

MOTIVATION FOR EVANGELIZATION (Matthew 28:18-20)

I. The command from above (Mark 16:15).

- A. This verse contains the marching orders for every Christian.
- B. Look at Matthew 28:18-20.
 - 1. We have the authority of Jesus.
 - 2. We have the assignment from Jesus.
 - 3. We have the assurance from Jesus.
- C. Something that is interesting in Matthew 28:19 is the word “go.”
 - 1. It is not the command of the verse.
 - 2. The command is the phrase “teach all nations.”
 - 3. “Go” is actually a present participle and means “going.”
 - 4. It literally says, “While you are going, teach all nations.”
- D. In whatever we do, we are to be teaching.
 - 1. We do that by the way we dress, talk and act.
 - 2. Everything we do should show the light of the gospel to a lost and dying world.
- E. The Lord has given us this command and we must follow it.
 - 1. It is as much of a command as being baptized or repenting of sins.
 - 2. We have to fulfill this command like we do all of the other commands we have recorded for us.

II. The cry from beneath (Luke 16:27).

- A. While that rich man was in torment, he got evangelistic.
 - 1. He wanted his brothers to straighten up so they didn't end up there with him.
 - 2. The sad fact is, it was too late for him to get evangelistic.
- B. Abraham told him that his brothers had Moses and the prophets and that is all they needed.
- C. The cry of the lost we hear from this verse should motivate us to evangelize.
 - 1. They are crying because of the torment in which they find themselves (Luke 16:24; Matthew 25:41).
 - 2. They are crying because of the eternal nature of their punishment (Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).
- D. If we think of the hell that awaits those who are lost, it should cause us to reach out to those who haven't obeyed the gospel.

III. The caution from before (Ezekiel 3:17-21).

- A. A watchman would stand on the city wall and look for threats from without and within.
 - 1. If he saw something he would sound an alarm.
 - 2. This allowed the people to know there was a problem and to take the appropriate steps to ready themselves for it.
- B. In this passage, God told Ezekiel he was a watchman in a spiritual sense.
 - 1. He was to speak up when evil was seen so that those who were participating in it would be warned.

2. He was to speak up so those who were righteous would know what was upon them was evil and to keep themselves from it.
- C. Ezekiel wasn't accountable for the people, he was responsible to them.
- D. We have the same responsibility today to warn people about what awaits them if they remain in sin.
 1. Do we really think of the words when we sing, "you never mentioned Him to me?"
 2. How awful that will be when someone we know is condemned to hell for disobedience to the gospel and we will know we never said anything to him or her.

IV. The call from without (Acts 16:9).

- A. Paul had a vision in which a man from the area of Macedonia called to him to come and preach to the people there.
- B. Paul wasted no time in answering that call.
 1. He immediately made plans to go.
 2. He didn't wait around and do other things, he got up and went.
- C. He went to Macedonia to give the best help that he could to the people there - the gospel.
- D. The greatest help we could ever give anyone is the gospel.
 1. It changes destinies.
 2. It changes determinations.
 3. It changes demeanors.
- E. There is a desire out there for the gospel.
 1. Not all have it.
 2. Some don't want to do anything but what pleases them.
 3. Some want to do part of what is commanded but not all.
 4. But there are those who want to obey the Lord, they just don't know how to do so.
- F. We need to be willing to be that one that answers the call to teach the gospel to those who do want to hear it.

V. The constraint from within (2 Corinthians 5:14).

- A. The word "constraineth" means to continually bind one to something.
 1. The love of Jesus binds us to His will.
 2. It should cause us to work for Him.
- B. Paul wanted to give the gospel to others because the love of the Lord had so richly blessed Him.
- C. Jeremiah wanted to quit preaching but he couldn't (Jeremiah 20:9).
- D. Our hearts should cause us to be evangelistic.
 1. Right now, we would be lost in sin if someone hadn't shared the gospel with us.
 2. The love of the Lord for us was shown to us and we responded if we are Christians.
 3. Think of how your life is different because of that.
 4. That love shown to us should constrain us to show it to others as well.

From an outline by Mark Posey.