



KNU INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH CHURCH

A LOVING COMMUNITY THAT CHANGED OUR WORLD.

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Adam Jantz

Missions and Evangelism

Acts 8:14-25 and Acts 11:25-30

Do you remember the first time you heard this phrase? “We should be doing missions; we need to be sending missionaries to third world countries.” And then you hear the pastor say “yes, we should be doing that.” And you just agreed with the pastor and decided well if he says we need to do it then, well.. he is the pastor.. he knows what he is talking about. But have you ever stopped, and thought hmm I wonder what a missionary really does? What is the difference from missions and a mission Is there a difference... I know Josh keeps on preaching every Sunday that we give a lot of money to Bangladesh but I really don’t know why we do it. I mean I know people are poor there and need some housing but why not give the money to KNU students? Or at least buy better sound equipment... I mean I can’t even hear Josh all the way in the back and he keeps cutting in and out, why not buy a new wireless mic?...☺

No, seriously though.. Why do we give 20 percent of the money the church receives to either a local or global mission? Well there is a very simple answer: God said so.. But we all want a little more details then just this. Yes, it is true God said so but to be more precise God calls people to missions. We as the church do not send missionaries; it is God who sends missionaries. When we look through the Bible we can clearly see that God is a sending God from the very beginning of the Bible; “from Abraham being sent to Canaan, Joseph to Egypt, Moses to rescue his people, then several prophets to the Jewish people with warnings and promises from God. Finally he sent John in the New Testament to let people know that God would be sending His own Son.”¹ This is just the tip of the huge iceberg of people God personally called to do His work. When God sends his people to do his work; this is the mission of God – also known in the Latin as the “**Missio Dei.**” So, this means God initiates and maintains His Mission.

“The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become. -- Henry Martyn”²

¹ So how is this different from “missions”? No English teachers.. One is not singular and the other plural.... They are connected but they are different. “The word “**mission**” comes from the Latin word *mitto*, which was derived, or came, from the Greek word *apostello*. *Apostello* means “to send” and from it we get the English word “apostle.” ”³ John was an Apostle of God.. He was sent by God to do his work. “**Missions**” on the other hand usually is used to refer to the work of humans to evangelize people with the Gospel and disciple them as new believers.⁴ So

¹ Thomas, Hale, *On Being a Missionary* (Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1995), 3.

² Quote from ; <http://www.tentmaker.org/Quotes/evangelismquotes.htm>, download 10.30.2011.

³ <http://www.fluidmission.com/articles.php?id=6> accessed 11/3/2011

⁴ *Ibid.*,

you could say that the **Mission** – is everything that points to God and **Missions** is evangelism and discipleship of new believers.

2

So with this in mind, you might be thinking.. Well I was never called to do missions. That is for those people who are outgoing, spontaneous and well, kind of crazy... but this is not true. The middle of the Sahara desert and evangelize to the camel runners but you do have a mission. Jesus said that we must pray for the workers of the harvest fields. The workers include every Christian. This means young, old, male, female, Korean, American, Filipinos, and yes, even new Zealanders. Jesus reminds us in John 20:21 when he says “As the father has sent me, I am sending you” He means all of us. He reinforces this idea one last time when he says in Matthew 28:19-20 that “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.” Jesus said “everything” which includes the Great Commission itself.⁵ Every Christian is sent, even as Jesus was sent by God to show by example.

4

If we are true devoted Christians that means we made the decision to leave the chains and bondage of sin and to be bound by God’s love and saving grace. We also willingly made the choice to serve God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:29-31). If this is the decision we all have made then we must realize and embrace that Jesus was sent and therefore I am also sent. Jesus said himself “I did not come to be served but to serve”(Mark 10:45). He set this example with the most humiliating way a master could ever do so. He washed his own disciples feet (John 13:15).⁶

In Matthew 4 and in Luke 4:18-19 we can see that Jesus went through Galilee “teaching, preaching and healing” and “to preach the good news to the poor, freedom to prisoners, release the oppressed, let the blind see and proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”⁷ Jesus did these first to show us how we can follow in his example and do this also.

Well know some of you may now be thinking... well I don’t need to go on a missions trip, I don’t have any time, I’ll just give the church some money and those youngsters can go in my place. I am just too busy. Well, you are kind of correct but also completely wrong. Yes, the church needs lots of money to be effective in missions but it needs people more than money. There are a lot of places in the world, even with all our technology and wonder that has never seen, heard of, or known about who God is in the Christian aspect. Sending missionaries is the responsibility of every church. Matthew 28 reminds us of that we should be sending out to every nation from every nation. This is where a key verse comes into play. Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few” (Matthew 9:37). Jesus is clearly saying – Hey, there are more than enough people who would become Christians and love me, if you would get up and do your job I showed you how to do; if I, the Son of the living God, can do it... why not you?

⁵ Thomas, Hale, *On Being a Missionary* (Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1995), 3.

⁶ IBID.,

⁷ IBID.,

“We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first. -- Oswald J. Smith”⁸

4

The world is a huge place, it needs many missionaries, there are just not enough to go around. “The global majority (5.2 billion people) live in less developed nations. Of the world’s 6.4 billion people, less than 18 percent live in developed nations. Scholars say the church’s future in large measure rests in the hands of the global majority.”⁹ So as you can see, sending a few hundred missionaries is just not going to cut it. God is not just calling you to send your sons and daughters to the mission field but you as well! Paul wrote in the Philippians that “your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who...made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant” (Philippians 2:5-7). Jesus’ service was very costly, more than any of us will pay... his life. He didn’t just donate money... he gave his life to his ministry.. Why should we be any different?¹⁰

5

“If you are walking with Jesus, in the Spirit, you need not fear going too far. No believer has gone as far as God wants him to go.--A. A. Allen”¹¹

“It is now possible to live a "Christian life" without doing the things that Jesus commanded us to do.”We have hired people to go into all the world, to visit those in prison, to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to care for widows and orphans. The average Christian doesn’t have to do it.-- Cal Thomas”¹²

6

I read an article the other day showing the statistics of the current trend of missionaries in the world today and did you know that South Korea is number 2 on that list? South Korea is only surpassed by the U.S. currently on how many missionaries it sends out every year and it won’t be soon until South Korea is number one.¹³ While this is something to embrace, it is also something to think about. How does a country with only 50-60 million people have the 2nd most number of Missionaries? Why doesn’t Europe or Canada or even Australia have lots of missionaries? Well, to tell you the truth, we don’t have to worry about this question. Why? You ask... because Christ said that where the workers come from is not our concern. Our concern is about what are we doing to complete our mission. We should just “Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers” (Matthew 9:38). So we should not be worried were they come from but pray that they do come. But it has become clear that many of us are a little afraid to pray for more workers because we may be afraid of what God might say. For example he may say something like, “Hey, Adam you are praying for a missionary right?” and I reply, “yes, I am.” “God then says “Why not you?”

7

OH, MAN, no no no.. I meant someone else.. not me.. I don’t know anything.... But this is the “Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth. --John Wesley”¹⁴

⁸ Quote from ; <http://www.tentmaker.org/Quotes/evangelismquotes.htm>, download 10.30.2011.

⁹ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2006/march/16.28.html> accessed 11/3/2011

¹⁰ Thomas, Hale, *On Being a Missionary* (Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1995), 4.

¹¹ Quote from ; <http://www.tentmaker.org/Quotes/evangelismquotes.htm>, download 10.30.2011.

¹² Quote from ; <http://www.tentmaker.org/Quotes/evangelismquotes.htm>, download 10.30.2011.

¹³ Quote from ; <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2006/march/16.28.html> accessed 11/3/2011

¹⁴ Quote from ; <http://www.tentmaker.org/Quotes/evangelismquotes.htm>, download 10.30.2011.

8 The church that Jesus left us in the Books of Acts was a missional church to its core. If we believe Christ was our true example then Missions is the job of everybody. We can see that the missional work of the early church – Paul, Barnabas, Philip, John Mark and many others gave us the beginnings of the theology of the church. Missions is the basis of all that we do in the church. It is what keeps Godly church from being self centered (like Josh reminded of us last week with Bresee and the Methodist church of his day) to staying focused on our real purpose – the Mission of God. Missions should be the core of every believer. In one of my favorite parts of Acts; God reminds us that (Acts 1:8) - we must GO to Jerusalem, then Judea and Samaria, then “to the ends of the earth.” This means that all Christians are called to be missionaries.

“It is the duty of every Christian to be Christ to his neighbor. --Martin Luther”¹⁵

9 Now I guess this would be a good time to clarify that missions does not mean you have to go overseas or become a foreign missionary. As seen in Acts 1:8, this could mean to your own families, apartment complexes, neighborhoods or cities. We are called to be missionaries to anyone, not just third world countries. There is no reason to put a missionary who is in another country above a missionary in their own country, city, or community. They are one in the same.

“In the vast plain to the north I have sometimes seen, in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been -- Robert Moffat”¹⁶

One of the sadist things I have ever heard a friend say to me when I went back home to the U.S. was that he was not called to be a missionary, so he didn't have to evangelize to anyone.

10 His job was to raise his family in church and give money so other people could go to Korea, or Africa or somewhere else. Whether you are in Cheonan City or Timbukto, Mali in Africa, a missionary is a missionary. It is not where you are that is as much as important as what you are doing where God has sent you. Being a Christian is being a Missionary and being a Missionary automatically makes you an evangelist. I know, I know.. This is a dirty word to some people.

11 Now I know to some people from the West, the word evangelist can remind you of a terrible nightmare of an old couple singing songs from a worn out cassette player in your church, who happen to be living in a trailer parked in the parking lot during revival week. They were boring, the service was not fun and you couldn't wait to leave. You were for sure the devil sent them to just annoy you!

But that is not what I am talking about. I am talking about the key goal of missions. The goal is to turn men and women from their evil way and find God, becoming believers and then discipling them. Thomas Hale couldn't say it any better in his Book “On Being a Missionary.” He says very clearly that “No matter what one's profession is, every missionary is a witness, a personal evangelist. It is the same for Christians in their home countries.” Our purpose is to win people to Christ and form them into a congregation, not just an individual Christian and walk away thinking. Ahh I did my job, God, I am going back to my way now.. NO! This is very dangerous territory. If we evangelize and walk away, most people will fade from their new belief.

¹⁵ Quote from ; <http://www.tentmaker.org/Quotes/evangelismquotes.htm>, download 10.30.2011.

¹⁶ Quote from ; <http://www.tentmaker.org/Quotes/evangelismquotes.htm>, download 10.30.2011.

They should be put into a church that will help them grow and be responsible for the mission of God. This is called church planting! They go hand and hand. You shouldn't do one without the other. And a new convert is a powerful and exciting person in a church. For example, In Korea it used to be customary that a new convert had to bring 2 other people to the Lord before he could be baptized. Now this is not Biblical by any means, but the church exploded! A fresh Christian is eager to tell all about what happened to them; we should encourage them to witness to let their light shine! If we teach each new convert to witness the church will be a witnessing church. This is the best situation. Many of us love our "country club" churches.¹⁷ But the problems with these churches are that they are only supporting themselves and helping themselves. They do not follow the Missio Dei. This is the key!

There are many stories in the Book of Acts that show the Mission of God and evangelism. In the Old Testament there are over 110 plus references to the mission and over 50 direct quotes about missions and or evangelism in the New Testament. But today I just want to briefly share with you 2 of them. First, in Acts 8 we find Peter and John helping in Samaria, which if you remember, no Jew would ever set foot in because they were considered unclean by the Jews.

Acts 8:14-25

¹⁴ When the **apostles** in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted God's message, they sent Peter and John there. ¹⁵ As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands upon these believers, and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ When Simon saw that the Spirit was given when the apostles laid their hands on people, he offered them money to buy this power. ¹⁹ "Let me have this power, too," he exclaimed, "so that when I lay my hands on people, they will receive the Holy Spirit!" ²⁰ But Peter replied, "May your money be destroyed with you for thinking God's gift can be bought! ²¹ You can have no part in this, for your heart is not right with God. ²² Repent of your wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive your evil thoughts, ²³ for I can see that you are full of bitter jealousy and are held captive by sin." ²⁴ "Pray to the Lord for me," Simon exclaimed, "that these terrible things you've said won't happen to me!" ²⁵ After testifying and preaching the word of the Lord in Samaria, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem. And they stopped in many Samaritan villages along the way to preach the Good News.

As you can see Peter and John did not just talk to the new believers, bless them and go home. No, that was more of their duty after evangelism. Almost the entire text was about evangelism to those who do not know or understand the Word of God. They decided to stop at **MANY** towns to preach the good news. But this was only half of their job. As we will see church planting is also a major part our mission from God.

Acts 11:25-30

²⁵ Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. ²⁶ When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.)

¹⁷ Thomas, Hale, *On Being a Missionary* (Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1995), 257.

²⁷ During this time some prophets traveled from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them named Agabus stood up in one of the meetings and predicted by the Spirit that a great famine was coming upon the entire Roman world. (This was fulfilled during the reign of Claudius.) ²⁹ So the believers in Antioch decided to send relief to the brothers and sisters in Judea, everyone giving as much as they could. ³⁰ This they did, entrusting their gifts to Barnabas and Saul to take to the elders of the church in Jerusalem.

Barnabas and Saul stayed with the church for 1 year to teach, strengthen and build up the church to be self sufficient. This is something we tend to overlook on a missions trip. We go, build something and then leave. Get back, show off our work to the church, pat ourselves on the back and move on.. But this is completely not biblical. Planting the seed is just the first step. We need to water it, nurture it and make sure it builds a good crop. J. Herbert Kane said that “Missionary work that doesn’t include evangelism isn’t missionary work at all.”¹⁸ Missions focused on the individual will not have lasting spiritual change for a people or a nation. The church is the primary agent in God’s plan to reconcile mankind to Himself.¹⁹ So we must plant churches! Also, we must remember that unless the Holy Spirit is in the believer or the church, it is powerless, as we read in Acts 8:17. The words we speak, meaning the ministries in the church, are just seeds and it is God who will give an increase through the Holy Spirit. That is why we must be completely devoted to God’s calling of our lives. It is not about going to church every Sunday or making sure I help out in Sunday school. It is about following God’s Mission through the missions of the church. It can be here in Cheonan or in Timbukto. God will guide you on your journey and as God helped the believers in Antioch, give yourselves to help with this enormous field we have to harvest. Paul traveled the Roman Empire on 3 separate trips for years.. What’s our excuse?

“Evangelization is a process of bringing the gospel to people where they are, not where you would like them to be... When the gospel reaches a people where they are, their response to the gospel is the church in a new place...--Vincent Donovan”²⁰

¹⁸ Quoted from Thomas, Hale, *On Being a Missionary* (Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1995), 252.,

¹⁹ Thomas, Hale, *On Being a Missionary* (Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1995), 252-253.,

²⁰ Quote from ; <http://www.tentmaker.org/Quotes/evangelismquotes.htm>, download 10.30.2011.