

CHRISTIANS ARE COMMANDED TO PREACH AND WITNESS

Luke 14:16-24 **Matthew 28:19-20**

Introduction: Imagine a family sitting down to dinner one cold wintery night. They are warm and comfortable with plenty of food for their meal. Outside there are people on the streets, homeless, hungry, some even starving, sick, and some even have small children with them. They come to the door of the "well to do" family and knock on the door and ask for some food and could they come in for a while and warm themselves. The family tells the street people to go away for they are not part of the family.

Would you consider that cruel? Heartless? Selfish? What should be said to this family who turned away the needy people?

We, who are Christians are like the family sitting down to dinner. Those who are lost and without Jesus are like those homeless, hungry, cold people who came to the door asking for help. Do we, not also send them away? Do we not tell them to go back where they came from? Do we not ignore them and pretend we don't see or hear them? No? Think again. Most of us don't witness or share with the lost how to find the Lord Jesus when we have the opportunity.

I. WE ARE COMMANDED TO COMPEL THEM TO COME IN

1. *Luke 14:16-24*

- God has spread a feast but nobody seems hungry. Nobody wants to come, everybody is making excuses to not participate.
- Every person in this place today has made excuses for not attending God's "feast."
- If God had done nothing more than prepare the feast, every chair would still be empty.
- However, God sent HIS SERVANT to compel them to come to His feast.
- There is not a one of us here today that would ever sit down at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb unless we had not been COMPELLED to come in and sit down.
Compelled by God.

2. What does "compel" mean?

- God had to overcome our resistance, of our will, of our heart, of our loving pleasure more than Him, our love of things of this world more than Jesus.
- God had to put forth His power to draw us to Him.
"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him."
- It means use of violence, to drag by force. The same word used to describe how fishermen got their nets back into the boat - by pulling with all their strength.
- That is how Christians are brought to Jesus - compelled, drag to Him.
- Every Christian was a rebel against God, fighting against the Lord Jesus, resisting the Holy Spirit and God had to put forth His almighty power to overcome OUR resistance and bring us to our knees in surrender.

3. Man is lost and is dead in trespasses and sins by nature and by birth.

- Man is not sick and needs a little medicine. Man is not ignorant and needs a little teaching. It is not that we are simply weak and need a little hope. MAN IS DEAD!
- Only almighty power from heaven can resurrect and bring us from death to life.

- Remember the man with the withered hand? One thing he could not do was to use that hand in any way. Jesus told him to stretch it out. Impossible! Impossible for him to do it.
 - Remember Lazarus who had died and had been buried for three days?
 - What if a line of people came by and each one said "Lazarus come forth!" What would have happened? NOTHING!
 - Jesus walked up and said "**Lazarus, come forth!**" Immediately he did. How? Because Jesus had the power to make those words work.
4. None of us have within us the power to respond to the gospel all by ourselves, but when the **Word of God is spoken and the Holy Spirit applies it, something happens!**
- Jesus said, "*...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life..*"
 - If God tells you to go to a tree and preach the gospel, would you go?
 - God told a preacher to go preach to a graveyard full of bones and he went - would you?

II. WE ARE COMMANDED TO PREACH AND WITNESS TO EVERY PERSON

1. *Matthew 28:19-20 Acts 1:8*
2. Why go preach and witness to every person when they won't listen or even care? Because GOD commands us to do so.
 - Every Christian here has yet to answer to Christ why he/she has not done everything in his/her power to send the gospel to every person.
 - Every Christian professes to believe in missions but most are just playing.
 - Think about the ease of travel, communications, bibles printed in almost every language and yet over one half of the human race has never heard of Jesus.
 - Everyone of us has yet to face Jesus and look into His eyes and hear Him say, "I entrusted My gospel to YOU."
3. Jesus is coming back one day but not until His BODY, His Family is complete. The task of bringing His Family in has not been given to the angels, but to US!
4. *Matthew 28:19-20.* Jesus does not say "send somebody" but "YOU GO!" Have you gone?
 - Where? Here in our own town, our own county, our own state, into the world.
 - If we are not interested in the unsaved, the lost in our own town, then we are not interested in the lost in China, Russia or anywhere else in the world.
 - Have you ever bought bibles in another language and given them away saying "my friend this is a little gift that will do your soul good if you will read it?"

CONCLUSION:

1. Nobody is interested in the things of God. Everybody has to be persuaded.
2. The Gospel has been given to God's Church Family to be used to bring the lost to Him.
3. Every Christian is to "**go into the world**" and confront those who are still lost.
4. We Christians are to take God's Word to the lost and the Holy Spirit will do the persuading.