

Whoever finds his life will  
lose it, and whoever loses  
his life for my sake will  
find it.  
Mt 10:39

Share the teaching  
Guard the sharing

# Male Call

March 2, 2007

**And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." (Isa 6:8)**

5:55 – 6:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Coffee &amp; Donuts</li> <li>2) Opening Prayer</li> </ul>
6:05 – 6:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Missionaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The US sends missionaries to Africa, Africa send missionaries to Europe. We are following God's great commission in Mt 28:18-20.</li> <li>b) That is good, but it does not address the real problem of countries with Christian presences that are increasingly turning from God. You see, in the US and in Kenya and around the world, countries that have previously been reached by missionaries continually have new generations—the children—there is always a need for missionaries.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2) Who are these missionaries? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Missionaries have been traditionally thought of people perhaps like Linda and me who go to another country and culture</li> <li>b) We must rethink this definition in light of Scripture</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="302 1360 1432 1507" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><i>Fundamentally, mission means <u>our committed participation</u> as God's people, <u>at God's invitation and command</u>, <u>in God's own mission</u> within the history of God's world <u>for the redemption of God's creation</u>.</i> <i>The Mission of God, Wright, p23</i></p> </div> </li> <li>3) God has invited us each to be missionaries. But what does it mean to be a missionary? <div data-bbox="302 1654 1432 1822" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. 11 Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. (Deut 8: 10-11, NIV)</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Note the two components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Remember the Lord</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- (1) Hebrew for “male” (zākâr) means “be remembered”
- (2) We are to be the “rememberers” of God
- (3) Remembering God helps to:
  - (a) Protect us against idolatry
  - (b) Rebuke ourselves
  - (c) Have comfort and hope
- (4) We must remember not only the great stories in the Bible, but also the stories of God’s work in our lives and in our communities and in the world so that he is known to the current and future generations.

ii) Witnesses

- (1) Keepers of God’s commands
- (2) Our lives are to be witnesses to the living God
  - (a) Jesus, in John 14-15, tells us at least **7 times** to obey his commands. The intent is that we will abide in him and that the world will know him because we are in him.
  - (b) Our lives, lived well, are points of light in a dark world so that the world knows through Jesus they may be saved.
- (3) And now the church has a mission. You see, we may think that “mission” is something made for the church. But that is backwards, the church was made for “mission”, to make God’s name known throughout the earth.
  - (a) Jesus tells us to be a light unto the world (Mt 5:13-16)
  - (b) Jesus also tells us to spread the news to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8)
  - (c) Jesus tells us that we are to be a witness to his resurrection and to proclaim to the nations of the world that in his name sins are forgiven (Lk 24:45-49)
  - (d) These echo the prophecies of Isaiah (Isa 43:10-12; 49:6)
- (4) Also recall that we are each aliens in a foreign land (Jn 17:14, 17).

4) The consequences of forgetting and not witnessing:

12 Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, 13 and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, 14 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 15 He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. 16 He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. 17 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." 18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

a) We become like those of Babel...

Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." (Gen 11:4, ESV)

5) Our task:

- a) We are to be people of the Book (Ps 1:1-2). In this way, we will remember God and we will learn of his commands for us. As the Holy Spirit works in our lives, we will become powerful witnesses for God and will each become committed participants with God in his mission to save the world.
- b) You see, we are all missionaries where God has planted us remembering him and witnessing by our lives to his existence.
- c) Missionary work is ongoing because of our children...the next generation. We must remember for ourselves and for our children. Hear God in Deut 6:4-8:

4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (Deut 6:4-9, ESV)

Let me close by telling you another greeting from the historical Covenant church, one that is seldom used anymore. Rather than asking, "Are you saved?" long ago we used to ask "Are you walking yet with Christ?" signifying that we are to die to ourselves daily.

We are each God's missionaries, charged with remembering him and being a witness for him.

**And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"**

***What will you say to God?***

Tighten the straps on the armor God has given you. The mission field *is just outside these doors*.

<p>6:25 – 7:00</p>	<p>Interaction and prayer</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What stories of God do you tell?</li>   <li>2) In what way are you a living witness to God: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) At home?</li>   <li>b) At work?</li>   <li>c) When you think no one is watching?</li> </ol> </li>   <li>3) God has said, "<b>Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?</b>" <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) How have you answered?</li>   <li>b) How would you like to answer?</li>   <li>c) What help do you need moving toward your desired response to God?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p>7:00</p>	<p>Closing Prayer</p>

Further reading:

- The *Bible*