

The Global Church

Multiply--Chapter 6, page 77-89

DAY 1: All the Families of the Earth

Matt. 28:19-20 "As you are going make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching to obey everything I have commanded. And lo, I am with you to the close of the age."

1. We've talked about making disciples, baptizing, and teaching. We haven't talked about the *scope* of His command. *Where* are we to make disciples?

2. The usual scope of our vision is local. The needed scope of our vision needs to become global, as well. In one sense we are to live with glasses that have two lenses--one that sees what ought to be done *around me*, and the other that sees what ought to be done *through me*. What strikes you about this analogy?

3. God made a promise to Adam, Eve and all of humanity. He would restore what was lost through the fall of man. He had a plan of redemption, redeeming wayward and lost people. It starts here...

Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

4. This particular promise is directed to the serpent (Satan). God promises there will be enmity between Satan (and his offspring) and the woman (and her offspring). "Enmity" means hatred, hostility or antagonism. Is that how you see Satan's attitude toward you and all you hold dear?

5. The second half of the promise is related to a particular "he." "He" will be of the offspring of the woman, though several thousands of years later. What will "he" do to Satan?" What does a "crushing of the head" signify?

6. What will Satan do to Him? What does a "striking of the heel" signify?

7. The battle for the souls of men and women commenced right there. Satan started off by picking off two prisoners in easy fashion. Since then, he begins with everyone a prisoner of sin at their birth.

8. How does the thought that you, a child of God, delivered out of Satan's prison of sin are a soldier in this world-wide and desperate fight, strike you?

DAY 2: Where Christ Has Not Been Named

Romans 15:20 ... thus making it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on another man's foundation,²¹ but as it is written, "They shall see who have never been told of him, and they shall understand who have never heard of him."

1. Paul was a theologian, prolific writer and missionary. Through all of that what did he say was his *ambition*?

2. What would you say is your *ambition*?

3. In Romans 15:21, Paul draws from Isaiah 52. Who are the people Paul (and Isaiah) are talking about? (The "they" in Romans 15:21).

4. Isaiah picks up on the problem of "those who have not heard."

Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

a. What is God's solution to the dilemma of some people not hearing about His salvation?

b. To what extent do you bring God's "good tidings (news)" to people?

Isaiah 52:10 The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

b. What is the scope of God's salvation? (Look for two phrases)

Romans 10:13 For, "everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."¹⁴ But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher?¹⁵ And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!"

5. You are the "preacher!" This is not the stand up guy on Sunday morning. "Preach" means simply to "proclaim," to "tell." Start with one person. And start small. Today.

DAY 3: Before the End Will Come

1. History is going somewhere. It is not "random." History is driven by God's plan of redemption, lived out every day, all around the world. It moves forward through times of peace and times of war, through times of suffering and times of ease.

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

2. Jesus said the gospel is to be taken to two "places." What are they?

3. Yesterday we looked at Paul's dilemma, and ours. What four questions perplex Paul?

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4. Do any of Paul's four questions perplex you?

5. Which of these questions piques your interest the most?

6. For each of the letters below, jot down something you could do...

a. With my time:

b. With my money:

c. With my words?

d. With my prayers?

e. With my influence to other Christians?

DAY 4: Working Together for the Gospel

1. God can move the gospel ahead anywhere. He can open the hearts of people. The hardest part of the process is getting His people engaged in the process.

Jesus addresses some of these issues in the following verses:

Mark 8:34 And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his life? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

2. In Mark 8:34 Jesus addresses the issue of who is ruling you. If we want to follow Him, three things are required. For each of these three, jot down one example of how this would apply to you:

a. "deny himself" -

b. "take up your cross" -

c. "follow Me." -

3. In Mark 8:35a, Jesus warns us about living this life for ourselves.

a. What is the danger? (Note: "save" his life, here, means "live for yourself")

b. What is the alternative in 8:35b? (Note: "...will save it," here, doesn't mean salvation. Jesus means finding real life).

4. In Mark 8:36, Jesus offers another danger.

a. What is the danger?

b. What are the consequences for living for possessions?

c. How is this elaborated on in Mark 8:37?

5. What is the last problem, and danger, Jesus addresses in Mark 8:38?

6. Which of these dangers resonates with you? Finish today, praying about your danger.

DAY 5: A Vision of the End

1. God's promise to humanity, way back in Genesis 3 will come to fruition at the end of history. John was given a vision of that coming day.

Revelation 7:9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

2. How many people were in that crowd?

3. Had the gospel penetrated to the ends of the earth? Look for four pieces of evidence in Rev. 7:9.

4. What do you think is symbolized by us wearing white robes? Did we take these robes with us, or were they given? That they were given have any significance?

5. In Rev. 7:10, what is the obvious conclusion that everyone will draw?

6. As we close this week, focus in on getting more engaged globally!

a. Are you surrendered to God, willing to do anything, to go anywhere, to give anything?

b. If you aren't engaged in missions, what can you start doing now?

___ Write notes to missionaries?

___ Support missionaries?

___ Go on a missions trip?

___ Pray for missionaries?

___ Be alert in your daily life to people who are from another land? Befriend them. Care for them. Ask God to give you opportunities to share the hope you have.

___ Team up with someone else in church to be engaged in missions.

___ Other: _____

7. Share with your bible study group what you'll do.