

I can remember Pastor Mitchell telling me when I got sent out: *Get them saved, get them to heaven, and Preach Jesus*. Now I had never preached a formal sermon in a church setting. I did however preach; Witnessing, One80, neighborhood outreaches, bible studies.

Doing a work for God involves preaching, not just behind a pulpit, but in everyday life, & at every opportunity.

In the scripture we are going to look at; Jesus has ascended into heaven, and immediately what did they do? They preached... your future ministry starts with preaching today.

### I PREACHING:

A- The word preach simply means to DECLARE-

1. Preach; comes from the idea of a Herald; *One who declares the message from the king*.
2. This is what we are called to do- PREACH JESUS.
  - a. **Acts 1:8** *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*
    - i. This is the first thing the disciples do- Is declare Jesus, Preach Jesus...
3. There weren't pulpits, churches, congregations, there wasn't a conference announcement- They had a drive within
  - a. That drive was the great commission: Mark 16:15 *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*

B- So what this teaches us is: Ministry starts with Preaching.

1. Preaching in essence is testifying of Jesus Christ & witnessing the power of Gospel.
    - a. V20 *And they went out and preached everywhere*. The one thing they did before anything else- PREACH.
      - i. Before miracles of their own, before churches, before all the wonders of the NT- PREACHING
  2. This is how Jesus ministry started; **Mark 1:14** *Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God*, Before the miracles, before the masses following- PREACHING.
- C- Here is where ministry still begins with Preaching; Witnessing & Testifying... Declaring the Gospel... Q:WHY?
1. B/c This is Gods primary means of reaching people: He uses people to carry the Gospel. God made that choice.
  2. B/c This is a matter of Value: Pastoring is about giving your life for people. Pastor means Shepherd.
    - a. It's not a title, it's a function. So its sacrificial (Jesus told Peter: *Feed my Sheep*). Soul winning is WORK-
  3. B/c It reminds us who this is about: Not us... Jesus, Souls, Eternity.
    - a. Often people become prideful- They get momentum, they get recognition, they get favor & think its them.
      - i. Working with people is a reminder of how much its NOT you- Its a miracle.
  4. Ministry starts HERE: Preaching; What is your heart in this area?

### II GOD HELPING:

A- Our text shows us that God moved through their preaching;

1. V20 *They preached everywhere, the Lord working with them*. God blesses his means of ministry.
  - a. He blesses the message and the messenger.

B- Lets think about 3 ways God helps (*works with*) the preaching disciple:

1. Anointing: PG has defined this as: *Divine effectiveness*. It is Supernatural impact.
  - a. God works with us in our preaching & causes it to make impact that we cannot do on our own-
2. Revelation: The ability to see or see clearly-
  - a. To You: The more I preach, the more I see in scripture, the more I learn Gods character, & power.
  - b. The listener: They respond- They see their need to repent.
  - c. Paul: Profound revelation started with preaching in Antioch (his home church).
3. Resilience: God helps the man of God to continue to preach. B/c Not everything works to your favor!
  - a. **2 Timothy 4:6-7** *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. I have faithfully preached the Gospel.*
    - b. I remember getting extremely discouraged in ministry Praying: *God Ive only been at this 2 years, I need help*
4. Opportunity: Its amazing to me the opportunities that come when we preach.
5. God Helps His message & His messenger.

### III ACCOMPANYING SIGNS:

A- V20 says that God *confirmed the word through the accompanying signs*.

1. God confirms Preaching with the miraculous-
  - a. Conversion, Healing, Deliverance, Restoration...
2. This is why Preaching NOW is so valuable- It reveals where you lack.
  - a. As I said in my opening; I had never preached a formal service (My first sermon was out of 1 Kings 18- "The Sound of Abundant Rain") BUT, I had been preaching for 3 years.
  - b. I had seen miracles- Conversions, Healing, Deliverance- etc.

B- So; The challenge is: Are you a preaching disciple now?

1. Is there a heart for preaching? In that; Evangelism, Outreach, Bible Study, One80- etc.
2. Some of the most successful men I have seen in ministry are PREACHERS- Heralds of the Gospel.
  - a. WHY? **This is the Gospel of action. May we be men of action for God!**