

“You Want It Done When?”

Matthew 5:14-16

- I. Today we come to end of Missions Month.
 - A. I hope you've learned a couple things this month.
 - 1) I hope you've learned a bit about some of our missionaries and ministries that maybe you don't hear a lot about (some you may have heard about for the first time).
 - 2) I hope you've begun to consider your place in the mission that God gave the church.
 - B. Today I hope you'll be reminded of one final lesson – God wants to reach the world and God wants us to do it!
- II. In Matthew 5, Jesus is teaching his disciples and the crowd.
 - A. To the disciples it must have sounded absurd.
 - 1) “You are the light of the world.”
 - 2) “You are a city on a hill.”
 - 3) “Let your light so shine before men.”
 - B. You can almost hear them thinking.
 - 1) “The world – uhhh.”
 - 2) “A city. On a hill? How about that city? That wouldn't be so tough.”
 - 3) “Men. I can do men. That's manageable. I can handle that. Men it is.”
 - C. Then in Acts, at the end of his time with the disciples, Jesus hits them with this.
 - 1) “and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
 - 2) “To the ends of what?!”
- III. Here's what I believe – I believe that when God says go to the ends of the earth; God means it.
 - A. And today, it's even possible.
 - 1) To the disciples, it was a task too big to imagine.
 - 2) The world seems a bit smaller to us, but it's still a big job.
 - B. In spite of that, the words of Jesus in Acts are right there.
 - 1) They aren't multiple choice. God doesn't say, “Pick one.”
 - 2) They aren't a buffet. God doesn't say, “Choose what you like.”
 - C. God says, “I expect you to do all of these things.”
- IV. Why would God make such a drastic and seemingly impossible statement?
 - A. God asks the impossible so that *{when it happens}* we know who gets the credit.
 - 1) Face it. We like to point to our own accomplishments.
 - a) “I did that!”
 - b) Instead we should be saying, “God did that!”
 - 2) So God goes big, to remind us that we are small.
 - a) It forces us to recognize our dependence.
 - b) We are small; but we have a BIG God.
 - B. God wants us to multiply the church.
 - 1) God really does want us to be concerned about people we've never met.
 - 2) God's desire is that no one perish.
 - a) Amazingly, God entrusts that desire to us.
 - b) Shouldn't He take care of something that important himself?
 - 3) God's into movements. God's into people.

- a) So God puts the two together and asks his people to move His message.
 - b) There's no better advertisement than a satisfied customer.
 - C. People really do need Jesus.
 - 1) They don't need religion.
 - a) If it was just about rituals and forms, Jesus died in vain.
 - 2) They don't need morals.
 - a) It's more than taking the higher ground; it's more than living right.
 - b) It's more about living well.
 - c) It's about abundant life.
 - 3) They need to experience a relationship.
 - a) What people need more than rules, regulations, and institutions is a person.
 - b) A personal, loving, caring, close God that will sacrifice just about anything for you – that's what you need.
 - c) And deep down there's a part of your soul that knows – that's what you want.
 - D. The Church has something to say about the troubles of the world.
 - 1) Injustice is not God's will.
 - a) God wants fairness, justice, and righteousness.
 - b) God sent the prophets – to declare that things are out of whack when people don't get a fair shake.
 - c) In the Law, God's first instruction is "do justice."
 - 2) Pain and suffering is not God's will.
 - a) God's second instruction is "love mercy."
 - b) God intended that Jesus bear the pain and suffering for our sin on the cross.
 - c) At the fall, all of creation was perverted and twisted because of sin.
 - d) The pain and suffering of our day has its roots, not in God's will, but in our sin.
 - e) The church is called to answer pain with healing, to answer suffering with its presence.
 - 3) "We are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights."
 - a) As God's ambassadors on earth, we should work to guarantee those rights.
 - b) Hospitals, Mental health care, Public schools, Colleges and Universities, all disappear without the Church.
 - c) Child labor laws, women's suffrage, civil rights, all because of the church.
 - d) This is good and right.
 - i. Jesus was involved with politics: cleansing the temple, feeding the 5,000, paying taxes, all political.
 - ii. Politics was never his priority, but spreading God's justice so that it rained down like waters was!
 - V. God's not just concerned about these things in Frederick or the United States.
 - A. God's concerned about these things all over the world.
 - 1) I hope you were challenged by Solomon last week.
 - 2) AIDS, war, famine – African problems or problems for the people of God?
 - B. God needs ambassadors all over the world.
 - 1) Which part of the world is God's favorite?

- 2) Which part of the world makes God cry?
 - a) Perhaps the part that represents 10% of the world's population, but consumes 75% of the world resources.
 - b) Perhaps the part of the world that enjoys God's blessings without being a blessing.
- C. God needs evangelists all over the world.
 - 1) Do you believe that God has sent Peter and Margre Hays to the Netherlands? They aren't from there. Ok; he isn't.
 - 2) Do you believe that God called Solomon and Latetia to Ghana? He isn't from there either.
 - 3) Do you believe that God called David Liddle to Mission of Mercy? He doesn't look like he needs free medical care.
 - 4) Each and every one of us needs to accept the call that God places on our lives.
 - 5) The gifts and callings of God are without repentance.
- D. If we will do the possible, God will do what seems impossible.
 - 1) God said, "Solomon if you will go where I send you I will take one man and raise up a ministry of almost 200 missionaries that spans the continent of Africa."
 - 2) God said, "David if you and your wife will give 2 days a month, I will reach people will mercy and restore dignity all over Maryland and Pennsylvania."
 - 3) God said, "Peter, Margre if you will go to Europe I will give birth to 4 churches in the Netherlands and begin to bring my people back to Jesus."
 - 4) God said, "Christian, if you will go back to Berlin I will turn one of the most God-forsaken places on the continent into a bud growing out of a stump. I will bring life back to that valley of dry bones."
 - 5) So what is God saying today? This morning? Right now? Surely, he's got something to say.
- E. So we have some decisions to make:
 - 1) Is mission month really over?
 - 2) What is God saying?
 - 3) Who is God giving you a burden for?
 - 4) Is God big enough to pull it off?
 - 5) When God said, "go to the ends of the earth," did He really mean it?