

CALLED TO GO

By

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Unless otherwise stated, all scripture quotations in this booklet are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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Scripture Readings: Matthew 9 v 35 – 10 v 5

Ken Livingston, he is the Lord Mayor of London yesterday said he was very proud that London was hosting the Gay Pride march. Yesterday thousands of gay's demonstrated what they thought of God's word and Christian principals. They are trying to make it Europe's biggest Gay Festival. One man who was interviewed said "It was about time that we were visible, not hiding, expressing ourselves in the open".

If this is not Sodom and Gomorrah revisited, then what is? God loves the Gay man or woman, but he hates what they practice, just as he hates adultery and lying and thieving and drunkenness.

If the Church does not stand up and speak out, then the Gay's will take over this country along with the Moslem's. The Church needs to go; it has stayed in too long. "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature". That commission was for us. "Go and make disciples" not lesbians and homosexuals of every creature, fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

I could be pulled over the coals, but somebody needs to say it! The reason why the Government are not doing anything about it and passing laws a one or two o'clock in morning when there is nobody in the house is because most of them are gay themselves.

That is the sad thing – The Church has remained silent for too long. It is time the Church found it's voice. "The harvest is truly plentiful, but the labourers are few".

When I read that I wondered why he said that. Well - he had just finished preaching, ministering and winning souls, healing bodies, delivering from demon possession and giving people who were broken, weary and hurt a chance and giving them an opportunity to take life with two hands and say "I'm not living like that anymore, I'm following him". If you are following him, you need to let go of the rest in order to follow him properly and effectively. Until you let go of your sins you will never enjoy the blessing of freedom.

We see the campaign of Christ. He is not telling us to do what he hasn't done himself. He had an itinerary and he went, taught, preached and healed the sick and ministered to people.

Then we see the compassion of Christ. When Jesus looked at somebody, he didn't see a new shirt and a tie, lovely dress and nice makeup – he saw a soul and said 'I'm going to the cross for that person, I'm going the whole way, I'm paying the price to redeem them from a lost eternity, because I love them and I don't want them to go and I want to give them a chance that they've never had before.

In our generation there are people outside the door who have never heard or been given a chance to hear the gospel. When Jesus saw the multitude he didn't see a crowd or a mob, he saw individuals with names, characters, backgrounds and an eternities. So when he seen them, it broke his heart, he was moved, his bowels moved and his heart was crushed. Something happened inside him.

If we could look at this world through the eyes of Jesus, we would take less and give more. Compassion without action is just sympathy. Compassion needs to be channelled into concern and action.

Then see his concern. He said “They are like sheep without a shepherd”. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, to send out labourers into the harvest field”. Do you know in China (a communist country) at this time are sending missionaries to the west and yet they are under communist rule meeting in house churches or small rooms and families homes in secret. He was concerned for people, people need help, reached – notice not educated, they need saved! He wants you to reach the people. You don’t need to have education to get into heaven but you do need a spiritual B.A (Born Again). He sees the challenge, look at the harvest – it’s amazing!

There are 140,000 in the district of Falkirk. Look at the harvest; they could fill every church a 100 times over! Look at the empty seats and then look at the harvest – you need to bring somebody. Somebody needs to tell somebody about somebody who can change somebody.

The challenge is “Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, to send out labourers into the harvest”.

Next is the Call. He answered his own question and called the 12.

His Commission – he sent them out to minister. He didn’t send them out to have a good time. Go you into all the world. Go you and make disciples. Go you.... Go you... Go you.... This is a realising ceremony this morning. You are being released to go on behalf of you master to go and invite, bring and make disciples of all the nations. [Luke 10 v 1 & 2] “After these things the Lord appointed 70 others also and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He himself was about to go. Then He said to them, the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send our labourers into His harvest”. Notice – He called the 12 and sent them, and then later when they came back he sent out 70. Wouldn’t it be great if we all were commissioned today – stood with out hands on our hearts “I’m going, Lord enable me to go, help me, equip me, I’m going before this year is out to win at least 1 person to Jesus”. If everyone of us done that we would need a Word and Worship Centre before next year!

I recall reading about one of the greatest tragedies of history. It took place in 1271 the year that Mark Opolo’s father visited the Cubla Kan, the ruler of China, India and the East. They were so impressed with his testimony and attracted to Christianity that he told Mark Opolo’s father “Tell your High Priest to send 100 men skilled in your religion and I’ll be baptised and all my barons and great men and their subjects will be baptised too. Soon there will be more believers and Christians and fully devoted followers here in the East than anywhere else in the rest of the world”. That happened in 1271 – the tragedy is nothing was done. No-one was sent after 30 years only a handful was sent. Too few, too little to late!

When opportunity invites you to dance, you need to dance or opportunity will find another partner. God wants you to reach somebody, but if you don’t take up the challenge and opportunity then he will use somebody else. God has somebody waiting for you to invite to Jesus Christ in under the sound of the Gospel. You may not know who it is yet, but you might be the only Christian somebody knows, I pray that God will use you before this year is out. Can you imagine if those 100 missionaries had been sent to India, China and the Far East today the world would have been a different place today if China 1.5 billion people, India 1 billion + and the rest of the orient had heard the glorious, life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ and had been convert to Christ? The tragedy is that the harvest was there and plenty of it but the labourers were not sent. No-body cared enough to go. Christ’s compassion never moved anybody to go. Believers in the west were too busy preaching

prosperity and sacrifice was not in their agenda. So they wanted to prosper but they didn't want to suffer for the gospel of Christ.

At the end of World War II after the atomic bomb was dropped forcing the Japanese into surrender, General MacArthur head of the American Army – Mad Mac pleaded with the churches in America to send a 1000 missionaries to Japan immediately after the war believing in one generation that they could be won for Christ. Alas! Another tragedy and today less than 1% of Japan's population is Christian. Tragedy upon tragedy.

When the Iron Curtain was broken down, the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons flooded the Soviet Union with their material and their deceiving spirit. Still the church disobeyed the order.

The question is: Do we care enough to feel for lost people? Do we care enough to be moved with compassion? Moved to the point of being compelled to go? Constrained to reach out and touch lost people? May the Word of the Lord in this house move you and me into another level – The reaching level, the soul-winning level, the proclaiming level to move you to go, care, love and reach. This message today is for someone here today for the mission field. This is a beginning, a call, a confirmation, a challenge. Someone is being called to the mission field today whether it is home or abroad; God knows somebody sitting here wants to be a missionary. Let me inspire you, start at home. Don't tell me you are going to the mission field when you have done nothing at home. It starts at home, it starts in your local church, it starts in your local community and when you show you have a passion for the lost then God opens the doors later on. Beginning at Jerusalem and then Judea. If he can't use you at home then he will never send you over there because you will just be baggage. Don't tell me God has called you to the nations and the mission fields if you can't come to a prayer meeting, a bible study, breaking of bread or gospel outreach at home. Don't insult my intelligence. Christianity begins at home, not just your own house but your own home church.

If you haven't been called to go then you must be called to pray! Not everybody is called to go to the Far East or China, but you can be called to pray. Everybody can be called to pray, that God will raise up and send out labourers into the harvest field. God is looking for you to be a labourer or an intercessor or both.

He is looking for young men to have a go. Most of the young men in Northern Ireland were involved in the paramilitaries because they were willing and prepared to have a go. It was all young men in the prisons and the Godfathers were older men who used the young men. It was all the young men. In Vietnam the average age was 19 years old. God is looking for young men who are not afraid to have a go, young women who will lay themselves on the altar and say "Here am I Lord, send me". Men and women who will offer themselves and whatever time they have got to follow God's will. Even Senior Citizens – God has got something for you! God has something for everybody. Senior Citizens who may feel redundant and retired or are of no longer any use! That is a lie from hell, get released into ministry. You can rust out or you can burn out, but if God is with you, then you will never wear out if you are doing God's will.

The Children of Israel walked for 40 years in the wilderness, they didn't have to change their sandals, because they were following the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire. Some of them moaned and grumbled just like us. There are people here today and all you do murmur about what you haven't got or can't do. Will you lie down and die or get up and live? The gospel is not for a person who wants to lie down, roll over

and play dead, that's not what the gospel is about. Jesus said "Get up and go". Your attitude will either kill you or else release you into your destiny – so get a life! You don't retire in God's work; you serve in God's work! Get a life and smile. It doesn't matter what you are going through you can still smile. "Count it all joy when you go through trials and tribulations". If you lose your smile you have lost your victory. No matter what was going on Job could say "The Lord has given me and the Lord has taken away from me, blessed be the name of the Lord". Some of you need to get a smile back on your faces because there is something missing in your hearts.

In his book 'The Star Thrower' Lawrence Eslie tells of the day he was walking along the beach where thousands of starfish had been wasted or washed up on the shore. He noticed a little boy picking them up one by one and throwing them back into the ocean. When he asked the why, the boy said "If I don't they will die". "But how can saving so few make a difference when so many are doomed" the author asked, the little boy picked up another starfish and threw it back into the ocean and said "It is going to make a lot of difference for this one".

Whoever you are inviting, it can make a lot of difference for that one person. Jesus looks at one's not crowds. The author went home and tried to write but he couldn't because he couldn't forget the vision of the boy lifting one starfish at a time and putting it back. So he closed his book, put his pen down and went and helped the boy for the rest of the day to make a difference for one!

Brother and sister are you trying to make a difference? If the people you have asked never come, are you going to pack it in, are you going to stop asking. That is what the devil wants you to do. "Let us now become weary in well-doing, for in due season we will reap if we do not faint".

George Eastman in 1877 was a budding photographer and he used to carry all the bulky equipment around with him because of his love of photography, but George dreamed of a time when photography could be accessible to everyone on the street. In 1881 he started his own company. George tried & tried and experimented 471 times and on the 472 time he came up with a roll of thin film in a small pocket camera called the Kodak camera – don't give up. Don't say you have invited enough or that it's finished, don't say I can't or do I have to do it again! Brother and Sister that goes for forgiveness as well. How many times does my brother sin that I have to forgive him - 7 times? No 70 x 7. If you have tried and given up then keep on trying as you have 471 experiments to try from today!

If you want to bring people, don't meet them at the door, tell them what time you will pick them up. Do you know that 95% of people who come to Christ come through 1 person bringing 1 person. All the advertising does help but the greatest % of people who come to Christ is personal invitation, face to face.

God called Abraham and he went. To experience the success that Abraham did you need to operate in the faith that Abraham had. He stepped out in obedience to the call of God. He did something that he had never done before. Faith made this pagan leave the comforts of home and why he couldn't or shouldn't and obeyed God and God blessed him.

We are the recipients of Abraham's obedience. He was the Father of faith.

God wants you to live for him today, not when you feel like it. Young person, God wants you to marry a Christian. Watch who you are marrying not just anybody will do! Get the right person in your life.

God doesn't just want you to leave anybody behind. He wants you to bring them with you. Don't leave your wife and kids in the house when you are at the meeting. "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord". Don't leave your family to watch evil pornographic films or violence.

Boys after watching violent films took rifles and went into their school and shot 4 people dead and 20 others were taken to hospital.

We need to bring our kids with us and sometimes it is against their will. But there will come a day when they will make their own decisions of what they want to do but before that they are under our shepherding and nurturing. I pray they will learn something. Many parents are more concerned about their children's education results or university degrees and college achievements and business accreditation than they are about their spiritual well-being - that is wrong, what is the point if they become a great success and die and go to hell? What is the point if your child is the wealthiest young boy in the community, Scotland, Britain and then dies and goes to the place that nobody wants to go to and misses Heaven? What was all the wealth, work for when you can't take it with you? Jesus didn't have a degree and he changed the world and is still changing the world. I'm not against education and degrees as I believe they can help you. They are only a vehicle to an end and the end is that they will make you a better communicator of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I want my boys to be footballers, but I want them to be servants of God whether full time ministry or not. I pray that there is a legacy being left here for them. We need to pass the baton on to somebody.

The Greek Olympic Games are coming up and the baton will be passed on. Before you die, don't drop the baton, pass it on.

What can I do Pastor? If you can't go across the sea, you can go across the street. God is watching us; he sees us and knows our hearts. "Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do". "God is no man or woman's debtor, whatever you sow, you will reap".

One cold winter evening an old couple dashed into the reception of a small Philadelphia Hotel, sadly the receptionist informed them that there were no vacancies. Turning to face the elements again they were given 1 last option. "Would you like to sleep in my room? It is not a suite but I think you will be comfortable, I can sleep here in the lobby". Reluctantly they accepted.

The next morning at checkout the elderly man looked at the clerk and said "Thank you so much, you should be the manager of the best hotel in the country, maybe someday I'll build one for you". The receptionist smiled and turned to his business. Two years later the receptionist received a roundtrip ticket to New York and a letter thanking him again for his business. Although he had forgotten, he decided that he would take up the invitation and accept their offer. Arriving in New York they took him to the corner of 34th Street on 5th Ave. The elderly gentleman pointing to a magnificent skyscraper said "That is the hotel that I have built for you to manage". The elderly gentleman was William Waldorf Astor, the hotel Waldorf Astoria and the young clerk, George Seabolt it's first ever manager.

Don't forget to sow another seed of kindness today. For you never know what you will reap in return. Somebody needs you to invite them to Christ. Sow and you will reap if you don't lose heart!