

EQUIP

July 11, 2018

On Distant Shores
The Life and Work of the Modern Missionary

I. The Message

A. A lost world

1. We need to see the world for what it is

1 John 5:19 “And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.”

2. We need to see people for what they are

2 Corinthians 4:3 “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

3. We need to consider the plight of the lost

John 8:24 “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”

4. Why we don't see the lost

a. Distracted

- i. By Entertainment (average person 2 hours/day social media; teens more than 3x times that!)
- ii. By Prosperity

b. Apathetic

"A tiny group of believers who have the gospel keep mumbling it over and over to themselves. Meanwhile, millions who have never heard it once fall into the flames of eternal hell without ever hearing the salvation story." - K.P. Yohannan

c. Busy

B. A great Savior

1. He is exclusive

Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

2. He is inclusive

1 Tim 1:15 "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

Acts 16:31 "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

3. The unknown source of salvation

Acts 17:23 "For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, to the unknown God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you."

- a. Paul was convinced that he held the answer to the spiritual ignorance of the world
- b. The message of the missionary is to reveal the unknown God

C. A called people

1. We have one life

James 4:14 "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

"And people who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives and when the bubble has burst they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted." - Nate Saint

a. Understand its value

Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

2 Corinthians 5:15 "And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."

b. Understand your obligation

Romans 1:14 "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

i. There was an urgency he felt in his debt to mankind

Romans 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

"I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light" -
John Keith Falconer

2. We must have an awakened life

a. Spiritually

1 John 4:19 "We love him, because he first loved us."

i. Purity and prayer always precede a missionary movement (Haystack Revival)

b. Geographically

i. The missionary has always followed the explorer

ii. No great missionary movement appears independent of discovery or political expansion

"The end of the geographical feat is but the beginning of the missionary enterprise." –
David Livingstone

iii. We need to be students of the world

Lamentations 3:51 "Mine eye affecteth mine heart..."

c. Biographically

i. Reading the life stories of missionaries

1. David Brainerd's life influenced William Carey (India), Samuel Marsden (Australia and New Zealand) and Henry Martyn (India and Persia)
2. It was the story of D.L. Moody's life that God used to stir me to work for Him. It was the life of Brainerd and Livingstone that God used to call me to Missions.

<https://www.wholesomewords.org/missions/bioindex.html>