

JOHN SCOTT SAID

The highest of missionary motives is neither obedience to the Great Commission (important as that is), not love for sinners who are alienated and perishing (strong as that incentive is, especially as we contemplate the wrath of God) but rather zeal-burning and passionate zeal-for the glory of Jesus Christ. It's

concern for the glory of His imperial Majesty Jesus Christ. We should be jealous for the honor of His name—troubled when it remains unknown, hurt when it's ignored, indignant when it's blasphemed. And all the time anxious and determined that it shall be given the honor and glory which are due to it.

I. THE MISSIONARY METHOD V. 1-2

A. It starts with good preparation of the messenger.

1. The messenger must feel the need of saving mercies himself (repentance; knowing we have nothing of our own to offer; no merits to create satisfaction. Anyone ministering must know the love of God first.)
2. The messenger must know he's dependent on God in EVERY way. Any success at all must come via God's grace, provision and mercy. Nothing of value gets done that He doesn't do.
3. The messenger must know his need of God's presence and approval. If not, he's still in need of a missions effort himself. On his own, he can't cope with a new culture and language and possible hostility
 - a. DL Moody: "I firmly believe that the moment our hearts are filled with pride and selfishness and ambition and everything that is contrary to God's law, the Holy Spirit will fill every corner of our hearts. But if we are full of pride and conceit and ambition and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God. We must be emptied before we can be filled."

B. It entails a proper purpose.

1. It's not just to save people from poverty and to sustain their lives through better health. We go that His name may be known in all the earth. That's not mainly feeding, educating, clothing and healing people, though important as means to an end. We make Him known as the saving one. Let them know how many false gods are out there. How many are omniscient, omnipotent, have real saving power, are loving, righteous, just, merciful? NONE. Only Jesus has these virtues.

2. The nations are sick. They need a healing balm that goes way under the surface. It's a task for someone who sees the problem with its deep, ugly roots. To share Christ with a dying world, one must first understand the depth from which they have personally been saved.
3. The problem of the unreached cannot be solved through social or political systems. It cannot be solved through just humanitarian outreach. It is a spiritual problem for which Jesus is the only solution.
4. Consider these facts:
 - a. Only 4.1% of the world's population identifies as Bible-believing and born again.
 - b. Most of the 1.6 billion Muslims on earth will never encounter a believer.
 - c. 66,000 people a day die in unreached people groups.
 - d. There are more than 400,000 villages in India alone with NO Christian presence.

II. THE MISSIONARY MESSAGE V. 3-4

A. The Intended audience. The gospel is for the all people everywhere; the nations. There are 371 mega-languages in the world (language groups with at least a million speakers). They all need to hear the Good News in their own tongues. And we need a worldwide perspective. William Carey said the best way to know God's plan is to have an open Bible and an open map.

1. Revelation 5 says that people from every tribe language, people and nation would be represented in Heaven.
2. Everyone will be represented in the presence of God. But He has tasked us to be the ones to take the message to the nations.

B. The intended result. People because real worshipers of God. They create an "International praise band" that's in tune, on track and enthusiastic. Our purpose in life is to cooperate with the Spirit in helping to populate heaven with sincere worshipers.

1. (As in Revelation 7:9-12) To praise Him sincerely, they must know Him. To know Him, they must have heard the message of redemption. They must have new hearts.
2. In Acts 8:4 we read that the persecuted believers who were being scattered throughout the known world were actually spreading the gospel as they went—astounding when you consider that they were witnessing at the risk of their own lives.

3. Why did they do this? Because they knew that the message they carried with them was the only hope for a dying world.
4. They wanted all people everywhere to know the hope they had discovered in Christ.

III. THE MISSIONARY MOTIVE V.5-7

- A. **The whole aim of missions is to Increase genuine praise to God. Amp it up! Blow out the windows! We're looking for a huge "choir and orchestra" that praise God throughout eternity. Our great privilege and responsibility is to take the message to them in whatever ways God equips us.**
- B. **The mission also includes preparing people to receive His blessings, V. 7 says the end goal is that all the ends of the earth will fear Him. Today, many of them are in no position to understand and appreciate His so much more. But it's easy to take them for granted because they are so commonly experienced.**

Concluding Lessons:

1. God is supreme in salvation's plan.
2. Salvation is man's greatest need and highest blessing.
3. God's saving purposes are international.
4. God uses human instruments to work with the Spirit. "Lost people matter to God, and so they must matter to us." – Keith Wright
 - a. It's His work.
 - b. It's His sovereign work.
 - c. It's His unstoppable work.
 - d. Let me join Him!