

The Missionary Work

“And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled” (Luke 14:23).

“Serious times are before us, and there is great need for families to get out of the cities into the country, that the truth may be carried into the byways as well as the highways of the earth.”—Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 178.

Suggested Reading: Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 85–89.

Sunday February 8 1. ONLY IN THE CITIES?

a. We are all familiar with God’s command to go into the cities to share the gospel. Where else are we commissioned to preach? Acts 1:8; 13:47.

[Acts 1:8](#)

[8] But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

[Acts 13:47](#)

[47] For so hath the Lord commanded us, *saying*, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

“Christ instructs His messengers to go also to those in the byways and hedges, to the poor and lowly of the earth. In the courts and lanes of the great cities, in the lonely byways of the country, are families and individuals—perhaps strangers in a strange land—who are without church relations, and who, in their loneliness, come to feel that God has forgotten them. They do not understand what they must do to be saved. Many are sunken in sin. Many are in distress. They are pressed with suffering, want, unbelief, despondency. Disease of every type afflicts them, both in body and in soul. They long to find a solace for their troubles, and Satan tempts them to seek it in lusts and pleasures that lead to ruin and death.”—Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 232, 233.

b. Most of the fathers of the faithful mentioned in Hebrews 11 did not live in the city. Whose call did they hear? John 10:2–4, 27.

[John 10:2-4](#)

[2] But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

[3] To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

[4] And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

John 10:27

[27] My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

“It was the Son of God that gave to our first parents the promise of redemption. It was He who revealed Himself to the patriarchs. Adam . . . understood the gospel.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 366.

Monday February 9

2. ENOCH’S METHODS

a. What principle is key to a victorious Christian life? Ephesians 5:11. How did it affect the patriarch Enoch in his choice of where to live?

Ephesians 5:11

[11] And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.

“He [Enoch] did not make his abode with the wicked. . . . He placed himself and his family where the atmosphere would be as pure as possible. Then at times he went forth to the inhabitants of the world with his God-given message. . . . After proclaiming his message, he always took back with him to his place of retirement some who had received the warning.”—The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 1, pp. 1087, 1088.

b. How did Enoch do his missionary work? Mark 16:15.

Mark 16:15

[15] And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

“The power of Christ, the crucified Saviour, to give eternal life, should be presented to the people. . . . Enoch was a representative of Christ as surely as was the beloved disciple John. Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him. To him was committed the message of the second coming of Christ. . . . The message preached by Enoch and his translation to heaven were a convincing argument to all who lived in his time.”—Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 392.

“As God’s commandment-keeping people, we must leave the cities. As did Enoch, we must work in the cities but not dwell in them.”—*Evangelism*, pp. 77, 78.

c. What was linked with personal effort? 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

[17] Pray without ceasing.

“Distressed by the increasing wickedness of the ungodly, and fearing that their infidelity might lessen his reverence for God, Enoch avoided constant association with them, and spent much time in solitude, giving himself to meditation and prayer. Thus he waited before the Lord, seeking a clearer knowledge of His will, that he might perform it. To him prayer was as the breath of the soul; he lived in the very atmosphere of heaven.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 85.

Tuesday February 10

3. OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

a. What missionary opportunities are available in rural areas? Proverbs 20:5; Mark 5:19.

Proverbs 20:5

[5] Counsel in the heart of man *is like* deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

Mark 9:15

[15] And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to *him* saluted him.

“In our planning for the extension of the work, far more than the cities alone must be comprehended. In out-of-the-way places are many, many families that need to be looked after in order to learn whether they understand the work that Jesus is doing for His people.

“Those in the highways are not to be neglected; neither are those in the hedges; and as we journey about from place to place and pass by house after house, we should often inquire, ‘Have the people who are living in these places heard the message? Has the truth of God’s Word been brought to their ears? Do they understand that the end of all things is at hand, and that the judgments of God are impending? Do they realize that every soul has been bought with an infinite price?’ As I meditate upon these things, my heart goes out in deep longing to see the truth carried in its simplicity to the homes of these people along the highways and places far removed from the

crowded centers of population. . . . It is our privilege to visit them and acquaint them with God's love for them and with His wonderful provision for the salvation of their souls.”—Evangelism, p. 45.

“The Lord will work through those who will open the Scriptures to the people who have made their homes in these retired places of the country. I appeal to my brethren and sisters to unite in doing this good work, and carry it to completion. . . . The people who live in the country places are often more easily reached than are those who dwell in the thickly populated cities. Here among the scenes of nature, Christian character is more easily formed than amid the wickedness of city life. When the truth takes hold of the hearts of the simple-hearted, and the Spirit of God works upon their minds, leading them to respond to the proclamation of the Word, there will be some raised up to help support the cause of God both by their means and their labors.”—The Paulson Collection, pp. 8, 9.

b. What else will touch the hearts for Jesus? Luke 9:2.

Luke 9:2

[2] And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

“In our efforts to help the sick, we are to take them away from the cities, where they are continually annoyed by the noise of trains and street cars, and where there is little besides houses to see, to places where they can be surrounded by the scenes of nature, where they can have the blessing of fresh air and sunshine.”—Manuscript, vol. 4, p. 281.

Wednesday February 11

4. ANOTHER METHOD

a. When we think of missionary work, what is the main method that comes to mind? Romans 10:14.

Romans 10:14

[14] How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

b. God has also ordained other interesting ways to reach the people. Consider some possibilities. Proverbs 27:18; 31:16, 26; Ecclesiastes 5:9.

Proverbs 27:18

[18] Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured.

Proverbs 31:16

[16] She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

Proverbs 31:26

[26] She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue *is* the law of kindness.

Ecclesiastes 5:9

[9] Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king *himself* is served by the field.

“Christian farmers can do real missionary work in helping the poor to find homes on the land and in teaching them how to till the soil and make it productive. Teach them how to use the implements of agriculture, how to cultivate various crops, how to plant and care for orchards.”—The Ministry of Healing, p. 193.

“Our own homes and surroundings should be object lessons, teaching ways of improvement, so that industry, cleanliness, taste, and refinement may take the place of idleness, uncleanness, coarseness, and disorder. By our lives and example we can help others to discern that which is repulsive in their character or their surroundings, and with Christian courtesy we may encourage improvement. As we manifest an interest in them, we shall find opportunity to teach them how to put their energies to the best use.”—*Ibid.*, p. 196.

c. How are we to warn the cities from country places? Luke 14:23.

Luke 14:23

[23] **And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled.**

“The cities are to be worked from outposts. Said the messenger of God, ‘Shall not the cities be warned? Yes, not by God’s people living in them, but by their visiting them, to warn them of what is coming upon the earth.’”—*Evangelism*, p. 77.

“Why did our Saviour labor to sow the seed in out-of-the-way places? Why did He travel slowly away from the villages which had been His places for communicating light by opening the Scriptures? There was a world to hear, and some souls would accept the truth who had not yet heard it. Christ traveled slowly and opened the Scriptures in their simplicity to minds that would receive the truth.”—*Ibid.*, p. 47.

Thursday February 12

5. THE PREREQUISITES

a. What are the prerequisites for missionary work wherever you live?

Matthew 22:37–39.

Matthew 22:37-39

[37] Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

[38] **This is the first and great commandment.**

[39] **And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

b. How can we answer the question, “Do I really love my neighbor?”

Isaiah 41:6.

Isaiah 41:6

[6] They helped every one his neighbour; and *every one* said to his brother, Be of good courage.

“Wherever the people of God are placed, in the crowded cities, in the villages, or among the country byways, there is a home mission field for which a responsibility is laid upon them by their Lord’s commission. They are to take up the duty that lies nearest. First of all is the work in the family; next they should seek to win their neighbors to Christ, and to bring before them the great truths of this time.”— The Review and Herald, April 23, 1901.

“Those in the highways are not to be neglected; neither are those in the hedges; and as we journey about from place to place and pass by house after house, we should often inquire, ‘Have the people who are living in these places heard the message? Has the truth of God’s Word been brought to their ears? Do they understand that the end of all things is at hand, and that the judgments of God are impending? Do they realize that every soul has been bought with an infinite price?’ As I meditate upon these things, my heart goes out in deep longing to see the truth carried in its simplicity to the homes of these people along the highways and places far removed from the crowded centers of population. . . . It is our privilege to visit them and acquaint them with God’s love for them and with His wonderful provision for the salvation of their souls.”—Evangelism, p. 45.