

THREE THINGS WE MUST UNDERSTAND (Acts 8:1-4)

I. We have a mission.

- A. Jesus has given us a mission.
 - 1. “Go ye therefore...”
 - 2. “Go ye into all the world...”
- B. You and I, as Christians, are to go to the lost.
- C. Jesus said...(Luke 19:10).
 - 1. You and I are to be doing His work.
 - 2. His work was going out and saving those who are lost.
- D. If we would better understand our mission, gospel meetings would not be seen as many see them today.
 - 1. Instead of failures, they should be seen as opportunities.
 - 2. They are opportunities for us to involve ourselves in our purpose or mission in life.
- E. The early church understood their mission quite well.
 - 1. Those in Jerusalem would go to the temple to talk to the lost about Jesus.
 - 2. When the pressure became great, as we see in our reading, the brethren went other places.
 - 3. Philip went down to Samaria.
 - 4. Some went to Antioch.
- F. Our mission is not to pat ourselves on the back and congratulate each other on being saved.
 - 1. It is not simply to edify one another.
 - 2. It is not to congregate and talk about how bad the world is becoming.

II. We have a message.

- A. Along with our mission, the Lord gave us a message to get out to this lost world in which we live.
- B. You and I are to go and preach the gospel (Mark 16:16).
- C. In the hotel room, my father-in-law had Joel Osteen on the TV.
 - 1. It was absolutely amazing how many people were in attendance.
 - 2. In the five minutes I listened to him, I didn't hear one scripture, just several cute stories.
- D. You and I have the only soul-saving message in the world (Romans 1:16).
 - 1. In sales, some companies have a lot of different products based on client needs.
 - 2. A salesman for those type companies have to be knowledgeable about all the different products.
 - 3. Christians have one message only.
- E. This message is that man is lost because of sin and there is a Savior who died for them so that they don't have to die.
 - 1. Paul well understood this fact (1 Corinthians 2:1-2).
 - 2. Any other gospel does not save (Galatians 1:6-8).

- F. The message we have been given is one of faith in Jesus as the Son of God that leads to obedience which opens up the door to God's grace (Romans 5:1-2; Ephesians 2:8-9).
- G. There are many messages out there.
 1. Some are a variation of this message.
 2. This is the only authentic message that saves.
 3. Anything else is the commandments of men and cannot save (Matthew 15:9).
- H. When Mark comes next week, his message is the only one that can save people because it comes from God.
- I. It will work, if lost people hear it.

III. **We have a method.**

- A. Our mission is to get the message of a living Savior to a dying world.
- B. The only method given us to do that is preaching.
 1. 1 Corinthians 1:18-24.
 2. Mark 16:15.
 3. 2 Timothy 4:2.
- C. We don't trick people into getting wet in a baptistry.
- D. We don't wow people with gyms, playgrounds or fancy facilities.
- E. God told us to preach the word.
 1. We need a building to facilitate that.
 2. However, the emphasis is to always be on the message and not the messenger or the place in which the message is delivered.
- F. We can preach outside, across a table or behind a pulpit.
- G. The early church understood this method and numbers of people were saved.
- H. In the mid-1900's, the church of Christ was the fastest growing religious body because our brethren then understood that preaching had to be done.
- I. We don't help ourselves preaching to one another.
 1. We are to edify each other and this is also done through preaching.
 2. However, we ought to be doing our best to reach the lost with this message because that is our mission.
- J. We've often said and heard that there are three works of the church.
 1. Evangelization, edification and benevolence.
 2. I have come to believe that there is one work, evangelization, and that everything else flows out of that.
- K. This next week, Mark will be using the God given method to reach the lost.
 1. You and I need to work at getting the lost here in order for them to hear the message.
 2. If they do, great things can happen.