

Christ Magnified - Part 5

by Leonard Ravenhill

The sermon emphasizes the importance of being prepared and self-sufficient as a missionary, and having a 'mind' or 'disposition' of love and concern like Paul.

Duration: 8:57

Scripture: Matthew 28:19-20, 1 Corinthians 10:31, 2 Corinthians 5:20, Philippians 2:5, Colossians 3:23-24

Topics: "Missions Work", "Serving God"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of being willing to step out in faith and serve God, highlighting the potential for individuals to make a significant impact in the world by using their talents and abilities for His glory. It challenges listeners to consider missions work in challenging and unreached areas, urging them to be willing to go where the need is greatest and to be vessels through which Christ's love and light can shine. The message encourages a deep commitment to serving God wholeheartedly, just as Paul did, using every aspect of one's being to magnify Christ and make Him known.

Transcript

Did somebody suddenly suspect that in that girl was all this talent and all this ability? No, they just gave her a chance in one direction, she took off in another. Now look, if she can learn, and I guess now she's only about 26 or 27 or something, maybe at 18 she began to struggle with playing, struggle with singing, and struggle with languages. You know, the Roman church is pretty smart.

Now, there's a great college in Ireland called Maynooth. You can send a ploughboy into that school that can hardly do his mathematics or anything. They'll turn him out in five years and he can recite the whole mass in Latin.

They have other convents where they take young ladies, maybe average farmers' daughters. They'll talk with them, show them maps of the world, tell them the need in the world, lack of education, lack of Christianity, so forth. Those girls will get down, oh, I think I would like to go to South America.

Okay, Brazil, what, Portuguese, all right, Argentina, Spanish, some other area. You know, every time they send a missionary out, the missionary knew the language before they got there. What did they do? They went into the school system and taught.

Therefore, the churches didn't have to support them because they were earning their money. They didn't have to wait to stammer out language for a few years. Immediately they got off the ball, they could speak the language.

Immediately they were put into operation to teach in the schools and to teach religion. In other words, when they went, they were already accomplished in languages. And again, because of that, they could sign up in government jobs and there was no support needed at home.

Now here sometimes, very often with people, oh, we'll take you on, but you have to go around churches begging, ask them to support you, ask them to give you so much a month, so much a month, so much a month. I think God must be embarrassed by the church these days. What beggars we are! Why can't you use your brains now? Get a language.

Get awakened. Get stirred in your spirit. Find out where God wants you.

There are lots of hell holes that need the light of the gospel. If you think you may have the courage, why not pray about going to Russia? Get behind that curtain there or the iron curtain. I think I'm right in saying this, I'm not sure, somebody can correct me maybe.

I don't think there are five missionaries in the whole of Albania, are there? They purged Albania somewhere in the last century. I think they put Christians in barrels and sealed up the barrels and pushed the barrels out on the tide as it was receding out to the ocean. And then they were cooped up in those horrible things, the sun coming in and roasting them.

No food, no anything. They exterminated the church to that degree there. But there's a challenge, there's nobody in Albania.

Why not be the first to go? What about getting behind the iron curtain? Czechoslovakia or some of the other countries? What about the, what, 800 million people in China? This week they said there were 700 million in India. It has about, what, 400 languages and dialects. The world population now is the greatest it's ever been in history.

There are more lost people tonight than ever there have been in history. And yet I think there's more indifference. Sure we give a little bit to support a mission, we do this, we do the other.

But that great dominion of Satan is almost unchallenged in the day in which we live. Now it's in this same epistle, isn't it? Yes, in this same epistle where Paul says, let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus. Well actually that literally is translated, let the love which dominated the life of Jesus, the disposition of Jesus, be yours.

And his was a disposition of love, of concern. Everywhere he went he went out doing good. Well if that mind is in me, I'll tell you what, I'm going to have some restless minutes or restless hours.

I'm going to have to struggle with my own conscience. I'm going to have to struggle with the light I have. I'm going to have to struggle with the challenge that comes to me from a dozen different countries to get the message of Jesus Christ there while it's yet day.

Christ may be magnified in my body. He was magnified through his brain. I'm sure God could have shared some things he shared with any other person except Paul.

Magnified with his spirit, his hands, he wrote these epistles. He didn't type them. He didn't dictate them.

He struggled with some kind of instrument, maybe a quill, I don't know. But every part of his being was coordinated to the service of God. That Christ may be magnified.

I mentioned this last Sunday morning. Before long we'll have some lovely flowers around here. They're called dandelions.

Nobody cuts them and puts them on the table in the house. You may have 20-20 vision, but you haven't seen the beauty of a dandelion. Not until you take a magnifying glass and look through it like that and suddenly you see it is the most exquisite flower maybe God ever made.

But we don't see it with our 20-20 vision. You need a magnifying glass. You look through it and when you see it, that thing comes alive.

That's what Paul says, that Christ may be... When people look at my life, Jesus Christ is clearer and nearer and more wonderful. Is that true? Do you think your children would say that? Oh, my daddy and mummy, I've never seen Jesus, but I know Jesus is like my daddy. As I said last Sunday, old Jonathan Edwards gets ridiculed, you know.

He took a stack of notes and he read through them and he had a candle here and his big frowning face and a gravel voice and he reads through his sermon, the greatest, most famous sermon outside of the Bible, Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God. And people all remember because he thundered. They said that when people fell off their seats, instead of showing mercy, he kind of thrust the thing into them deeper, the truth of God.

People hung on to pillars that were supporting the gallery because they were afraid they'd fall into the abyss. But he didn't spare them. Brother Dave was in my house the other day.

Last Sunday night he preached, you know, maybe the largest church in Denver, Colorado. He said, Len, as we sat there, I was ready to preach and suddenly I was overcome with grief and I just walked forward and sat on the floor. I didn't go to the pulpit.

And I began to weep. God just gave me such a burden. And he said, look, there's a congregation of about 3,000.

He said there's a girl in here who has been molested by a man, sexually molested. And the man is going to go to jail. And as he said it, a girl about 16 ran down the aisle and she said, Mr. Wilkerson, I'm the girl that has been molested.

My daddy did it. And he has to go to jail. David just groaned.

He said there must have been 15 or 16 other young women came there and said, my father or brother or somebody is assaulting me sexually every week. And he said, my spirit just groaned. And he stayed there 50 minutes weeping.

I said, David, bless you. The average preacher would have said, I just had a kind of a little upset in my spirit. I feel there's somebody in trouble.

I'd like a few of you to pray. Raise your hands. We're going to pray for this girl.

She's in trouble. I know she is. Instead of that, he swept all his theology, his sermon on one side, and obeyed the Holy Ghost.

The whole church broke up in weeping and brokenness, seeking God. Same thing happened without ever having to open his mouth preaching. I'm sure that's the kind of spirit that the apostle had.

It's because the Spirit of Christ is there.

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