

You are part of the big picture!

World mission... the heartbeat of God!

Of course I find World mission to be the coolest and most exciting endeavor one can be a part of. It is so awesome because we tap into the heartbeat of God. But many always seem surprised... yeah yeah! "go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to all the world" Really... Is mission such a big deal to God? Isn't it just a sideline issue?

Missions did not start in the new testament, but from the first day God created man, from one generation to the next, His command was for man to fill the **whole earth** with God's presence. "God blessed them and said be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth" To Abram God said "Leave your country, your people and go to the land I will show you.. I will make you a great nation and I will bless you and you will be a blessing...and all people on earth will be blessed through you.

Our prosperity comes with a responsibility... We are so blessed to bring God to the nations. In Malachi, God rebuked Israel who kept the blessing to themselves. God's last words ... Israel, you have not fulfilled what I have called you to do... praise the name of God to all nations. Then God was silent for 400 years and then Jesus came...

Why did Jesus get angry?

Right after Jesus enters into the ministry, He goes into the temple and finds people selling and corrupting the temple (John 2). He gets mad, makes a whip and kicks everybody out. Now in Mark 11, three years after his first cleansing of the temple, he returns and finds no change, no fruit. Then through a fig tree, speaks a judgment over Israel Why? Jesus said... my Father's house shall be a house of prayer for all nations. But why did he get so angry?

Many gentiles who were converted to Judaism (God-fearers and Proselytes) dreamed of worshiping God in Jerusalem. They would travel long distances throughout the Roman Empire and their travel would often take weeks, even months. As they would arrive at the Temple, their thrill is turned to frustration. They are only allowed in the Court of the Gentiles, but it is where the money changers were set up. They try to worship God but all the noise, arguing over the high prices, the smells and sounds of the animals makes it almost impossible. They leave empty, dejected, and disappointed. As Jesus comes on the scene and sees all of this, He is sickened. The Jews had no consideration for the Gentile worshipers, they forgot that God's heart has always been for the nations!

Was the day of Pentecost done in a corner?

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” It is evident that God’s desire and command has not changed, He still wants to reach & fill the whole world with His presence.

On the day of Pentecost, when God filled the “whole house” with His Spirit (Acts 2). He did not do it secretly in a dark corner. In verse 2 the word for “whole house” is the Greek word “*oikos*” and it means place, temple, or palace. We know it couldn’t have been in a small room because people from all nations were present and heard the disciples speak in tongues and magnify God in their own native language. I believe it happened in the outer court of the temple. That day people from many nations came for the feast, they heard the Gospel and were converted... This is the day God birthed the church and it started with a mission emphasis. God’s intention was always to touch nations. Still today God so loves the world... and He wants to use you and I to show it.

You are part of the team!

So we must ask ourselves, God, what have you called me to do in fulfilling the Great Commission? Not IF but WHAT should I do? Your birth was NOT an accident! You could have been born 1,000 years ago but God intended for you to be alive today! WHY? You are a piece of the puzzle in fulfilling the BIG PICTURE.

Some of you have never considered that question because you think: That’s what we have the missionaries for? But this is not just for missionaries but for everyone of us? When God calls a missionary, He calls A WHOLE TEAM! Romans 10 says it best... How can the people of the nations hear the Good News of Jesus unless someone goes? BUT how can they go unless someone (like YOU & ME) sends them with prayers, financial support, and encouragement?

Whether you go or not, you will always need to support MISSIONS. Someone once said: “I’m not everyone, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I am going to do something, lest I end up doing nothing.” In God’s eyes senders are as important as the Goers.

God looks at the TEAM PICTURE. 1 Sam. 30:24-25... but as his part is that goes down to the battle, so shall his part be that carries by the stuff: they shall share alike. And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day. You might not want or be able to go but you can help someone who does. You can make it count for eternity. Remember... WHEN WE GO, YOU GO !