

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 I've 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!