

P541

GRACE NOTES

THEME: What makes a missionary? – Part 2

SONGS Secret Place 3:16

Shine the light 4:15

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes.

On our last program we defined what a missionary is and how we can fulfill our calling. Speaking of calling...the story is told of a young man who approached the conference speaker and said, "I've never felt any compelling call to give my life for missionary service", to which the speaker replied, "Are you sure you're within calling distance?" With this in mind, let's turn our attention to Barbara Sandbek as she shares more insight into why some Believers are not effective in their calling.

Doug Tegner wrote...The greatest missionary who ever lived was Jesus Christ, who left the glory and comfort of heaven, became flesh, and "dwelt" among us, yet the overwhelming majority of people did not receive Him. The last night before Jesus went to the cross, He prepared His disciples (and us), for the response they might anticipate when they followed Him while living in a spiritually lost world. "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you." John 15:18-19.

So what kind of response can we expect if we choose to walk as Jesus did? Rejection by most. This could be why some Believers do not evangelize. Many want to be people-pleasers rather than a God-pleaser. We might be saying what others want to hear, without realizing it can be to the detriment of their eternal soul. Truth is hard to take, but it is necessary to give out if we really care about those who cross our paths. If you saw a child running toward danger, wouldn't you try to stop them – even if they were bent on doing wrong? We are all children in God's sight, with a bent toward evil. God made Believers His mouth-piece to call out His truth so that others won't continue on the path to destruction. We say it for their own good. But what will it take to make us move out of our comfort zone and buy into our responsibility?

Henry Martyn said it so well, "The Spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions, and the nearer we get to Him the more intensely missionary minded we become."

**There isn't anything one wouldn't do for the One they love, is there?
Doing the Lord's work out of love rather than duty makes all the difference in
the world - literally.**

**Another reason why we keep silent could be because we're bound by
strongholds. After all, who would believe us if we tell them they can have
'freedom' in Christ, when we aren't living that way?**

**As believers, we are called to holiness and purity. This is possible because the
Holy Spirit resides in our hearts and gives us power to say 'no' to wrong things
and 'yes' to right. But, we're caught up in the world, seeing and doing things
Jesus had to die for!**

Romans 12:2a says...

**Be not conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your
mind.**

**How do we renew our mind? By reading and meditating on God's Word and
communing with Him in prayer.**

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 instructs us,...

**Come out from among them (unbelievers) and be separate - purify
yourselves from everything that contaminates body & spirit, perfecting
holiness out of reverence for God.**

Is there a place in your heart that needs to be purified? Give it over to the Lord.

*** THE SECRET PLACE * WRITER: Steve Chapman**

THE SECRET PLACE

VERSE 1

**A heart is like a house - one day I let the Savior in
There are many rooms - where we would visit now and then
But then one day He saw that door
I knew the day had come too soon
I said Jesus I'm not ready -for us to visit in that room**

CHORUS 1

'Cause that's a place in my heart - where even I don't go

**I have some things hidden there - I don't want no one to know
But He handed me the key - with tears of love on His face
He said "I wanna made ya clean
Let me go in your secret place."**

VERSE 2

**So I opened up the door - and as the two of us walked in
I was so ashamed - His light revealed my hidden sin
But when I think about that room now -I'm not afraid anymore
'Cause I know my hidden sin
No longer hides behind that door**

CHORUS 2

**It was a place in my heart - where even I wouldn't go
I had some things hidden there - I didn't want no one to know
But he handed me the key -with tears of love on His face
He made me clean - I let Him in my secret place**

TAG: Is there a place in your heart -where even you won't go?

In Luke, chapter 10, Jesus appointed seventy-two men and He sent them ahead of him to every place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Notice that He was planning to go there Himself, yet he wanted those He chose to prepare the way for His coming. If we call ourselves a Believer, our life will either point people TO Christ or AWAY from Him.

I always thought it was interesting that he didn't just say, ask people to go out and do the work. Rather He said, ask the Lord, or Himself, to send out workers. Obviously, He wants qualified people but even more importantly He want those who WANT to do the work.

So when are we going to get serious? God must get tired of hearing our excuses. Remember Moses' excuses? God had an answer for every one. Moses said, "I'm inadequate." God said, "That's true - but I'll be with you and I am the GREAT 'I AM'."

Moses said, "I don't know enough." God said, "I'll give you the words to speak."

Moses said, "Who would believe me?" God said, "Speak truth - it convinces."

Moses said, "I don't speak well. I'm not a public speaker."

God said, "I made your mouth."

Moses continued on, "I don't want to go where you want me to go."

God said, "it doesn't matter - It's my will that you go there."

Moses concluded, "Let someone else do it."

God said, "I'll give you helper but you're ultimately in charge."

God was long-suffering with Moses, wasn't He? I think I'd have gotten someone else for the job about the third excuse in. God has a plan for each of us in His work force and He knows what a blessing we will be, and what a blessing He has in store for us - if we do the work.

Remember Jesus invested His life in you!

So you ask, what can I do?

In whatever capacity He has called you, Ephesians 6:7 says...

Serve wholeheartedly as if you were serving the Lord not men.

Everything we do is in front of and in behalf of the Kings of Kings.

1 Peter 3:1 instructs us to ...

Always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

2 Timothy 2:15 says...

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Why is this important? Because 2 Timothy 3:16-17 reads...

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

PRAY for opportunities. Ask for one person to lead to Christ & disciple this year.

Get involved with foreign missionaries. Write to them, pray for them, support

them. Entertain them in your home when they're on furlough. You'll buy into their work when you can feel their heartbeat.

How about volunteering for a short term mission trip or full-time service yourself?

Remember, you are a missionary right where you are...don't ever take off the hat! God will give you what you need when you need it - just trust Him.

Why not start with the people right in front of YOU?

17-14

***** SHINE THE LIGHT *****

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