

## THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

### Mark 16:15

**Introduction:** Most of our churches of today have become fascinated by worldly things such as worldly dress styles, worldly music styles, make up styles, language terminologies, worldly attitudes, etc, and have lost sight of their mission, their reason for being a "Church." Churches need to be still and know that God is still in control. Churches need to see the imperativeness of the great commission Jesus gave to His Church.

The only thing Jesus left for the Church to do was to establish His Kingdom and that was to be done through MISSIONS. His main thought to a world that had tried to destroy Him, gave Him no place to be born, no place to lay His head, that cried for His blood and Jesus' last words about the world who had done Him so much harm was for His people to GO into the world and preach the Gospel.

**I. "GO,"** meaning to set out, begin, etc., The Church must go itself, the world cannot be saved by publicity

1. Go, not uninformed but go from Jesus into His creation that He knows so well.
  - People need to be sought, entreated by Christians. Jesus came in person and His means of salvation have not changed to some streamlined method. Has 2,000 years of research by the limited knowledge of limited mankind revealed a better way to spread the gospel?
2. Christians have an obligation to the world to go to the lepers of Samaria, to the blind of Jericho, to the madmen of Gadara, to the sick of the world.
  - The Church leaves so many things undone but build great church buildings or just a small building, pastors with many degrees of knowledge and some with little education, but say little about Christ crucified. Membership can be counted into the thousands or just a few, some have elaborate organizations, some have none, but GO the Church must no matter the size.
3. In our modern world Jesus stands at airports and says GO, at seaports and says GO, at bus depots and says GO, everywhere there's transportation, Jesus says GO.
4. In spite of difficulties Jesus knows, He redeemed the world with great difficulty and He left much for His Church to do. Remember His life, Jesus knows of difficulties.

## II. GO INTO ALL THE WORLD

1. Jesus leaves no doubt as to the territory His Church is to go to. Churches are headquarters, refueling stations, lifelines are thrown out from there, but Jesus' command to GO sends the Christian out far past his/her local Church, out into all the world.
2. There are no racial or national boundaries - "into all the world, to every creature..." Anybody who is not willing to witness to every creature does not understand Jesus' commission for God is no respecter of persons.
  - A "christianity" that cannot cross deserts, climb mountains, sail the seas, endure storms, suffer persecutions, cross racial and national boundaries with the message of salvation and the ministry of mercy did not get its commission from Jesus. Jesus' commission orders His Church into ALL the world, to every creature. It is to all people or no people, to all the world or to none of the world.

### III. GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL

1. The apostles understood that the Gospel was not human reason, not a message of tolerance, philosophy, science, but of Jesus Christ. It was not a message to save men by great speakers but by preaching the message of Jesus Christ.
2. The gospel is a message to a fallen race. Education, culture, civic affairs, legislative measures are all poverty - *"...there is no other name under heaven...."*
3. The gospel is a message about a Kingdom that stands out above all other kingdoms. It is a message that forecasts the end of sin and suffering, of peace and righteousness.
4. The gospel is a message about a King. Whoever heard of a kingdom without a king? It's news of a birth in Bethlehem, of agony in a garden, of a trial before Pilate, of a cross on Calvary, a story of a thorn-crowned brow, of nail-pierced hands, of a wounded side, the record of a tragic Friday afternoon, a gloomy Saturday and a victorious Sunday morning. It is good news of an ascension from Mt. Olivet, of a seat on the right hand of God. Who is this King?

- It is Paul's Adam - John's advocate - Timothy's potentate - Zechariah's branch - the Hebrew's captain - Isaiah's counselor, tender plant, root out of a dry ground - Haggai's desire of all nations - Luke's dayspring, horn of salvation - the Revelator's faithful witness, Alpha and Omega, the first and last, the first begotten of the dead, the great amen - Matthew's governor - Moses' "I AM," the burning bush - John's lamb of God, bread of life, true light, light of the world.

- Who is this King? It is Solomon's rose of Sharon, lily of the valley - Daniel's stone cut out of the mountain - Ezekiel's wheel in the midst of a wheel - Job's redeemer, the lion of the tribe of Judah - Michael's rich ruler and righteous judge - IT'S JESUS! IT'S JESUS!

### CONCLUSION:

1. Church! We have a charge to keep - a mission to execute - tasks to perform. Let us rise up and go.
2. *"...And also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, 'Here am I, send me...'"*