

Motivation for Evangelization!

2 Timothy 2:2- Mark N. Posey

Introduction:

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2).

The young salesman was disappointed about losing a big sale, and as he talked with his sales manager he lamented, “I guess it just proves you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.” The manager replied, “Son, take my advice: your job is not to make him drink. Your job is to make him thirsty.”

So it is with evangelism.

Our lives should be so filled with Christ that they create a thirst for the Gospel—meaning the good news about Jesus Christ.

The Christian's duty is to make those encountered thirsty for the gospel.

From where does the motivation for evangelization come?

I. The COMMAND from Above (Mark 16:15, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation”).

In this verse, Jesus gives the marching orders for every Christian.

In the parallel passage of Matthew 28, notice the command provides the authority, the assignment, and the assurance.

The **authority** of Jesus is the authority by which we do these things (Matthew 28:18-20).

Jesus gave the **assignment** to “make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that [He] commanded” (vv. 19-20a).

and Jesus supplied **assurance** for those who go and fulfill their assignment (vv. 20b).

Jesus teaches His authority in what He says, what He does, and how He handles it!

The Greek verb “go” in Matthew 28:19 is not a command but a contemporaneous participle (“going”).

The command in the entire Great Commission is to “proclaim/preach the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15) or “make disciples” (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus is saying, “While you are going, make disciples of all nations.”

Wherever we go, we should seek to win others to Christ (Acts 11:19-21).

The command from above motivates faithful children of God to convey the good news!

II. The CRY from Beneath (Luke 16:27-28).

The Rich Man developed an evangelist fervor, but it was too late for him to say anything to his brothers.

So, he cried to Abraham to send him (Lazarus) from the dead to convince his brothers.

What made the rich man think that Lazarus would convince his brothers to change when he was not changed by Lazarus? (vv. 19-21)

Now that he wanted to warn his brothers, and witness them repent, he wanted the best evidence and proof to be sent.

However, even a risen dead person would be less convincing than Moses and the Prophets (vv. 29-31).

Thus, the cry from the eternally lost is motivational to evangelize the living.
The cry from beneath motivates Christians to convey the message of Christ!

III. The CAUTION from Before (Ezekiel 3:17-21).

The watchman stood on the city wall guarding against external or internal threats.

He would sound the alarm of impending danger.

God made Ezekiel a spiritual watchman.

He warned the people with God's warning.

He was not accountable for the people; he was responsible to them.

Each person is accountable for himself to God.

Christians are responsible for sharing the saving message.

The caution from before motivates the spiritually minded to accept responsibility for sharing the gospel.

IV. The CALL from Without (Acts 16:9).

Paul answered the Macedonian Call; he went to bring Macedonia the gospel – the best possible help.

The greatest help we can bring anyone is the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ!

Some opportunities to announce the good news come from someone eager to hear, ready to receive, or prepared to obey.

From where does the call come to preach the gospel (v. 10)?

The call to proclaim the good news comes from God.

Whether it be a notion from within us, a commotion near us, or an invitation for us.

The call from without motivates helpers to get up, go, and speak.

V. The CONSTRAINT from Within (2 Corinthians 5:14).

Paul wanted to give the Gospel to others because so much had been given to him by the Lord.

Jeremiah wanted to quit, but he could not because the word of the LORD became like a burning fire in his heart (Jeremiah 20:9).

The Macedonians felt so indebted to the Jerusalem Christians for having received the gospel, they sent generous help to their needy brothers and sisters, according to Romans 15:25-27.

Christ's love for Paul and Paul's love for Christ urged him in the ministry of reconciliation to make God's message known to all people.

Jeremiah's love for God and His Word put a burning desire in the heart of Jeremiah to not quit and not keep the message to himself.

The love or debt of gratitude the Macedonian Christians felt indebted them to assist their brothers and sister in Jerusalem with material things.

The constraint from within motivates ambassadors for Christ to make an appeal on behalf of Christ for the lost to be reconciled to God.

Application:

Are we obeying the command from above?
Do we hear the cry from beneath?
Does the caution from before cause us to accept responsibility?
Are we listening to the call from without?
Do we respond to the constraint from within?
Does motivation for evangelism move us?

Conclusion:

For God so loved the world, not just a few, the wise and great, the noble and the true, or those of favored class or rank or hue.

God so loved the world.

Do you?