

**FROM DUST TO DIAMONDS - IN 40 DAYS**  
**"YOU WERE MADE FOR A MISSION"**  
**ACTS 1:8 & MATTHEW 9:36-38**

**Guest Speaker: Rev. Calvin Gordon, B.T.H.**

**M.I. YOUR LIFE'S PURPOSE ON EARTH IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF LIVING FOR GOD'S PURPOSE.**

**I. OUR MESSAGE MUST BE CULTURALLY RELEVANT AND SPIRITUALLY POWERFUL.**

- \* THE CHURCH IS CHANGING FROM MASS EVANGELISM TO RELATIONAL EVANGELISM
- \* RELATIONAL EVANGELISM INVOLVES LOVING OTHER PEOPLE
- A. THE WORD FRAMED THE MISSION (V.8b).
- \* EFFECTIVE SOUL WITNESSING BEGINS WITH A RESPONSE TO HEARING GOD'S VOICE.

**II. OUR MESSAGE MUST BE GENERATIONALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY BALANCED.**

- \* THE CHURCH IS CALLED TO LIVE OUT GOD'S PURPOSE THROUGH LIFESTYLE-EVANGELISM.
- \* LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM IS EXEMPLIFIED IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST THROUGH A LOVE CONNECTION.
- \* THE LOVE CONNECTION EXEMPLIFIED IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST REFLECTS:
  1. HIS MISSION
  2. HIS METHOD
  3. HIS MESSAGE

CREATING A CLIMATE FOR RELATIONAL EVANGELISM BEGINS WITH A DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S LOVE TO OTHERS.

**III. OUR MESSAGE MUST EXTEND BEYOND FAMILIAR TERRITORIES (V.8)**

- A. ENLARGING OUR VISION
  1. HE SAW THE CROWD (FIELD)
  2. HE WAS MOVED WITH COMPASSION
  3. HIS FOCUS WAS DIRECTED TOWARDS THEIR NEEDS
    - a. THEY WERE BEWILDERED HARASSED/DISTRESSED DEJECTED & HELPLESS
    - b. HE WAS CONCERN ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF THEIR LIVES
    - c. THEY WERE SHEEP EXISTING WITHOUT THE EXPERIENCE OF EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP
    - d. SHEEP EXPOSE TO ELEMENTS OF NEGATIVE INFLUENCE.

**IV. THE RESULT**

- \* THE KINGDOM OF GOD WILL BE GLORIFIED, THROUGH THE LOVE CONNECTION EXEMPLIFIED IN THE LIVES OF THOSE EXPERIENCING A LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

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**"YOU WERE MADE FOR A MISSION"**  
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**THEME: "MADE FOR A MISSION"**

TEXT: Acts 1:8

The story has been told about the Aborigines in Australia who, when introduced to the account in Genesis (The fall of Adam and Eve) said, "If we were in the Garden of Eden, you wouldn't have this mess today. We would have thrown away the fruit and eaten the snake."

Perhaps not everyone views the world as a mess today; however pastors, missionaries, lay-persons and evangelists will agree we live in challenging, changing and perplexing times.

As an institution rose up by God, the Church is experiencing a metamorphosis of epic proportions, call it a wave, call it a storm, call it a shift, but its here. (The Millennial Generation).

Alvin Toffler refers to this societal shifting as the third wave of society: "A new civilization is emerging in our lives. This new civilization brings with it new family styles; changed ways of working, loving and living. Millions are already attuning their lives to the rhythms of tomorrow. The dawn of this new civilization is the single most explosive fact of our lifetime."

As we confront and embrace societal change, the church now finds itself in the precarious position of responding to the needs of a changed society: **UNLESS WE ARE COMMITTED TO A CONSTANT STRUGGLE TO APPEAL TO THE WORLD AROUND US, WE WILL FAIL IN OUR EFFORTS TO BE THE CHURCH IN TODAYS WORLD.**

**IT CANNOT BE BUISNESS AS USUAL.** The church is at a pivotal point in history where it is forced to rethink its methods in order to appeal to a new kind of people. We must

commit ourselves to fulfilling this great commission according to (Matt.28:19) "Go ye therefore, and teach all Nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

The word "NATION" in its original and definitive sense denoted the representation of another race, or tribe. This verse refers to ethno-linguistic groups of people such as Jews, Gentiles, and Samaritans (etc). Grace is for "whosoever will may come." There are no group distinctions, or reservations, it is a free gift.

In essence, the responsibility of soul winning has been entrusted to the church. "We are all lively stones that build up a spiritual house." (I Peter 2:5) Note: Our business is to do the will of Him who sent us while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work. But until then, our mission objectives must be clear: **"GO YE THEREFORE AND TEACH ALL NATIONS,"** pointing men to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus.

**YOU WERE MADE FOR A MISSION,** and fulfilling your mission in the world is God's fifth purpose for your life. Solomon reminds us that if we exist without knowing our purpose in life, then you would have been better off born dead. "A man might have a hundred children and live to be very old, but if he finds no satisfaction in life and in the end does not even get a decent burial, I say he would have been better off born dead. I realize that his birth would have been meaningless and ended in darkness. He wouldn't even have a name, (Ecc.6:3-4) and he would never have seen the sun or known of its existence. Yet he would have had more peace than he has in growing up to be an unhappy man".

To exist all these years, and not understand why you are here, or fulfilling your life's mission is to exist without the quality we choose to shape our lives with, and this is called Purpose. Oliver Wendell Holmes says, "Most of us go to our graves with our music still inside

us." Our music is the gospel of grace, therefore: **OUR MESSAGE FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY MUST BE CULTURALLY RELEVANT AND SPIRITUALLY POWERFUL.** To be culturally relevant demands an understanding of the times in which we live, primarily because we have risen up a generation who no longer believes in delayed gratification. Everything must be Now! **THIS IS A NOW GENERATION.**

\* **NEW PROBLEMS AND NEW GENERATIONS REQUIRE NEW APPROACHES.**

The church over the years has always portrayed evangelism as an activity directed towards a large body of people, but we are in the midst of a shift: The church is changing from “mass evangelism” to “relational evangelism”.

What is relational evangelism? “Relational evangelism involves loving other people.” C. Jeff Woods says, “Due to the high level of skepticism toward the church, many people first must be genuinely loved by the church before they can genuinely hear the gospel.” The challenge, therefore, is a **"CALL TO AUTHENTICITY."** We must be authentic in our response to the great commission, and our representation of the gospel. We must understand the cause of our Mission. "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2nd.Peter 3:9): **IT IS THE WILL OF GOD. IT REFLECTS HIS NATURE.** He is patient; He is not prejudiced, but loving. "All should come to repentance. However, we must understand the cost of our mission, including self denial (Matt.16:24). Rick Warren highlights the fact that, “In order to fulfill your mission you have to abandon your agenda, and accept God's agenda for your life.

**"IT'S NOT ABOUT ME!!!"**

**THE WORD FRAMED THE MISSION** (V.8b), "And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. The use of the word "**SHALL**" is frequently part of the rendering of a future tense of a verb. The language is universal, and is seen as a present continuous tense, affecting every ethno-linguistic group on planet earth: **THE WORD WITNESS DERIVES FROM A WORD WHICH MEANS**, "Those whose lives and actions testified to the worth and effect of faith." It has been said a man with an argument is no match for a man with an experience.

Anne Askew (of England, circa 1546) was imprisoned and greatly tortured for her faith. Placed on a cruel rack, her joints and bones were pulled out of place. She fainted from the pain, but when she regained consciousness, she preached for two hours to her tormentors. On the day of her execution, she was carried to the stake in a chair because her bones were dislocated and she couldn't walk. At the last moment, she was offered the king's pardon if she would recant. She said, "I did not come here to deny my Lord and master." She died praying for her murderers in the midst of the flames.

**THE WORD FRAMED THE MISSION, THEREFORE**, effective soul witnessing begins with a response to "hearing God's voice. Two words to Zacheus, "Come down," opens the door for an opportunity for God to demonstrate the five levels of the Purpose Driven Life:

- (i)      **WORSHIP**
- (ii)     **FELLOWSHIP**
- (iii)    **DISCIPLESHIP**
- (iv)    **MINISTRY &**
- (v)     **EVANGELISM**

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

**THE WORD PRECEDES THE MISSION** (1:8a), "But ye shall receive power" denotes freedom of action and the right to act (the delegation of authority). The commission to "**GO**" would have brought the disciples into a culturally diverse situation which would require more than just the ability to preach to be effective. They would need the "Power," and the discipline to live their lives for God's pleasure and purpose. The Holy Spirit:

- a. EQUIPTS YOU FOR THE MISSION
- b. EMPOWERS YOU FOR SERVICE
- c. ENABLES YOU TO STAND

The significance of this text highlights the importance of preparation in ministry. "And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but **WAIT** for the promise of the Father." (v. 4) now the word "**WAIT**" in this text means, "To wait with eager expectation." It is the process of preparing oneself by being:

- 1. INSTRUCTED IN THE WORD
- 2. COMMUNION IN PRAYER
- 3. STRATAGISING &
- 4. UNDERSTANDING THAT YOUR MISSION GIVES YOUR LIFE MEANING.

Now the word that precedes your mission brings your life into **FOCUS**. According to Rick Warren, "If you fail to fulfill your God-given mission on earth you would have wasted the life God gave you." **THE HYMNOLOGIST SAYS:**

If I can help somebody as I pass along,  
If I can show somebody he's traveling wrong  
If I can do my duties as a Christian ought?

Then my living would not be in vain.

**OUR MESSAGE FOR THE TWENTYFIRST CENTURY MUST BE  
GENERATIONALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY BALANCED.**

“You shall bear witness of me in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

The church is called to live out God's purpose through “Lifestyle-Evangelism.” Lifestyle-Evangelism is exemplified in the life of Christ through a love connection. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for He has anointed me to preach the Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the downtrodden will be freed from their oppressors, and that the time of the Lord's favor is at hand." (Luke 4:18)

The Love Connection exemplified in the life of Christ, reflects:

1. His Mission to Share The Good News
2. His Method to Facilitate Training/Relational Evangelism
3. His Message -- An Invitation to a Loving Relationship

Creating a balance in the generational and geographical process, demands an understanding of the cultural trends the need to adapt.

Social change is perhaps the most difficult environmental factor facing the church today, primarily, since such change affects our attitudes, values, and lifestyles. The church is therefore challenged by these changes and as a result needs to look at the demographic trends affecting our post-modern generation.

Demography is the study of people's vital statistics, such as their age, race ethnicity and location. This is significant because the basis of our ministry is people. This will foster a better understanding for multi-cultural ministry in the twenty-first century. With this concept, we are

better able to adapt, and still be unaffected by what is affecting everyone else. According to Gitman E. McDaniel, in **THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS**, "The survivors of successful businesses are those that understand the trends that affect all businesses and then successfully adapt to those trends. Many companies survive and prosper because they capitalize on evolving trends." Proverbs says, "In all your getting, get understanding."

The regions presented in this text, highlights the use of both mass evangelism and one-on-one evangelism (personal evangelism) which was relevant to that time, and culture, and which transcends the nineteenth century. However the need for balance in today's society, demands the implementation of a fresh approach, and that is, "relational evangelism."

Creating a climate for relational evangelism begins with a demonstration of God's love to others. When we establish a love connection with people, we exemplify the greatest investment ever made, and that is a loving relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ.

**OUR MESSAGE MUST EXTEND BEYOND FAMILIAR TERRITORIES** (v.8). It must extend. "To the uttermost part of the earth" (Matt.9:36-38). **WE MUST ENLARGE OUR VISION**. Christ saw the Crowds (field). He was moved with **compassion**. His focus was directed towards the needs and condition of the people (v.36b). They were bewildered harassed, distressed, dejected and helpless. He was concerned about the direction of their lives. They were sheep existing without the experience of effective leadership and exposed to elements of negative influence.

The Kingdom of God will be glorified, through the love connection exemplified in the lives of those experiencing a loving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the esteemed words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. summing up how he wished to be remembered, He said,

**"....I'd like somebody to mention that Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others. I'd like somebody to say that Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to love somebody; that I did try to feed the hungry; I did try in my life to clothe those who were naked. I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity."**