

Go global and make global change through the gospel

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One of the most essential mandates as a believer is to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. With the privilege of hearing the gospel comes the responsibility of spreading the gospel. We were instructed to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and how He died for our sins so that whoever believes in Him will be forgiven of their sins and receive eternal life. The last words of Jesus before returning to heaven and await His return were words of instructions. They were a call to act so to speak - meaning God expects us to be active and intentional when it comes to carrying out His ministry to seek and save the lost. If we are confident in the ability of the gospel to transform lives, then we can boldly and indiscriminately proclaim this good news with sacrificial love to the lost with the hope that they would be saved. This message is to encourage you to be active in propagating the gospel.

All believers are to live with a passion to preach the gospel to every creature, in all the world, in preparation for Christ's return and the end of the age. ***“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Mat 24:14).*** This is Christ speaking to His disciples. Christ commissioned us to teach God's redemptive blessings to all peoples of all races and of both genders.

The book of Acts begins with a reflection of all that Jesus began to do and teach (Acts 1:1). His life was the inspiration and model for His followers. Jesus told His disciples that, ***“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father” (John 14:12).*** They believed what He said. They were to focus on making disciples of all nations and to continue doing and teaching what Christ had begun to do and teach. Just before our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ ascended back to heaven, He told His disciples where to go and what to do. ***“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).***

Jesus told His followers to be witnesses to Him, then He specified an orderly progression in the way we should be His witnesses. First, we start in Jerusalem, that means our village, our hometown or where we live. Then, we reach out to all Judea that means our state, region, or nearby towns. Finally, we take the Gospel to Samaria that means segregated areas from mainstream of society, the forgotten, the hurting and people who feel unloved, and every religious and racial group throughout the whole world. After specifying the various areas of our own town, region, and nation, then He added, *and to the end of the earth*. Christ was saying, preach the gospel at home and abroad.

We need obedience to proclaim the gospel to all nations. But what happened after the early disciples received the power of the Holy Spirit? The people were complacent until persecution came. They were in their comfort zone until persecution came. You remember what the Lord told them in Acts 1:8

The Lord said, *“you shall be witnesses to Me”*. Where? In Jerusalem and Jerusalem alone? No. What did He say? ***“In Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*** Now go to Acts Chapter 8. Saul was consenting to Stephen's death. ***“Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time, a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles” (Acts 8:1-2).*** At that time there was a great persecution at the church which was at where? Jerusalem. But Jesus said, *“be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8)*. And that was God's plan for sending the Holy Spirit.

God didn't plan the persecution, but He had to allow it. There came great persecution at the church which was where? At Jerusalem. And they were all scattered abroad because they weren't going anywhere. He never told them to witness only in Jerusalem. Obviously, God is interested in all people, irrespective of

race, gender, or culture. He is interested in marginal people as much as He is in any other level of human society. No one is excluded from hearing the gospel. Their mission was to reach every creature and so is our mission in this campaign. Let's do what God has told us to do. The church in Jerusalem didn't do what He told them in Acts 1:8 until persecution came. God allowed it because they were not carrying out His plan. They were not carrying out His purposes and so great persecution arose. And they were all scattered abroad to the region of where? Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1-2). That's what He said.

³ *“As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. ⁴ Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 8:3-4).* And they that were scattered abroad, who were they? The church. What did they do? Went everywhere, in where? Judea and Samaria, doing what? Preaching. God wants every believer to spread the gospel. To preach means to proclaim or to tell the gospel everywhere you go. The church went everywhere to tell the good news. ⁵ *“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. ⁶ And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸ And there was great joy in that city” (Acts 8:5-8).*

Philip went to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And they listened to what he spoke. Philip was one of those that served on the table. Many miracles were performed. This was the beginning of Philip's ministry. He preached extensively in Samaria and responded to God's call to the Gaza desert (Acts 8:25-27), where he led an Ethiopian eunuch to Christ and baptised him (Acts 8:32-38). God moved him into an office. And in Acts 21:8, he was described as 'Philip the evangelist'.

The early church didn't understand Christ's commission to make disciples of all nations. The disciples didn't understand that the gospel was meant for Gentiles as well as Jews. So, when Peter went to Cornelius' (a gentile's) house to preach the gospel, the church nearly 'kicked' him out (Acts 11).

But thank God, when they understood their mission, they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs (Mark 16:20). The book of Acts gives us information on the practical working out of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20, and Luke 24:46-49). The early disciples witnessed for Christ and shared His teachings both publicly and from house to house. They practised public evangelism and personal evangelism.

They now understood that Christ was living and ministering through them. They were His voice, His feet, His body, His representatives, His ambassadors. He was now continuing His mission on this earth but now He was doing it through them.

We are missionaries to the nations and to different races and cultures, and I pray that we will do as the early disciples did. Winning souls and making disciples is a worldwide mission of every believer and follower of Christ. For many years now, the ministry God has given me, Christ is all ministries and its team members have consecrated the very best of our lives and our energies to follow the example of those early followers of Christ. In public, we continue to conduct mass evangelism together. We have shared the gospel with many people face to face who have converged on fields or parks where our open-air crusades have been conducted with the demonstration of God's mighty power at work in every meeting.

In the book of Acts, we see various methods being used in spreading the gospel. House to house evangelism was being used. In every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ" (Acts 5:42). There was also personal one-on-one evangelism - as Philip ministered to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-38). There was also evangelism to large crowds - Peter ministered to the crowds in Jerusalem at Pentecost (Acts 2). Paul also ministered at Lystra (Acts 14:8-18). Evangelism to entire cities were done - "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them" (Acts 8:5). There were public debate and preaching by Paul who disputed in synagogues and marketplaces (Acts 16:17). All kinds of methods can be used. As recorded in the book of Acts. Peter and John preached in the temple (Acts 3:11-26), Paul declared, *"And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have*

taught you publicly and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:20-21).

Our ministry is also using the same kind of methods to spread the gospel, including radio evangelism, personal evangelism, distribution of gospel tracts, books, DVD's etc. At Christ is all ministries, we have nothing to do but to preach, teach and heal. We preach and teach the truth of the gospel to the body of Christ in open air crusades, at conferences, in churches, through podcasts, by training others, and by developing ministry materials. Jesus said, *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).* The early disciples were that kind of believers. *"They went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs" (Mark 16:20).* Let's follow their example by reaching every creature with the gospel of Christ.

Jesus is the only saviour of this world. Have you received Him as your personal saviour? Put your trust in Jesus, and if you will, you may pray this prayer after me, saying every word from your heart,

Dear Lord: I recognise that I am a sinner and need to be saved.

I understand that Jesus died in my place and suffered the judgment of all of my sins.

I believe that Jesus rose from the dead and He is at the right hand of the father.

Lord Jesus, I surrender my Life to you.

Come and Live in my heart and be my Lord and saviour.

Thank You for saving me. Amen!