

# WHEN THE WORLD IS ON FIRE

And Other Evangelistic Messages

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## CHAPTER NINE

### A Great Task - John 20:19-23

All who have the leadership of the HOLY SPIRIT - and that means all Christians - who are anxious to be engaged in the work of witnessing to and winning souls for the Lord JESUS CHRIST, especially of the Jewish persuasion, would do well to read from Matthew 9:35 through chapter 10.

You will find there a prophecy by the Lord JESUS CHRIST of what all the children of GOD have had to face and shall have to face through the ages until the coming of our Redeemer in the work of soul-winning. No matter how arduous the task may seem, it is still the greatest task in the world.

- GOD is in the business.
- JESUS CHRIST is in the business.
- The HOLY SPIRIT is in the business.
- Every Christian ought to be in the business.

That is the only work that the Son of GOD has. Someone has well said that this world was created for a redemptive purpose.

There are certain things to keep in mind as we undertake this important, vital, transcendent responsibility. Especially, may I say this again, are these points involved in Jewish evangelization.

First, we must keep in view the object. Here are the multitudes fainting, scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Here is the harvest truly plenteous in every sense and essence of the word. Again may I press upon you the claims of the Jewish people in this connection. In the United States of America there are now almost six million of them. The laborers among them are still very few. They are educated. They are talented. They are positioned. Some of them are wealthy. Yet they are still stricken by sin, smitten, afflicted, diseased, treading off the dance of death on the road to hell. They cannot save themselves. They need the help of GOD.

Second, there is the Master, the CHRIST of GOD, the incarnate GOD, born of the virgin Mary, suffering under Pontius Pilate, buried, risen from the dead, ascended into glory, interceding for all of us, pleading with us to go out to tell the story of His grace to the souls of men. Here is the Master able to save to the uttermost all them that come unto GOD by Him.

There also is the message, the same message for the Jew as for the Gentile, repentance towards GOD and faith in the Lord JESUS CHRIST. It is foolish to expect to win the Jew to CHRIST by any sort of philosophy, by any sort of vagary. My limited experience has been that Jews are reachable for CHRIST in any appreciable numbers when they are directed through all difficulties that stand in the way to the mighty Lamb of GOD which taketh away the sin of the world. Show them their own needs as lost, undone, helpless sinners. Point them again and again to the sacrifice which was offered for them by GOD Himself on Calvary's cruel Cross.

Further, there is the motive. There is the age-old motive of the constraining commission of the matchless Son of GOD. There is the age-old motive that these souls are lost sinners on the road to eternal torment. There is the new motive here in the United States of America, that the Jews here are the bulwark of Jewish life across the nations, that they are more listened to than any other people. They have men, means, methods, that could quickly circle the globe with the story of the Gospel.

Finally, there are the directions we must all observe. There is no improving on the Master's method. There is no improving on the method which was followed by the Apostles in the long ago. What was that method? What program did they pursue in winning their multitudes, in circling the then known world with the churches of the living GOD and His CHRIST?

First of all, they had a personal experience, a continued and continuous experience with their Redeemer. Let us take Paul for an example. We find that again and again he had open, living intercourse with the Son of GOD. I dare to believe that even the stout heart of Paul would have failed him if he had not had the constant visions of the Son of GOD.

We need these also. It is not enough to trust CHRIST for our salvation, then go on in our own sweet way. Day after day, in the study of GOD's Word, in the hours of prayer, we must seek, we must look for, we must meditate upon the person, the passion, the power of the Lord JESUS CHRIST. It is only as He is fresh upon our souls that our testimony can be fresh to those whom we are approaching.

Second, these winners of the ages have been increasingly and incessantly adept in prayer. They tarry, not for minutes, not for hours, but for days, for weeks, for months, for years, for lifetimes.

- They knew the value of prayer.
- They knew the importance of prayer.
- They knew the essentiality of prayer.
- They knew that without prayer they could do nothing.
- They knew that with prayer they could do everything.

It is not true that we do not have to tarry anymore. Even though the HOLY SPIRIT is in the world, GOD Almighty must prepare our hearts for His incoming and indwelling. It is only as we submit ourselves to the ministering hand of GOD in prayer that we are flooded with GOD's HOLY SPIRIT. Again I repeat: In Jewish work it is superlatively essential that the HOLY SPIRIT direct every activity.

Third, they went everywhere preaching the Word.

They did not major on building churches, on establishing missions, on writing across the lintels of those churches and missions an invitation to a lost world, then expecting the lost world to beat a path to their doors. No, theirs was a peripatetic ministry.

- They went everywhere.
- They went all the time.
- They continued going.
- They went where the HOLY SPIRIT directed them.
- They went with one purpose in mind - to seek the crowds to declare to them the whole counsel of GOD.

We too must go. As we go, and as we go only in the power and demonstration of the HOLY SPIRIT, will we see the victorious results that GOD has for us. I verily believe that more Jews are not being reached for the Lord JESUS CHRIST because more prayers are not being offered up for them, and more people are not going to them with the witness of salvation.

Fourth, the HOLY SPIRIT warns us of the inevitable, inescapable difficulties we must all encounter. It was the Lord JESUS CHRIST who said to us, "**In this world ye shall have tribulation.**"

There is, first, *the opposition of Satan himself*. In no avenue of Christian activity will he drive at us so definitely as in the work of Jewish evangelization. It is his intention to destroy the Jewish people and thus disprove GOD. That is why he has hardened their hearts for so many years. That is why he has blinded their eyes. That is why he has raised such terrible persecution against them.

There is, second, *the matter of self, selfish inclinations, selfish ambitions, selfish desires and passions*. There is the thought of failure. There is the paucity of results that dampens our enthusiasm. Satan will use self to block us from all our work in this transcendent activity.

There is also *the difficulty in the coldness and hard-heartedness of sinners*. We do our best. We pray for them. We arrange services. We go from house to house with Testaments, tracts, books; yet they will not listen. We go to them with our hearts on our tongues, on our lips, without any sort of selfish motive, asking nothing of them for ourselves, pleading with them to be reconciled to GOD through the Lord JESUS CHRIST.

We find them cold, unconcerned, indifferent, critical, harsh, oftentimes bitter. I know there is no field in America where there is so much opposition as there is in this work among the Jews. Yet it has to be done. We must dedicate ourselves to the task of giving GOD neither peace nor rest in intercession, going after Jews to the limit of our ability, so that none of them can say, "**No man cared for my soul.**"

There is, last of all, *the reward that you may expect*. There is the personal reward.

- The Lord will give us the gift of tears. I would rather know how to cry than how to laugh.
- The Lord will give us the grace of tenderness.

Our hearts will be melted. Our souls will be moved. We shall be Christlike in our reactions toward others. There is the personal satisfaction of knowing that we are doing directly GOD's will, investing our lives in GOD's program.

Second, there will be the salvation of perishing souls. I have seen them come. Scores of them have found fellowship in the churches at the very first opportunity. They can be reached. They are being reached. I know of a doctor in New York City who in a few years' time led to CHRIST and baptized at least 145 Jewish men, women, and children. What an apostolic record!

There will come also a revival of religion. I believe that if we witness to Jews, Christians will become more interested.

I believe that if the Jews begin to come to our services, other unsaved people will come also. I believe that the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD will use the lever of Jewish evangelism, of Jewish soul-winning, to start that revival conflagration for which all of us have been praying. GOD grant that it may be so.

There is then finally the reward that will come to the Saviour Himself. Perhaps I am biased. I am a Jew. I love my people. But somehow, from the study of GOD's Word, from hours spent in prayer and meditation, I believe that the Jews are closer to the heart of the Lord JESUS CHRIST than any other people.

I have heard reports made in revivals of so many hundreds of Gentiles coming to CHRIST and so many numbers of Jews. It seems that the very people of GOD, Gentiles, are more thrilled when a Jew is brought to CHRIST than in any other way.

This, then, is the great task that we all face. And the reward is as long as eternity. May I tell you of just one incident so that you may rejoice in it with me. It broke my heart.

It was in a great revival in a certain Eastern city when I was told at one noonday service that the night before in the inquiry room an elderly Jewish couple had trusted JESUS CHRIST as their personal Saviour.

That same night they were introduced to me. They were Austrian refugees. We talked for a while. I congratulated them upon their new-found faith. Their faces were shining. As they turned away from me, I pulled at the sleeve of the man and asked him in Jewish how he was financially. He looked down at the floor embarrassedly. His lips began to tremble. He did not say a word, but turned away again.

Reaching into my purse, I pulled out a twenty-dollar bill, put it in an envelope that had been addressed to me, passed the man as some people were talking to him, and stuck it in his pocket. The very next night both of them came to me again. We shook hands. The man reached for my hand again. Without knowing what was going to happen, I let him have it. He bent over and kissed my hand.

I had to turn away quickly, leave the auditorium, go back home, drop to my knees in a storm of tears.

He was not kissing my hand because I had given him the \$20.00. He was kissing my hand because the Lord JESUS CHRIST had used me to give him hope.

He was a refugee. He had seen the terrors of what happened to my people.

He was inspired, uplifted, and encouraged, with the thought that there were still some who cared.

Oh, my beloved friends, may I plead with you that you also, by your ceaseless testimonies, by your ceaseless intercessions, by the gifts that you make, may show yourself, and help show to those people who have been more oppressed, more persecuted than any other nation in the history of the world, that Christians care for their souls and for their selves.

May GOD bless us all and find us faithful in this hour of tremendous opportunity.

~ end of chapter 9 ~

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