Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to man by which we must be saved.”** (Acts 4:12) There is no other name but the name of Jesus who said, **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.”** (John 14:8) Jesus Christ is the only Saviour who can save us from eternal punishment of death and hell. He is

the only way to heaven; His words are the truth that will be fulfilled, and He is the author of eternal life. Therefore we preach Jesus to all people and we do our best to teach them all what He commanded us.

- 2- **“In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.”** (Acts 17:30) There are many people who worship unknown gods. Many do not accept that, **“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.”** (Acts 17:24) God is Spirit. He knows all things, He is everywhere, and He is all-powerful. He knows that we cannot save ourselves so He sent His Son Jesus. Jesus loves us so much that He dies in our behalf to save us from sin and death. He is our Saviour and the same He is the Judge. **“He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.”** (Acts 10:42) While we have the chance to repent and turn away from sin, let us turn to God and be obedient to Christ. Jesus is the only way that you and me can overcome sin and live a righteous life. In receiving Jesus we receive the Spirit of God that enables us to overcome all the work of the flesh that give rise to anger, jealousy, adultery, drunkenness, idol worship and ignorance. The blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross is powerful enough to cleanse us from sin and build up in wisdom.

We preach and teach about Jesus Christ because He is the only hope of many people who are in bondage of sin. Through Jesus, sinners repent and leave the dark path of their lives-leaving behind prostitution, alcoholism, smoking, gambling, fraud, adultery, pornography, etc. With Jesus, people are transformed. They become joyful, filled with peace and love, having less anxiety and with light burden. Miracles happen in their lives and they experience the mighty hand of God. They receive healing from sickness and infirmities. People who believe in Jesus, the dramatic change in their lives have positive and beneficial effect not only from them, but as well to the lives of their spouse, children and other family members and friends. They become a blessing to others. As they endeavor to serve God and to serve others with honesty and full commitment they impart God’s blessing to the people around them; in their homes, workplaces, churches and communities. Consequently, the effect of obeying Jesus’ command to go to all nations to preach and teach them all what He commanded becomes exponential – the more people to obey the great mission the more number of people’s lives are transformed.

My dear and beloved: Because of the obedience of the eleven disciples many come to know Jesus and enter into the kingdom of God and gain eternal life. How about you? Are you willing to be used by God to go to the people around you and to sincerely tell them about Jesus who died on the cross so that all who believe in Him will have eternal life? Are you willing to say to God, **“Here am I Lord, send me.”**

My Prayer: *Father God in heaven, I thank You because You call me your child. Thank You Lord Jesus, because You took all my sins and shame, and You died on the cross to give me eternal life. Here am I, Lord, send me and enable me to speak about your goodness and faithfulness to the people around me and to teach them your ways. Thank You, Lord. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name, Amen!*