

God's Call: Serving the Kingdom at Any Hour

A Missionary's Journey and the Power of Availability

By Taki Korianitis

I am such a creature of routine that whenever something happens that disturbs my routine, I am absolutely discombobulated. We have the great delight for this vast crowd to host our missionaries to Greece, Tacki and April Coronitus. They are the couple that my wife and I are prayerfully and delightfully anticipating serving God with on the island of Zakynthos. Zakynthos is the westernmost island of Greece and it has a 3,000-year history. His family has been on that island for 400 years. In short, he was trained to be a Greek Orthodox priest before his ordination to the Greek Orthodox priesthood. He went on a vacation, came to Southern California to visit an uncle, and he was going to be here for two or three months. He met a young lady that he was fascinated to meet and he invited her out to dinner and she told him in so many words to drop dead and she invited him to church. He went to the church where she was a member in Somas and it was pastored by a friend of ours. Those of you who have been here at Calvary Road for a while will remember Marvin Odell, the pastor and singer.

Over the course of the next couple of weeks, he heard the gospel presented very clearly. And you would think a guy who's, you know, his first language is Greek and the New Testament is written in Greek, you'd think he would get it. But no, God uses men to reach men. And over the course of time, he came to know Christ as his savior. In due time, the two of them married. I think he spent eight years in the US. Four of those years was serving in the United States Army and then God began to deal with him about the gospel ministry and so he went back to his home on the island of Zakynthos and was treated by the population there as an apostate. He had apostatized orthodoxy and he's been there, he'll tell you how many years he's been there, but over the course of time he has put to rest any notions that he's a heretic. He and his wife have had four children, they've raised their children in the community, he's been on the school board, all this kind of stuff, so he has put to rest any notions that he's a heretic.

He has a number of vibrant ministries going on in the community that are having a tremendous impact in that rock-hard world that they live in. Imagine if he were an American or from any other country goes to Greece as an evangelist, missionary, church planter. The Greek attitude is, "Oh, so you've come to my country to teach me the Greek New Testament?" I don't think so. Well, they don't have that argument against him because he's a Greek. Anyway, they are back in the US for some important meetings and I did not know until I think three days ago, maybe two days ago, that he and his wife were going to be free for this evening. Right now, they are next door introducing themselves to the catechism kids. So let's have a word of prayer, ask God to bless, and we'll take a testimony or two until they get over here and then I'll turn the service over

to him. At the conclusion of his message and presentation of his field and stuff, we're going to take up a love offering. I hope that you will feel liberty and led of God to participate in that.

Let's go to the Lord in prayer at this time, shall we? Father, we thank you for your goodness. We appreciate the opportunity to pray and to lift up our concerns to you about our loved ones, our friends, our church members, our family members, colleagues at work, etc. We pray for Ruby. We pray for Patty. We pray for Jim. We pray for Nazarin. We pray for Brian. We pray for Susanna, the pastor's wife in Port Wayani. We pray for Erica and Sarah's pregnancies. I'm so thankful that my friend Greg has only three more doctor appointments and then he's finished with all of his treatments for lymphoma and he is currently in remission. I'm thankful about that. I praise you for that. We're thankful for the opportunity to read through the word of God and we pray that you might minister to our spiritual needs as we do that. And we pray that you might continue to bless Taki and April as they travel. We're thankful that they got here safely. We pray that departing here, they get to their next destination safely. And we do want to again remember Charlie Kirk's wife and his two children, his sister, his mother, his father, his father-in-law, his mother-in-law. What heartache, what pain, what sorrow they have experienced. I pray that you might help us to take a step back and to try to put it into context what has happened with this man who was a thoroughgoing evangelist. I pray that you might also bless the time we have together this evening and our most recent exposure to the ministry of the Coronuses. Bless we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Wonder if you have a testimony that you'd like to share before they get back into the auditorium. Anyone? Yes, Caitlyn. Let's hear it good and loud. I had a meeting with some friends and we were talking about politics, but then Christianity got brought up and so I was able to see like they stood on certain topics and I was able to share the gospel with them in what is actually souls for sure of not the church and so it was very unique experience that I never had the opportunity to before to have a one-on-one and it was really interesting to have their perspectives and just bring it back to what the word of the Lord actually says versus what the church says. Amen. Amen. Praise God. I don't know whether you guys realize it or not, but a week ago today, she started a chapter of Turning Point USA at Cal State LA. So pray for her. She's the president. Okay? And so pray for her little group that they'll have an impact on campus. Some years ago, Lisa Djavana started a chapter of Young Americans for Freedom chapter and she arranged to bring in Ben Shapiro, who was just an up-and-coming young debate champion. And right at the last minute, the president of Cal State LA notified Shapiro, "Your speech has been cancelled. Do not come." He said, "Try to stop me." So praise God. So we wish you the best. Okay. Anybody else have a testimony you'd like to share? Yes, Ronald. Okay. Good. Good. Anybody else have a testimony you'd like to share? Yes, Jackie. Pam, go get them and bring them back in here. Okay, I'm sorry. Please, pardon the interruption. Which one? Steven or Moses? Steve. Yeah. On the day of his memorial, you probably had something in the neighborhood of 40 or 50 million people in around the world who came together and organized a memorial of some kind. Whether it be South Korea, USA, Canada, UK, France, Spain, Germany, Italy, where else did I leave some out? Did they have anything going on for Charlie Kirk in the Philippines that you know of? Okay. Okay. And so our friends Taki and April Coronitus, come. We've already prayed. We've asked God to bless and it is yours for the rest of the evening.

Good evening. How's everyone tonight? Good. A little warm. We came from North Dakota yesterday and from Colorado. It was in Denver. It was freezing out there. So, it's been a great five weeks. We've been traveling around in the States to visit churches up in northern Oregon and Washington and Montana and Dakota and then back down here again. It's good to be with you all again. We had a good time with the children this evening. I just want to share some very basic things this evening from the book of Matthew, the Gospel of Matthew. Before we go on into chapter 20, I just want to thank you so much for your prayers and for your support to the ministry in Greece for all these years and it's just been great being partners in the gospel, collaborators as Paul says, and with one another and together with God. As the word of God says, whatever we do in Greece and whoever comes in faith to faith in Jesus Christ, God ascribes it to you. You are part of that. You are blessed by giving and praying. I do want to remind you when you give for any missionary, not just for us, pray for that missionary. Because it is not the money that keeps us there. It is your prayers that keep us in the field. It is when we're discouraged and when we are attacked and when we just want to quit and come back in the states and hide in the church. Many times, it is your prayers that keep us there. Money will buy the gas, we'll buy the food, we'll buy the Bibles or the things we need to do to be there, but the actual presence and strength of the Lord through your prayers. So don't just give electronically. Don't just give, you know, it's gone out. Pray for that money you give. Pray that God will be glorified through that giving and that we'll be able to continue the work we're doing.

Chapter 20, Matthew. For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which went out early in the morning to hire laborers into his vineyard. When he had agreed with the laborers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. He went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said unto them, "Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right, I will give you." and they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle and said unto them, "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" They say unto him, "because no man hath hired us." He said unto them, "Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive." So when even was come, the Lord of the vineyard said unto his steward, "call the laborers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first." When they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more, and they likewise received every man a penny. When they had received it, they murmured against the good man of the house, saying, "These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and the heat of the day." But he answered one of them, and said, "Friend, I do thee no wrong. Didst not thou agree with me for a penny? Take that thine is, and go thy way. I will give unto this last even as unto thee. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil because I am good?" So the last shall be first and the first last for many be called but few chosen.

This is of course taken out of the context if we just read these verses on their own because there's a series that the Lord expands on and this kingdom of heaven most of the time in the book of

Matthew, it's the literal millennial kingdom of the Lord. Now, the Lord has not been crucified yet, has not been buried or risen. So, we are in a period that the Messiah, the promised Messiah from the Old Testament has appeared. What we see in the book of Matthew is the promise of the Messiah is the coming, the birth of the Messiah is the proclamation of the king by John and then we see Jesus himself starting this discourse telling the people that he is him. I am the one who you have been waiting. Now, we know also in the mindset of the everyday Jew that the Gentiles were cursed and they will not make it into God's kingdom or the kingdom of heaven. The Lord here, the main thing he's really saying to them is that I am here for you and you reject me. You're the first ones that I come. You're the nation that I have given all my truths. You're the nation that I have entrusted for you to handle the kingdom. And you do not receive me. Yet, there's going to be others from other nations that will sit down with Abraham. If you'd like to go with me at the last verses of chapter 19, verse 27. Then answered Peter and said unto him, "Behold, we have forsaken all and followed thee. What shall we have therefore?" Jesus said unto them, "Verily I say unto you that ye which have followed me in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Everyone that hath forsaken houses or brethren or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands for my name's sake shall receive an hundredfold and shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first shall be last and the last shall be first."

That's why he also gives them the rich man. It's so hard for a rich man because in their minds, if you were rich, you were blessed by God. So all these sermons, all these examples that the Lord brings to them, it's basically turning over what it was in their mind. Now we know in the scripture, there's only one correct interpretation, but there may be different applications of the same. But this was written for a certain interpretation. What can we learn from it? Because somebody can say, well, we're not the Jews of the day of the Lord and we're not waiting for the Messiah, but now we, after 2,000 years have passed, we are his church and we know what's going on. So, how can we apply? Is this not applicable to us today? No, it is applicable to us. There's different ways that people have tried to apply this. When we say application, we do not mean the actual interpretation. It's a metaphor. You move something from here to here. When we say a metaphor, you're actually taking it from a certain truth and you apply it to something else. Now interpretation is what is the scripture say, to who is he talking, what is the subject, what is the time, the table of context and all that. That's the interpretation and we interpret that. But from that, we can make different metaphors, applications, bring it to another to us today because every scripture is given for us as the Bible says.

When the Jews reject him after he's brought, he came into Jerusalem and he brings them an example here about this husbandman having a vineyard and he rented it out. This is the same subject again, but this is how harsh he becomes at the end of chapter 21. He says, well, this husbandman sent his servants to collect the rent. Basically, I'm going to put it in simple English. The people they have hired, they say, well, let's beat these servants and send them back. He sent more servants. They beat the servants. Then he said, I'm going to send my son. They're going to respect my son. This is Jesus. He's talking about himself. The husbandman is God. Israel is the people I have hired. The vineyard is his truths, his treasure. It's everything that he has revealed to us. At the Old Testament times, all that was revealed about God and about the world, it was entrusted to the Jews, to give it to the rest of the world. So this vineyard, we have many examples in the Old Testament that is his precious possession. So they see the son coming and

they say, well, this is the heir, he's going to inherit everything. So let's take him out of the vineyard and kill him so there will be nothing anymore to anybody to bother us and collect anything. So they take him outside the vineyard and Jesus was prophesying about himself that he's going to be crucified outside Jerusalem because that's what exactly happened. They took him outside. They killed him. Jesus asks, "What shall this owner do to these people?" Well, they should be destroyed, the disciples say. So he turns to them, mostly to the leaders. It says, "Therefore I say unto you, the kingdom of God shall be taken from you and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof." He's talking about this nation, the church. He took the kingdom of God from the nation of Israel and he gave it to the Gentiles, to us, to the church, basically to any Jew that believed in him and to any Gentile that came into the church. God has entrusted his kingdom to you and I.

I want you to stop and think now. What is your role in your life? What are you living your life for? God has entrusted you and I with his kingdom. How serious does that resonate in your heart and mind? Is it just church? Is it just Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday? Is it Sunday school? Is it just the instruments, the organs? Or is it just to do whatever I need to do to sing the hymns and to what is, who are we is the question I'm asking you right now. What is your role in life? Your existence. If you are a born-again believer in Jesus Christ, if you have been sanctified by God the Father and you are preserved in Jesus Christ, as Jude said, you should be earnestly contending for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints. This faith was delivered to Israel. Israel did not keep up the deal. God took the kingdom of God from their hands and gave it to another nation, a nation of believers. This nation is us.

How seriously have you taken your life, who you are in Christ, who you are in this day and age that you live. What are your plans? How do you realize God is bestowing the trust of his kingdom to your hands and mine? We're not just happen to be here tonight. In Matthew 20, when I read to you, he talks about the vineyard that this owner had and he went out the first hour and he hired some people. Now, this is, I've never seen this picture before. I was reading this when I was in Greece before I came to the Lord. But when I came to the United States, I saw this phenomenon and I never seen it in Greece that in the morning, early in the morning in certain crossroads, there would be people waiting there. It was not a bus stop. It wasn't anything special. It was just different corners and crossroads within the town. Then I would see a van stop and the door open and two or three of them get in and go or a truck and then three or four of them jump in the back of the truck and go. I'm like, what's going, I didn't know that there were people waiting for work and whoever will pass by, they didn't have a regular job and they just waited around in the corners. Whoever comes, they were available for them to be hired by any contractor, by any landowner or even a homeowner. You need somebody for help. You go to the corner. You say, "Guys, I need one or two people to come and help me that jump in the truck. How much you going to get? \$40 a day or \$50 a day was back then." This is exactly what we see here. These people are in the corners waiting. They don't have work, a regular job somewhere. They're not hired somewhere regularly. So, they're waiting for work. This owner goes out and says, "Come on, go work in my vineyard." Then he went out the third hour. Then he went out the fifth hour and the ninth all the way to the eleventh hour. The first hour of the day was 6:00 a.m. as you realize. As the day goes on, progresses, nine o'clock would be, eleventh hour would be almost 5:00 p.m. in the afternoon. The twelfth hour to be 6 p.m. That's how the Jews counted the hours of the day.

So what is this picture for us? What the Lord brings here, he hires the guy from the first hour of the day and then he hires all these people during the day and they all get paid the same. The correct interpretation for this text is what? That the Lord is going to call as he said before and after the same we saw in chapter 19, chapter 21 is the same subject that listen, many will come from the four corners of the earth and they will sit down with Abraham at the table and the children that were chosen will not sit down. The message was for the everyday Jew back then, do not think you're somebody, do not reject me because I am the one you've been waiting for, so I came first to you. You know what's going to happen? You're rejecting me. You're going to be left out. So the whole idea about getting paid the same amount is, it doesn't matter who you think you are. The Lord calls from any area of life. I was trying to find an application for the church for us today. Especially since being a missionary, our minds are always working how to do things. I thought, how can I apply this into the church. Then I thought this, that the hours of the day, that the vineyard is the kingdom of God of course and the husbandman is the Lord. Who are all these people and why all these different hours? Then I thought maybe these are the different hours of life.

If you look, search the scriptures and we know, you know, most of the things I'm telling you right now. God called some people in the first hour of their life. Samuel, here am Lord, little child. Then he called somebody older, 12 years old. David, where is your son? You have another son. This is not it. Samuel says, "Bring me the son that is missing." He gets anointed. Then you see somebody older being called on the third hour of the day. That's Solomon, a young king. God keep and so on. Then you see some people in the last hour of their life, very old to come in and serve the Lord even to prophesy like Simeon. Now Lord, I have seen your glory. He professed Christ. In other words, it doesn't matter how old you are in life. If you're young or a young adult or an adult or so on, God still hires.

God still hires. Some of the young ones think, "Well, I'm too young. What am I going to do for God?" Oh, you don't know. Just get out there in a corner and be available for God to hire you. You don't know what God can do with you. Don't think that you're too young to do anything. Some of you on the eleventh hour or the tenth hour, you think I'm too old to do anything for God. God says, "I'm still hiring in the eleventh hour." You're not too old not to work for the Lord. It's not too late. Of course, in the between hours, we know we all the strong ones who are going to bear the burden. But God can start using you at your young age. I'm looking at the young people in here tonight. You could be hired early in the morning by the Lord and be blessed. The Lord has not stopped hiring people for his kingdom. We're not done. As long as we're breathing, he has entrusted us with his kingdom.

What do we do? Where is our mind? God is looking for workers. If you're not hired, it's because you're not out there making yourself available. If you make and you know what, some people say, well, I don't have this ability. I don't have that ability. I don't have this ability. God does not want your ability. He wants your availability. How available are you so God can hire you? You

don't know the smallest thing that you may do. People will walk through that door and maybe some of you right now, you're not even listening to what I'm saying. Maybe there's someone in here tonight that is going through a troublesome time that you have so much going on in your life that you say, "Oh man, this guy, what is he talking about? He doesn't know what I'm going through." You're not even listening to me. But maybe a young man, a young girl will give you a hug and tell you, "Good evening. How are you tonight?" and give you a smile and that will be much stronger than what I give you from up here tonight. God can use anything and anyone at any time and he is still hiring. Are you available? Are you available?

I want to leave you with just simple thoughts tonight. Not deep theology but deep thoughts. Who are you? What is your role in your life? How God can use you? Are you available? You got so many things to think about tonight. I don't have to expand anymore. I would like pastor to come close. Well, that was good. I had never heard that application before and I was beside myself with delight and I hope and pray that you will. I had, I think I mentioned to you before, I had a little girl walk up to me Sunday morning and she indicated to me that her daddy had told her that she didn't have to wait until she got older to become a Christian. I told her that your daddy is absolutely right. I did say this before. I don't remember which service, but I'm going to tell you again. She said, "How do you become a Christian?" I said, "You trust Jesus as your savior." I said, "Do you know what Jesus saves people from?" She said, "Yes, sins." I said, "Are you a sinner?" She said, "I haven't sinned today." I said, "Honey, you've been sinning all day." She got up and walked away. That's what people do. Adults don't usually get up and walk away. They just close it off. Just click. It's gone. It's gone.

So I hope and pray that you will recognize and repeat to others what brother Coronitus said. Before I wrap it up and we're going to take a love offering for brother Coronitus and his wife. But I want to mention something. You gave a testimony about being in Glendale. You gave a testimony about TPUSA. I think it has not yet been recognized by most people. One facet of what is happening in Western civilization, I believe that from the Garden of Eden, Satan's assault on the family unit has been to disrupt the relationship of husbands and wives. For I've got a couple of books in my library that for a thousand years theologians have been concerned about the effeminacy that is developing in the west. You understand, you've got three main religions in the world. You've got Christianity, a billion people. You've got Islam, a billion people. You've got Hinduism, almost a billion people. Hinduism is, they've got a hundred million gods. It's complete paganism. Obviously, of the two monotheistic religions, one of them is dominantly masculine, and that's Islam. No one in their right mind would deny that Islam is a religion that is man-centered, dominant male at every level and every aspect of the culture and society.

The problem with the west is that there is a surge of effeminacy. It is not unusual for guys to be dominated and controlled and led about by the nose by their wives. If you look at what's happening in the United States over, let's say, the last 150 years, feminism began in the United States in the nineteenth century. It morphed and developed. There might not have been a civil war, but for the rise of feminism and led to a war when the race issue might have been resolved without 650,000 people being killed. But in the twentieth century and in the twenty-first century, I would like for you to think back and contemplate where the leaders have been in these various countries. Has there been a French leader who's been masculine? Even Charles de Gaulle, his personality was dominated by female characteristics. The last masculine prime minister of Great

Britain was Margaret Thatcher. Although she was very much a woman, and I love the woman, admired her, her dominant characteristics were masculine characteristics appropriately wielded by a woman, but she was more man than almost anyone in her country. In the United States, Ronald Reagan was controlled by his wife.

When I was a young man, you had a guy on the scene who didn't get into politics, but he was very political. The primary reason the left hated him is because he was thoroughly masculine. There's a guy named Rush Limbaugh. I have always been of the opinion that the real attractiveness of President Trump to so many Americans has been the fact he's, he's not a moral guy. He's not a godly man. He's not a Christian man, but he's masculine. He is unapologetically masculine. I want you to take a step back and consider the impact that Charlie Kirk has had not just in the United States but around the world. Charlie Kirk was a 31-year-old man. All man. All man. In an era when there are so many elite and smug guys who think they're so smart, but when it gets down to push and shove, they roll over for their wives. They yield to their wives. They allow themselves to be dominated in crisis situations by their wife. Most of these guys think they're the leaders because they're happy. What they don't realize is their wife just runs so far out in front of them. She's so far upstream from those guys that she's actually providing the leadership and they're too, excuse me, they're too stupid to know.

We've got a crisis going on in our culture and it is a masculinity crisis. Even those guys who imagine themselves to be leaders are married to women who delusionally imagine that they have the right to veto their husband. They will veto him with kids. They will veto him with major expenses. They will veto him when it comes to vacation or what car to buy her. She'll just step up and she'll just veto it. The guy thinks that that's okay. That's not okay. That's just not God's plan. One of the admirable characteristics about this guy is that he is a manly man. He really is. He really is. You'd be surprised at how many pastors aren't. Because the bottom line is that the really significant decisions that are made in their homes, in their ministries, are not made by them, made by their wives. It's one of the reasons I am so delighted that Calvary Road Baptist Church supports the Coronituses because I'm of the opinion that you can have a guy who claims to be a Christian, reads his Bible every day, prays every day, witnesses all the time, but when it comes crunch time, if he is not the leader, it is all for naught because in 1 Corinthians chapter 11 we are told what the chain of authority is supposed to look like. The head of Christ is God. The head of the man is Christ and the head of the woman is her husband. As Christ has from eternity past been functionally subordinate to God the Father while being equal. So wives should be functionally subordinate to their husbands while being equal. So that's a second sermon tonight. It was bubbling up. So we're going to take up a love offering. Ushers, if you'll get ready for that. Let me just mention some announcements before we do that.