

Limitless Resources For Total Outreach 4099

I. Need For *Unity* In The Church

- A. 2 Cor. 10:4—Casting down of *strongholds (prejudices)* in peoples' minds
 - 1. *Restoration* and *completion* of the church: Jesus prepared the way for the church by giving *specific instructions* at the close of His earthly ministry.
 - 2. In the military, orders are in force till revoked. Jesus' orders have never been canceled. Unfortunately, they have seldom been obeyed.
- B. Matt. 28:18–20—The church is required to exercise *authority* on the Lord's behalf.
 - 1. “*All authority* has been given to Me . . . *go* therefore . . .”
 - 2. Scripturally, *baptism* is a *commitment to discipleship*
- C. Mark 16:15–18—All-encompassing
 - 1. “. . . *all* the world . . . *every* creature . . .”
 - 2. Once the gospel has been presented there is no further room for neutrality
- D. Acts 1:6–9—We are to *be witnesses*: To live in such a way that there is no explanation other than that Jesus Christ is *alive*
 - 1. This passage contains the *last words* that Jesus spoke on earth—meant to be *impressed* on the disciples
 - 2. The only Person who can *explain* the Gospel is the Holy Spirit. We are simply required to *proclaim* the Gospel.
- E. Matt. 24:3–14—*The sign of the end of the age*—
 - 1. “*This* Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in *all the world* to *all the nations* . . .”
 - 2. There is *no more urgent task* for the church
- F. Rev. 5:8–9—*Every person* on earth has a right to know that Jesus *rose from the dead*.
 - 1. This generation has all the technical tools needed to do the job in one generation
 - 2. *Every tribe, tongue, people* and *nation* must be represented in the final ingathering
- G. Matt. 14:13–21—Feeding of 5000 and Matt. 15:29–38—Feeding of 4000
 - 1. Both testify to the *power* of *thanksgiving*
 - 2. Matt. 16:5–10—Jesus reminds the disciples of the correct figures
 - a. When He and a bigger crowd and less to start with, there was more left over than when there was a smaller crowd and more to start with
 - b. The lesson: God operates according to our *faith* and our *need*, not according to our initial resources.
- H. Principles
 - 1. The disciples did not want to accept responsibility, but Jesus gave them an order.
 - a. Disciples: “. . . *send them away* . . .”
 - b. Jesus: “. . . *you feed them* . . .”
 - 2. Relationship between *order/discipline* and the *supernatural*. Each is needed but incomplete without the other.

3. The *greater* the *need*, and the fewer the resources, the *greater* the *surplus*
4. Luke 12:48—The more we have, the more is required of us. U.S. Christians probably have an obligation that exceeds that of any other group of Christians in the world. We are living on capital inherited from Christian forbears

II. Applications

- A. *Attitude change*: See ourselves *co-responsible* with fellow believers for all nations of the world
- B. *God's direction*: Those who do not go to “the ends of the earth” must consider themselves every bit as involved as those who do
- C. *Seek God for our particular sphere of responsibility*:
 1. Example of apostles—Paul to the Gentiles; Peter, James, John to the Jews
 2. Personal example of African daughter's coming to their home. Pray to *be ready* when the challenge comes
- D. *Others outside our assigned sphere*: See them as our representatives and responsibility, because the Body of Christ is one
- E. *Closing prayer* that we might have compassion for a world that needs help