

Why Missions

John 3:16-17

Introduction

Illus: It was about mid week when it hit me. I was in a remote village of Nicaragua, Central America on a mission trip. I was with a medical team of about 35 people. We had doctors, nurses, dentists and several non-medical people such as me.

For that week I became a dental assistant. I held the flashlight in their mouth, handed the dentist tools, held their mouth open and numerous other things. We were setup in a block school house with no air conditioning or fans in very hot conditions.

This particular day had been especially fast paced but very rewarding. That evening I was reflecting on the day. I thought about the old lady whose teeth seem to fall out when we touched them. I could still picture the excitement on the face of the young girl when we removed that large ugly tooth that was protruding directly out the middle of her upper gum.

I thought to myself how blessed I was to be a part of this mission trip. What a joy it was to meet their physical needs and share the gospel of Christ with the poor underprivileged people.

Missions are so important. And yet, people get glassy eyed and seem to fall into a trance when the subject is discussed?

I believe God desires for us to have a heart for missions. I believe our heart for missions is a direct reflection of our relationship with God and our desire to see others come to know Him.

Perhaps the most well know scripture in all of God's Word is our best insight and explanation for the importance of missions.

Scripture - John 3:16-17

¹⁶*“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.*

¹⁷*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” John 3:16-17 NIV*

Content

1. Mandate For Missions - *“For god so loved the world...”*

a. Catalyst of the Mandate - God's Tremendous Love

God's love should be at the heart of all we do.

God's love should be the basis of all we do as Christians.

God's love should be the basis of all we do as a Church.

Who needs God's love? Everyone. All of His Creation.

World's desires are Fame, Fortune, Power and Pleasure.

Christian's desire should be to walk in God's love and share His love.

Fame, Fortune, Power & Pleasure will never satisfy - only God's love will.

b. Scope of Mandate - The Entire World

All of mankind is the mission field for the church.

Not just the USA, not just our race, and not just our circle.

Illus: “Sit down young man. If God wants to save the heathen, He'll do it without your help.” This was the response William Carey received when he first suggested foreign missions. Those were the words a foolish, narrow minded man. Today, we have over 5,200 missionaries and William Carey is known as the father of missions among Southern Baptists.

Illus: At Carterville, “We just need to concentrate on the home front.” Bull! God commanded us to go into the world. We need to reach everyone we can with the gospel and God will honor and honor that obedience.

⁸*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 NIV*

c. Challenge of the mandate - Step outside our comfort zones

We hear the term these days, “think outside the box.” **We must step outside the circle.** We must venture out into areas of challenge and discomfort. We must reach out with the gospel of God's grace through Jesus Christ and **not limit our church.**

2. Measure For Missions – “He gave His only begotten son...”

How did God demonstrate His love? By giving His son.

God gave His absolute best for our salvation.

What do you give God?

We tend to give God our leftovers. This is how it usually works. We pay our bills first then we buy the things we need, followed by the things we want. If by some chance there is something left over, we give that to God.

This is scenario with our money and it is the scenario with our time and talents.

We are often selfish and God is not put first. We often do not give Him our best. **And we wonder why we don't see God working in our lives and our churches.**

When we do not give our best to God:

1. It is a sin and hinders our relationship with Him
2. We rob ourselves of blessings God has for us
3. We tell God we can't be trusted with His work

So often, we go around bragging about our gifts, patting ourselves on the back and lifted up in the eyes of men, when we aren't giving much at all compared to what we have and what God has given us.

Illus: Sale of prime 13 million dollar property, not tithe

God did not send some second rate sacrifice for our sin. God did not even send an angel. He sent His only son. He sent the very **best!**

Why not try giving God your very best???

Am I being a fanatic? I think not. Consider Romans 12:1:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual (reasonable) act of worship. Romans 12:1 NIV

Giving our absolute best and making sacrifices for the kingdom of God is our reasonable service.

3. Method For Missions – “whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

The Method of missions has not changed. The method of missions is still to call upon all who will listen to **believe in Him!**

The bookshelves are full of instructions on church growth. They expound all sorts of methods and strategies for building great churches.

But, the real way, the Biblical plan for the New Testament church is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. **If we will exercise faith, genuinely care about souls and spread the message, our church will be blessed. Our church will grow!**

The method of missions is straight forward and clear.

We are called to spread the gospel of Christ.

We must not assume everyone has heard.

We not tire or become discouraged.

We must not get caught up in buildings, assets and prestige.

We must not depend on our own strength and abilities.

We must spread the gospel of salvation, repentance and eternal life through Jesus Christ.

God did not call us to be the United Way or the Red Cross! We are the church and our mission is crystal clear. In absolutely everything we do, we must be on a mission to spread the gospel.

We must do this in our families, our community and around the world. For so much is at stake.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to every one who believes...” Romans 1:16 NIV

Conclusion

As we sit here today in this comfortable building, over 2 billion people out there have never heard the gospel. 1/3rd of the people on the planet do not know Jesus Christ.

We have a mandate – share His love to the world.

We have a measure – give our absolute very best.

We have a method – point others to believe in Him.

We live in a time when no one wants to commit. Everyone claims to believe but few people are willing to commit and take action.

Illus: Recently read the following about church.

The church that is alive and well is a growing one. Where there is no growth there is a problem.

Some churches have parking problems, some other churches don't.

Some churches have kids running around making a lot of noise some other churches are very quiet.

Some churches usually have more expenses than money; some other churches don't need to spend much money.

Some churches are growing so fast you don't always know everybody's name; in some other churches everybody has known everybody's name for years.

Some churches enthusiastically and generously support missions; some other churches keep it all at home.

Some churches are filled with tithers; some other churches are filled with tippers.

Some churches evangelize, some other churches fossilize.

Some churches are always planning for the future; some other churches live in the past.

It's not so important where you stand. What is really important is in what direction you are moving.
