

PART 4 HANDOUT: Preparing for Harvest: A Heart for God-A Vision for the World-Luke 24:45-49

A Spirit-filled Church does Not just Organize and Process Members—It is Empowered By the Holy Spirit to Equip Believers to Be Transformed by Scripture So that they Focus on the Mission to Make Disciples.

- **Acts 1:8**, “You Will Be My Witnesses!” A Witness is Not A Choice...It’s “Our Identity” in Christ!
- **Point: Being a Witness for Jesus Christ is Not an Option...It’s An Expectation!**

We are to Rescue the Perishing, Care for the Dying, Snatch them in Pity from Sin and the Grave; Weep o’er the erring one, Lift up the Fallen, tell them of Jesus the Mighty to Save.

- Our Priority is To Rescue Those Who Are Without Christ! God’s Vision Must Be OUR Vision!

Text Is Luke 24: 45-49: “Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are Witnesses of these things. 49 I am going to Send You what my Father has Promised; but Stay in the City until You have been Clothed with Power from on High.”

Where Would you be today if Someone Had Not Shared the Good News of the Gospel with You? I Believe...If someone had Never told You about Jesus--You’d Still be Separated from God!

- You Would Still be Facing the Prospect of His Righteous Judgment after Death...HOPELESS!

John 14:6: “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father Except through Me.” There Is Only One Way! Sadly, They Want to Believe that They Can Make it On Their Own...Works!

KEY #1: At Salvation God Plants His Vision in Our Hearts...And that Vision is Our Purpose...It Is OUR MISSION...To Reach “People Who Need the Lord”!

However...Our “Old Nature Seeks to Entangle” Us with so Many Other things that it Can Choke Out God’s Vision for Mission! Read 2 Tim 2:4 & Hebrews 12:1-3

KEY #2: Only When We Surrender to Gods Plan...Make His Vision Our Vision...Will We Experience The Harvest!

It Is This Surrender and Steps of Obedience That Lead Us to INTIMATELY Follow Christ...And As We Do...God Will Give Us HIS Heart for the Lost!

Intimacy with God Produces 3 Things that Empower Us To Accomplish His Mission!

1. We Will Have an *Insatiable Desire* to “Know” Him Better...Not Just Know About Him!
2. We Will Have A Greater Desire to “Obey” Him!
3. We Will *Desire* to “Share” Christ Mark 16:15

A *Private Faith* Does Not Please God! God Wants Every Person to Hear the Gospel of Salvation!

- Read: 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:3-4; 2 Pet. 3:9; Acts 1:8

KEY #3: Because Jesus Paid Our Sin Debt, We Have been Given a Lifelong Purpose to Spread the Good News To Everyone!

Only God can Open a Person’s Heart to the Gospel...However, Our Job is to Tell Them, To Spread the Seed, To Proclaim Christ Until He Comes again!

- God’s Plan for LifePoint Church is to Be A “Mission Focused Church!” Carrying the Message To Our Families...Our Communities...Our Workplaces...And To The Entire World!

His Plan Involves Three Parts:

1. It involves The Person of Jesus Christ—HE Offered His Life as a “Substitutionary Atonement” for Our Sins. >>>Christ Replaced Our Sin with His Righteousness!

2. **His Plan Involves The Power of the Holy Spirit—Knowing the Job was Beyond Us, Jesus sent His Holy Spirit to Live within Believers, “Empowering and Equipping” Each Believer to Carry Out the Task of Witnessing to the World (Luke 24:49).**
3. **His Command...Our Mission is to Take It to All Creation—Because God Loves Everyone on Earth, He Desires No Place be Left Un-Evangelized.**

God’s Plan for a Mission Focus Church Focuses on Fulfilling the Great Commission:

- **And This Requires “A Radical Re-Orientation of Our Lives Priorities!”**
- **It Includes Re-arranging Our Plans for this Life...To Re-Prioritize How We Spend Our time, And Our Resources During this Life!**
- **A Missional Church Clearly Proclaims Christ’s Message of Redemption.**

This is the BIG PICTURE! This is What God Wants Each of Us to Understand, “Being a “Disciple of Jesus Christ Demands A Focused Commitment to the Harvest!”

D.L. Moody tells the Story of his Conversion: “When I was in Boston I used to attend a Sunday school class, and one day my teacher came around behind the counter of the shop I was at work in, and put his hand upon my shoulder, and talked to me about Jesus Christ and My Soul. **I had Not felt that I had a Soul till then.** I said to myself, ‘*This is a very strange thing. Here is a man who never saw me till lately, and he is Weeping Over My Sins...and I Never Shed a Tear About Them.*’ I understand it now, and I Know what it is to have a Passion for Men’s Souls and Weep Over Their Sins. **Then Moody said...I Don’t Remember what he said...But I Can Still Feel the Power of that Man’s Hand on My Shoulder.”**

POINT: The Concern and Tears of a Godly Teacher Resulted in the Conversion of a Man who saw a Million Souls Saved in his Evangelistic Campaigns.

Question for LifePoint...Are We Willing to Make Reaching the Lost Our PRIORITY? Luke 9:23-26:
Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must Deny Themselves and Take Up their Cross Daily and Follow Me. 24 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. 25 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? 26 Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”

- Here Jesus Contrasts A Temporal Focused Life with Living Our Life With An Eternal Purpose!

We’ve heard the saying, “Only one life, ’twill soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last. A Poem by C. T. Studd, 19th century Cambridge cricket player turned missionary. (A Few Verses)

Only one life, the still small voice, Gently pleads for a better choice Bidding me selfish aims to leave, And to God’s holy will to cleave; **Only one life, ’twill soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last.**

Only one life, a few brief years, Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears; Each with its clays I must fulfill, living for self or in His will; **Only one life, ’twill soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last.**

Let my love with fervor burn, And from the world now let me turn; Living for Thee, and Thee alone, Bringing Thee pleasure on Thy throne; **Only one life, “twill soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last.**

Only one life, yes only one, Now let me say, “Thy will be done”; And when at last I’ll hear the call, I know I’ll say “twas worth it all”; **Only one life, ’twill soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last. ”**

LIFE” POINT: May God’s Vision Be Our Vision, To Rescue Those Who Are Perishing Without Christ!