

Being a Foreign Missionary in Your Native Land **3/03/2019 Sunday AM**

Introduction

- Last week we discussed **Spiritual Erosion** and how we should be mindful of our spiritual foundations.
- Too often it seems that as we grow older we do not put as much effort in to our spiritual maturity as before.
- If we are not careful, Spiritual Erosion can happen as we allow our position on the foundation to be shifted ever so slightly; as time goes on, and we then find ourselves at the cliff's edge.
- This brings us to our topic this morning, **Being a Foreign Missionary in Your Native Land.**
- The USA has experienced such profound Spiritual Erosion over the past century that we now find ourselves at the cliff's edge.
- We used to be the beacon of light to the world and the "city on a hill," however our light is fading fast.
- Our light is fading so fast, that foreign missionaries are coming to the USA to evangelize Americans!
- The Oxford University Press had an article that included this quote about these Missionaries to America: "Missionaries in America view the United States as a "Christian" nation in trouble. America has lost its spiritual fire with growing materialism, secularism, humanism, and sexual immorality. It is no longer a "city on a hill" or a "beacon of light," and may even become like the now secular and "dark continent" of Europe. Although the United States is a predominately Christian and a dominant missionary-sending nation, it is framed as a nation that has lost its foothold as a leading Christian influence. Its churches are great in number, but they are weak in "Spirit." Missionaries are therefore needed to bring spiritual revival in America." (February 7, 2015)
- Ken Ham, the president of Answers in Genesis, the Creation Museum, and the Ark Encounter is an Australian missionary to the United States of America. He felt God calling him to the US to help bring the church back to belief in the entire Bible starting in Genesis.
- It may shock many people to find out that foreign missionaries like to Koreans send missionary to the US every year, however I will submit to you this morning that we too need to be foreign missionaries in our own land.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- We know that the Bible clearly teaches us that we would "go" as we see here in the Great Commission.
- It even says that we should "go and make disciples of all nations."
- Now how does one do that?

3 Steps a Foreign Missionary Must Do to be Successful

1. Be Called and Willing

- When speaking of foreign missions, it is really important that those missionaries are called by God to this type of ministry and any ministry for that matter.
- Not only must they be called, however they must also be willing to answer God's call.
- **Isiah 6:8**, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!""
- For the context of the message this morning, every single Christian is called to take part in evangelism.
- The Great Commission was not just given to some, it was given to every one of us.

2. Study and Learn the Culture of the People

- Practically (not Spiritually) this is the most important step for a missionary going to a foreign country.
- Successful foreign missionaries spend years preparing themselves before they go to the foreign country and while they are there, learning the culture and language of the people they intend to reach.

- Some trail-blazing missionaries had to even translate a Bible into the language of the people because there were no Bibles in their language.
- This is the type of overseas missionary I want us to have in our minds this morning.
- A missionary that goes to a remote people group, does not have the luxury of knowing the language of the people, having Bibles translated in that language, nor having a Christian foundation already laid down.
- No doubt these missionaries have to spend a great deal of time getting to know the culture of the people and working hard to overcome the barriers that are in place to reach them.
- It requires great personal sacrifice.

3. Present the Gospel Where They Are (Physically, Spiritually, and Culturally)

- No successful foreign missionary tries to present the gospel to the people without physically being where the people are. This is a reason Jesus told us to “go.”
 - And as important as that is, the foreign missionary must also present the gospel to the people on their level, in their language (or teach them English), in a way that is sensitive to the culture that they are in.
 - This is why Step 2 is so very important, because if skipped, Step 3 will most likely not get done.
- **Now what does all this have to do with us?**
 - The American church must come to grips that we are no longer living in a Christian nation or at least, we are a Christian nation in BIG trouble.
 - Unfortunately, as the years have passed by, the Christian church in American has watched as the spiritual foundation of our nation has been eroded away.
 - The church has been powerless to stop the decline and, in many cases, it is simply conforming to the decline.
 - **We must wake up and realize, we are foreign missionaries in our native land!!**
 - As foreign missionaries, we must take the same steps as have been presented above to reach the people.
 - Step 1 is partly covered, we are all called to reach people and to go out, we seen that in **Matthew 28:18-20**.
 - However, the being willing part seems to be lacking in our churches today. They are not willing to be like Isaiah.
- Step 2 is where we have failed the most.
 - While we have talked like we have been standing watch over our nation, the foundation has been eroded right before our eyes.
 - We now find ourselves in a country where we do not understand the culture of the people we live beside.
 - We have spent too much time trying to herd the people rather than leading and shepherding them.
 - America no longer gets direction from the church; the church gets direction from America.
 - If we are going to be successful foreign missionaries in our own land, we must “pull up our boot straps” and start studying and learning the culture of the people.
 - The church continues to think that normal Americans have basic Bible knowledge, they do not.
 - American culture has now become Biblically illiterate.
 - People do not grow up in church through nursery, children’s ministry, youth ministry...as so on.
 - We are dealing with a material, secular, humanistic society that is ever increasingly hostile towards Christianity.
 - We must be prepared for hard work, and great personal sacrifice.
- Step 3 is another area we are failing at right now. We do not attempt to meet the people where they are, we want the people to come to us, and to instantly act like us. We want them automatically “know our language.”
 - We are acting like the early Jewish Christians that wanted all the Gentiles to instantly conform to them.
 - Sadly, we are being beaten by the Mormons and the Jehovah’s Witnesses, because they realize America is a mission field and they are doing something about it.
 - **When are we?**
 - We must return to what works, and that is believing in the entire Bible and applying all of its teachings to our lives and teaching that to those we are evangelizing. That is what the Great Commission says to do.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Romans 9:14-23