

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD IS JESUS

“Witnesses Sent by God”

John 1:6-9

One day Hudson Taylor was traveling on a Chinese junk from Shanghai to Ningpo. He had been witnessing to a man named Peter who rejected the gospel but was under deep conviction. In the course of events, Peter fell overboard, but no one made any effort to save him. Taylor sprang to the mast, let down the sail, and jumped overboard in hopes of finding his friend. But no one on board joined Taylor in his frantic search. Taylor saw a fishing boat nearby and yelled to them to help, but they wouldn't do it without money. Finally, after bartering for every penny that Taylor had, the fishermen stopped their fishing and began to look for Peter. In less than a minute of dragging their net, they found him, but it was too late. They were too busy fishing to care about saving a drowning man. Later, Taylor reflecting on this event said,

We can easily condemn the selfish indifference of those fishermen, but by indicting them, we may condemn ourselves. Are we too busy with our jobs and other activities to take the time to rescue those who are perishing without Christ?
(Kenneth Cole, The Crucial Message. From a sermon by Gerald Flury, Why Are You Standing Around? 8/16/2012)

LW – Jesus is the light of the world = victorious over darkness

TW - God chose human witnesses to testify to the light so that all people would believe

⇒ Not so that I would have a good story but so that people will be drawn closer to God

John the Baptist really represents us as believers today

⇒ God entrusted him with a duty = us

⇒ God gave him a message = us

We are...

“Sent by God” (vs. 6)

- John the Baptist – who was he? (vs. 19, 27) - read
 - He came recognizing his own unworthiness (voice for God, Sandals)

- His story – son of priestly family, lived in wilderness for years (Luke 1:5-25, 2:57-80), (Is.40:3 preparation in the `wilderness prepare the way pf the Lord`, baptizing Jesus Christ (Matt.4:13-17), eschatological, “tilling the soil”-judgement, repentance,
- He was SENT by God

➤ Why are humans sent? (2 Corinthians 12:7-10) - Paul reflects on his own weakness

- God could have used angels like in the Christmas narrative or unlimited resources, but chooses us!
- Paul refers to his weakness, inability that Gods power is revealed/displayed

➤ Being sent - images (store, war, bedroom, principal`s office...)

1. We are sent by God - people of purpose

⇒ Not randomly here

⇒ So much time NOT thinking about this – ultimate purpose is being sent by God = I have a place! I have purpose!

2. We have a specific task in God’s plan – as expectant people

⇒ Task ex. Paul & Barnabas re: apostles’ to unreached or Timothy’s sent to be Paul’s companion

⇒ Place ex. Moses on a river bed to a kings palace - Us, sent to parent, to start a business, employee, neighbour...wherever!

- Are we expectant people? Really?
- Are we the fishermen or are we Taylor - our ultimate purpose for God sending us
- where has God sent us

Illustr: Billy Sunday, looking for people with whom he could share gospel, witness city mayor, Prayer?, phone book

2nd aspect of these verses,

“Witnesses to God” (vs. 7-9)-

- John’s call – to be a witness to the Jesus being the light and that He was coming, but first required time to reflect in the wilderness
- “witness” requires knowledge and experience
 - Eye witness, testify on behalf Ex. Accident
 - **Ex.** Pushing youth – How are you experiencing God?
- Being witnesses - *so that all might know Him*
 1. Our need to reflect on the meaning of Jesus’ coming to us
 - ⇒ “Walk in the light” (1 John 1:7) = fellowship
 - ⇒ You can’t share what you don’t have any more than you can come back from a place you’ve never been”
 - ⇒ What does His coming really mean to us? – reflect! We need to be open.
 2. Our desire that “all would believe” (vs.7)
 - ⇒ Ultimate purpose = all else compares (angels singing in heaven – Luke 15:10) - “In
 - the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”
 - Where is our desire to reach the unreached? Are we resigned to the “fact” that “it is up to them?”**
 - We are sent, by God, to witness to the fact He is the only Way, Truth and Life