

Comrades in the Dark, Companions in the Light

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2,3,4 Larry - Father/Son Adventure - Baptism - Joni & Friends.
- B. Slide5 Thrive - What is the Church? What is Prayer? What is the imp of knowing God's Word?
 1. June 5,12,19.
- C. Children at Risk - 3-5pm today. Also, Movie Abolitionists, 1 night only Mon 7:30pm. Documentary chid rescue in Haiti & Columbia. Tim Ballard former CIA/DOHS agent. Operation Underground Railroad
- D. Slide6,7 Machaca Video - John & Lisa.

II. Slide8 Intro:

- A. We are in the midst of 2 chapters (8,9) full of *healings* that Jesus did.
 1. Jesus had just left Capernaum & walked with Jarius to go **heal** his daughter who **died** in route. So Jesus **raised her from the dead**. He is now leaving His house & heading back home, where He is flanked by 2 blind men. *Let's read*

III. Slide9,10 COMRADES IN THE DARK, COMPANIONS IN THE LIGHT (27-31)

- A. 2 Blind Men (only found Mt) - Jesus heals at least 6 blind men & each case was different.
- B. I like these guys...they *follow* Jesus all the way home & right into his house (28).
 1. They could not **see**, but they could **believe**...and so *they did*.
 2. Jesus often cites **a person's faith** as the impetus for healing. *And in the very next story it had **nothing** to do with their faith.*
 - a) Yet we note, that **according to your faith** means *in response to*, **not in proportion to**.
- C. (27) **Have Mercy** - We all have no claim, except that which originates in *His Mercy*.
 1. Here & here alone should be our plea...*Mercy*. **Never, Life isn't fair, or I want what I deserve.** (No you don't!)
 - a) **What we deserved was death.** David said in Ps.103:10 *He does not treat us as our sins **deserve** or **repay** us according to our iniquities.*
- D. (28) Jesus asks you this morning, in your difficult or impossible situation, *Do you believe that I am able to do this?*

1. **YES LORD!** *Able to save a family member? Yes Lord. Able to restore your marriage? Yes Lord. Able to find me a help-mate? Yes Lord.*

E. **Slide11** These Comrades in the Dark *become* Companions in the Light.

F. (30,31) He *opened their eyes & closed their mouths*.

1. Silence is golden when the king demands it.

G. **Yet** we see it was easier to *open their eyes*, **than** to *close their mouths*.

1. **Today**, we are not forbidden **yet bidden** to herald His Grace.

2. *Let us, spread the news about Him in all our country* (and beyond).

IV. **Slide12-14 THE SPEECHLESS SPEAK (32-34)** [*Again this story is only told here*]

A. (32) The pair of patients leave the surgery & in walks *a poor creature*.

1. This man didn't come to Jesus, they **brought him**. *Let us bring men to Christ.*

2. This man didn't cry, *have Mercy on me*, for He was **mute**. *Let us speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves*; Prov.31:8

3. He was not himself, **but** possessed by *another*...by a *demon*.

B. (33) Our Lord doesn't deal w/the **symptoms** **but** deals w/the **source**. [*The demon had silenced him*]

C. (34) **Some people always have some bitter sentence ready**.

1. A Chinese proverb said, *The man who says it cannot be done, should not interrupt the man doing it.*

D. I like Jesus' answer here which is...*no verbal answer at all*...**but** a loud & clear practical answer by showing even a greater zeal in *doing good*.

V. **Slide15,16 JESUS' 3-FOLD MINISTRY (35)**

A. Note, not just the **big cities**, **but** *the villages*.

B. **3-Fold ministry**: **Expounding** the Old. **Proclaiming** the New. **Healing** the Diseased.

1. Spurg, *He was a traveling medical mission as well as an evangelistic tour.*

C. He wraps up this chapter with **2 Metaphors** (36-38)

VI. **Slide17,18 SHEEP W/NO SHEPHERD (36)**

- A. **Cattle** could be left in the fields, without the care of a shepherd. It's not so with **sheep**.
1. Sheep must be led into the pasture & brought back to the fold. They would not go or come back without the shepherd. They are timid and fearful when alone and even when under the care of the Shepherd, at the sight of a strange man or the sound of a strange voice, they're panic stricken.
 2. The shepherd must constantly watch a sheep and the sheep are always aware he is with them. He leads them into new pastures. During the heat of the day, he takes them under the shade of trees, and when they are thirsty, to water.
 3. The shepherd protects them from wolves, bears, sheep thieves and bandits. If anything happens to the Shepherd, his sheep scatter in the mountains and go astray.
 4. **The reference is to the people of Israel who were as sheep without a shepherd.** They had been subjugated by foreign nations and betrayed by their own priest. **For centuries they have no profits and seers to guide them.** Misrule and persecution had scattered them in foreign lands and even those who were at home had no genuine leadership. **They also were soon to be scattered by the destruction of Jerusalem.**
- B. **Compassion - Jesus** is even **now** effected towards the people whom we minister to today, in the very same way. **Also, he is moved with compassion, even when we are not.**
1. **Slide19,20** It's what I picture today when I see pictures of the Syrian refugee crisis.
- C. **They need the Good Shepherd but where are the the under-shepherds?** Wasn't that Jesus' call to Peter to *Feed My Lambs, Tend/shepherd My Sheep, Feed My Lambs.* [be My hands/feet]
1. **We can help as under-shepherds & shepherdesses.**
 2. Men & women *called out...*to *go out...*and *lead out.*
 3. **To lead His lambs/young believers to fresh water & good food.**
 4. **To shepherd/protect His sheep** from wolves.
 5. **To Feed His sheep** through **discipleship.**
- D. **Slide21,22** What is **Discipleship?** It **starts small, goes deep,** then *eventually* it **goes wide...but** don't think in terms of *big.*

1. Go deep in the lives of a few. **Multiply in their lives the character, the heart, the gospel, understand it, & then let them do it with other people.**
 2. Men with men, women with women.
 3. Yes you lead someone to Christ **one on one**. Nurture them up for awhile **one on one**. **But** beyond that, to lead them in a small group, like Jesus did with His disciples.
- E. **Slide23** Meet maybe weekly & cover 5 things: **T.E.A.M.S.**¹ [Randy Pope, *Insourcing*]
1. **Truth** - not a bible study, **but** teaching them how to study themselves. **Give them text & questions a week to prepare then present what they learned.**
 2. **Equipping** - They come back & you massage the truth until its understandable & useable. **That's asking questions back & forth, *Have you ever suffered? how did suffering lead you closer to Jesus?* - it's an interactive relationship.**
 3. **Accountability** - not just asking hard questions & challenging bad behaviors, **that's behaviorism.** **We're talking about looking for *the sin beneath the sin*, where you invite each member of the group to **invade the heart of each other.** To help each other clean out the heart.**
 4. **Mission** - we train & equip how to become *missional* where they **live, work, & play** in word/deed. **So by the end of the year this group ought to be making an impact where they live & work.**
 5. **Supplication** - Prayer. **Honest prayer w/each other. Praying for each other.**
 - a) Then leaders are recommended as they come up from the groups. Coaches over them.
- F. **Slide24** Discipleship then is laboring in the lives of a few, where you're giving away your life & the gospel.

VII. **Slide25 RIPE HARVEST W/NO LABORERS (37,38)**

- A. **Jesus Healed, Taught & Preached**, but He couldn't do it all alone. ***He needed others to help Him***
1. **Slide26** He presented the **need** (a big harvest right now)
 2. He presented the **problem** (laborers are few)

¹ Randy Pope, ***Insourcing***: Bringing Discipleship Back to the Local Church. Perimeter Church, Georgia.

3. He presented the **solution**...*GET OUT THERE & WORK!!!*...Nope, He said, **Pray**.
- a) Next week we'll see *from Prayer...comes Power* (read 9:38+10:1,5).
- B. **Slide27** Is it **Plentiful?** But everyone I talk to doesn't seem to be receptive? Jesus says it truly is! (Maybe you're fishing in *bath tubs, puddles, & pot holes*)
1. **Jesus** describes the great number of people ready to trust in God **and** the relatively *few workers* willing to spread the gospel.
- C. **Problem:** True laborers are few.
- D. We need His Laborers.
1. We have plenty of **Supervisors** in the field. They know how to **Supervise you** to make sure **your** doing it right.
 2. We have plenty of **Surveyors** in the field. They **Survey** the field & come back & tell **you** the best way to harvest.
 3. We have plenty of **Suspenders** in the field. They always see the field **almost** ready to harvest...**buuuut not yet**.
- E. We need the Laborers/worker Bees (no more drones are needed, who live off the work of others). We need Laborers **not** more *Wheat Lords*.
- F. Note the timing here as He uses the figure of **reaping a harvest**. He's about to send out the 12. **Then later, the 70**. **But** He's already used it once before in **Jn.4:35-38**...
1. **Slide28** You know the saying, 'Four months between planting and harvest.' **But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. 36 The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! 37 You know the saying, 'One plants and another harvests.' And it's true. 38 I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest.**
- G. **Slide29 Solution:** Pray, the Lord of the Harvest, to send out...
- H. **Send Out** - (ἐκβάλλω) *To cast out, throw out, thrust out.* [same as vs.25,33,10:1]
1. It always implies **urgency, haste, or constraint**.
 2. Here, It means **to be sent out promptly, pushed into their work**.

a) Lord, send them out from here, CM. Are you praying for that?

- I. Should we still pray this prayer? Well, is there still a field to harvest? And how often should we pray this prayer? *How about regularly & habitually.*
- J. **In the 1st Metaphor** you have *Man's need met by God* (sheep in need of a Shepherd). **In the 2nd Metaphor** you have *God's need met by man* (the needed laborers).