

Mission and Ministry Sunday - Pentecost 22

Sermon Road Map

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Act 13:38-48

October 20 & 21, 2018

Bring salvation to the ends of the earth!

- How far would you like to travel? Name your bucket list distant places.
 - ♦ Hawaii, Alaska, New Zealand, Madagascar, Mt. Kilimanjaro, the Amazon, Yinchuan?
 - ♦ What about: *to the ends of the earth?*
- Paul quotes Isaiah: “*I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.*” v. 47 - Isa. 49:6
 - ♦ Yahweh revealed the Messiah’s role - the Light of the World.
 - ♦ The Risen Victorious Messiah told his followers:
 - *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...* Matthew 28:18-19
 - *you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*
 - Just as Jesus promised - the gospel spread out from Jerusalem
 - Persecution sent light-bearers to Gentiles (w/o Bible) in Antioch
 - Here, the church in Antioch sent Paul, Barnabas, and team to

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- ❖ Instruction in the form of prophecy and promise
 - *you will be my witnesses ...to the ends of the earth.*
 - This is what will happen! That’s the way the gospel works.
 - Saul saw Jesus as the Messiah - was fully forgiven - he gave witness
 - ♦ Amazing! The anti-Jesus persecutor and killer, fully pardoned, acted!
 - Look: *...brothers, let it be known to you that through this Jesus forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you, also forgiveness from everything from which you could not be justified through the law of Moses. In this Jesus, everyone who believes is justified. ...As Paul and Barnabas were leaving, the people kept begging them to speak again on this same subject on the next Sabbath...* v. 38-39, 42 EHV
 - Jesus rescued us from our sin by making the full payment & rising to life to give us a new guaranteed standing with God - **unbelievably awesome!**
 - ♦ It’s far more than interesting. It’s light out of darkness, hope, new life.
 - ♦ It reveals God & draws us to him - restores us to *child of God* status
 - Changed by the Light, we become his lights, revealing Jesus the Savior.
 - It’s not *you must*. It’s *you will be*. It’s our character, identity, new purpose.

- ❖ Growing into our mission. Kindling the light.
 - Guilt **never** makes us fit for this mission. The biting Law comes through.
 - Only humble awe of being rescued & exploration of new life in Christ!
 - ♦ The more I know what sin is, how perverse & sick it is to choose *other* vs. God - to trust lies vs. God = death - separates God/Good/Life
 - ♦ Why would God rescue a rebel like me?! Why? **Unfathomable love.**
 - ♦ He rescues me from me - to belong to him & be remade holy/like him
 - Not just rescued **from** - but **for** Light, fulness, life.
 - His mission fits me for his mission - this mission and ministry.
 - Read Scripture and ask: *what?* and *so what?* **Fact** and **implications**
 - ♦ You’ll experience God’s rescue & see other people need it too!
- ❖ *you will be my witnesses ...to the ends of the earth.* How?!
 - You & I live in a place at *the ends of the earth* - far from Jerusalem.
 - ♦ Jesus planted you and me here - to be his lights.
 - ♦ Open your eyes to the ripe field. We’re surrounded by people in need of Jesus’ rescue.
 - ♦ Jesus is bringing *the ends of the earth* to our neighborhood/door steps
 - ♦ In our WELS fellowship - *you and I own this neighborhood*
 - WELS *exists to make disciples throughout the world for time and for eternity.* - We’re a fellowship to be what Jesus called us to be and do.
 - ♦ Hmong Fellowship Church, Vietnam: *We thank you for the WELS training for the past three years. Now, we believe that we have salvation. Without that, today we would still be living in the darkness of Satan. We believe that God already answered our prayers through the WELS.*
 - Started with a YouTube of WELS Hmong Pastor’s sermon - rescued law based group, harmony noted by government, researched, invited us
 - ♦ 10 years ago LATTE was cut. Now Facebook (smartphones) > 1 million, most Central & South American counties, 4K requests for online classes
 - ♦ Internet: new groups, seek training, established fellowship
 - ♦ In WELS you are witnessing *to the ends of the earth.*
 - Don’t just hitch your wagon for a ride and miss the joy and fulfillment.
 - Seize your mission w/o travel. Or travel on short term mission trips.
 - Read mission news. Actively and aggressively pray. LWMS Calendar.
 - 5% of your offerings support this work. Special gifts on line.
 - Take ownership so you taste all Jesus has planned for you.
 - He saved you from an empty fleeting life to one with eternal value.

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