



THE UNPREACHED GOSPEL

THE UNPREACHED GOSPEL: THE CHURCH'S ROLE

Aloha everyone! Today we are focusing on three things the church is to proclaim to the world on behalf of the kingdom, it is the message, the mission and the motive. The first is the message. It is the gospel, the good news of our salvation that is available to everyone. Christ instructed us to "repent for the kingdom of God has come near!" The second is to inform the world of our kingdom mission and that is to preach the good news to all nations. The third is that our motive in sharing the gospel to all nations will usher in the end of this world leading us into "oneness" with Christ.

As we look at the good news, we see two parts to the declaration. The first is to repent, which simply means to experience metanoia, or "a change of mind." The bible urges us to have a change of thought in the way we perceive things throughout our daily lives. God's Word is to become foundational for our worldview and to allow it to filter what we discern as truth as believers. In our effort to understand the world around us we must put on the mind of Christ. Only then we are able to understand the world around us from the kingdom's point of view allowing us to communicate the gospel to the unchurched that they may be churchied. Notice the gospel states clearly, that the kingdom of God has come near and not now. The question that is presented then is "when will the kingdom come in it's full manifested glory?" Jesus gives us a clear directive found in Matthew 28.

¹⁸ "Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age"

(Matthew 28:18-20 HCSB).

We therefore know, that the kingdom will be established in full manifested glory once people of all nations, countries and ethnic groups will have heard the gospel. We as a church, must continue to pray that all who hear will receive Christ as Lord, though we know there are those that reject the invitation.

Jesus boldly stated that all authority (*exousia*) is His alone. He, therefore is fully aware, fully acknowledges and fully affirms everything happening in our world, good or bad. We see wars, rumors of wars, conflicts, famine and natural disasters.

Some may ask, "How can Christ allow such things to happen? How can He approve it all?" The answer lies in His authority. We have the choice to accept it or not.



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Exousia power refers to the referee as in an MMA match. You have 2 opposing forces in conflict. Spectators may choose one side or the other but the referee determines when the match begins and ends. He is aware of the state of condition on both sides and ultimately declares the winner. Christ never created the hardships of the world nor did he introduce them. He allows conflict to occur with the understanding that Heaven is where He wants everyone to be. He came to show us that victory is already in Him and that Heaven is our eternal home. Christ gives everyone an opportunity to decide to receive Him as Lord and to hope in Heaven.

This is the work of the church. As Christ followers, we are privileged to participate, collaborate and cooperate in building the kingdom. The word church or "eklessia" or "ek" and "kaleo" means "the called out ones" and "to call." The church's calling therefore is to send out members of the body of Christ to call out that others may connect to the body of Christ as well.

We start where we are planted. We start with ourselves declaring Christ is Lord. We then, extend out to family members, work places, schools, friends and acquaintances. We extend the invitation to follow Christ to different cultures and countries. The word nations or ethne refers to other ethnic groups.

I have a friend, whom is a devoted Christ follower. He mentioned to me he once went on a mission to a third world nation. I asked if mission work was his calling and with a smile he replied, "no." He mentioned being in a season of life prioritizing caring for his parents, immediate family and responsibilities as a marketplace minister. Over the years, he worked to serve and encourage countless people cross culturally from the east coast to the west, throughout the pacific rim and beyond. He has made wonderful accomplishments in the business world finding connection with people of different ethnic groups. Though he doesn't consider him-

Christ finding joy in sharing his faith when called on.

It's going to look different for everyone. Can we expect the ear to function as a nose? Or the foot to function as a lung? Everyone has differing callings. God can use it all. Our abilities to connect to other nations over the internet and social media has revolutionized the way we share the gospel. The use of the world wide web over the decades, supports the spreading of the gospel by allowing accessibility into various nations now more than ever. We celebrate the anointed use of high tech. We know however, nothing takes the place of high touch. Perhaps, you may be called to prepare your passport in order to travel to another country and share the love of Christ to someone learning about Him face to face. As a church, our work is not done.

To baptize or baptizo is "to immerse one with the power of the Holy Spirit." To be a disciple of Christ is to train in obedience of the Holy Spirit in order to do the work of the ministry" (Ephesians 4:12).



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Christ finally tells us to remember that He is with us always. When we receive Him as Lord. It is His Spirit that dwells within us. As we become disciples, we train to do things we once thought impossible, things we never imagined, all for His glory as they become stories we can testify with. The Word of God becomes alive in us as eternity is written on our hearts. How can we ever forget Christ when we become one with Him? This is the truth Christ wants us to discover for ourselves and for others to discover for themselves.

Group Discussion Questions

1. What is the role of the Church? What are the three things the church must share with the world?
2. Define repentance in your own words? How have you had a change of mind? What things have you changed your thinking about? How has it impacted your life?
3. Reflect on your participation, collaboration and cooperation with the Holy Spirit and celebrate your accomplishments as a result. What is Holy Spirit leading you to do now?
4. Reflect on sharing the kingdom message, mission and motive in your home, your workplace, your schools? How confident are you? How will you grow your confidence?
5. Reflect on your "oneness" with Christ. What are you doing to strengthen that relationship?