

Sermon Brief

Name: Christoph Lameter

Date: Service October 23, 1994 at Westminster Presbyterian Church.
For the Preaching Practicum on October 17th 2nd Sermon.

Title: Paul's Farewell

Text: Acts 20:17-27

Theme: How to do Mission

Purpose: Show that mission is not only calling people to a decision or social work. Mission is a task that affects all areas of life.

Outline:

- I. Reading of Scripture
- II. Mission is
 - A. *Decision making? Example of my home church*
 - B. *Helping the poor and needy? Example of Hospital in Africa*
 - C. *Causing a life change.*
- III. How to do Mission?
 - A. *Being a witness to others.*
 - B. *Proclamation of the good news*
 - C. *Teaching the whole intentions of God*
- IV. Conclusion: Mission an expression of our life

Critical Commentaries consulted:

Bruce, F.F. The Acts of the Apostles: Third Revised and Enlarged Edition, Eerdmans, 1990

Buttrick, George Arthur The Interpreter's Bible Volume IX, New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1954. *Contains Acts and Romans.*

Laymon, Charles M. The Interpreters One-Volume Commentary on the Bible, Nashville, Abingdon Press, 1971

Neudorfer, Heinz-Werner Bibelkommentar Band 9: Apostelgeschichte 2.Teil, Neuhausen-Stuttgart: Hänssler Verlag, 1990, Reihe: Edition C

Stott, John R.W. The Message of Acts, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press, 1990

Williams, David J. New International Biblical Commentary: Acts, Hendrickson Publishers, 1990

Stott on Acts:

Only address to Christians in Acts (pg. 323)

Leaders are called Elders, pastors and overseers referring to the same people. Pastor is generic term to describe their role.

Team role of leadership. Pastoral team (pg.324).

Allusions to Grace of God (V24), Kingdom (V25), Blood of Christ (V28), Repentance and faith (V21). Edification of the Church (V28,32). Suffering (V23-24), run a race (V24) and final inheritance (V32).

Parts: Ministry in Ephesus (18b-21), Future sufferings (22-27), exhortation of elders (28-35), farewell (36-38).

Elders: First watch over yourself then over the others (V28). First take care of their own souls. False teachers!

Paul is the shepherd of the elders! Teach everything to everybody public and private. Evangelism in depth.

Wolves chief enemy of the sheep. Sheep defenseless. Shepherds need to be watchful all the time.

Negative necessary. Elders must confront those who do not follow the teaching. Who do not confront do not follow Christ's teaching and abandon the sheep.

God's church. Not our church. The church is not there for our comfort. United in purpose not by our sympathy and good feelings.

Williams on Acts(pg. 350-358):

Paul first spoke about his own ministry among them. He was the example.

V19. Paul as the Slave of the Lord for the churches.

Hard sayings and comfortable words by Paul. Turn to God in repentance and have faith in Jesus. Paul did not shrink back out of fear from another.

Overseers found in Phil 1:1; 1 Tim 3:1-; Titus 1:7; Used of Jesus in 1 Pet 2:25

3 years of service by Paul (31). Same length as Jesus ministry?

V35 Paul has given and not demanded to receive anything in return.

Overseers found in LXX and in secular area. Finance and general administration. But certainly not restricted here to that.

Interpreters Bible (270-275) mostly inconsistent textual criticism:

Ex eventu: Paul sure of the fate.

33-35 Saying of Jesus not found in Gospels.

F.F. Bruce

V 17 Presbyteroi used by Luke in introduction to Speech. Paul uses Episkopoi

Only example of a Speech of Paul to believers.

V20 Sense withhold spare used in LXX

V20 Teaching in homes the same as given publicly

Robinson style Message analysis:

Subject: The basic character of mission. What is mission about?

Complements:

1. The example of me! V18
2. Proclaiming the need for repentance and faith V19
3. Dedication to God V22-24
4. Declare the whole counsel of God V25-27 includes negatives and offensive. We need to know the whole counsel before we do this.

Ideas:

Erroneous View of mission -> only convert people

Haiti: President Aristides Farewell -> Paul's Farewell

Structure:

18 Mission to Asia

19 Persecution

20-21 No shrinking back

22-24 Giving in to God's will

24 life lost, life gained

26 The whole counsel

Evaluators:

Bobby Holloway, Lyon Alberts, Lu Moulton

V. Order of the Service

30th Sunday of Ordinary Time

World Order and Peace Sunday

October 23, 1994

Liturgist: Carol Rhyne

A. Preparation for Worship

Preacher: Welcome to our Worship Service here at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Let us sing the choruses printed in your bulletin to prepare our hearts for worship.

1. Glorify thy Name

Father (Jesus, Spirit) we love Thee,
we praise Thee, we adore thee
Glorify thy name in all the earth
Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,
Glorify thy name in all the earth

2. This is the Day

This is the day (this is the day)
That the Lord has made, (that the Lord has made)
we will rejoice (we will rejoice)
and be glad in it, (and be glad in it)
This is the day that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day (this is the day)
That the Lord has made.

B. The People Assemble in God's Name**1. Welcome and Announcements**

Preacher: Worship is one of the most important aspects of our lives. We especially welcome those that share this experience with us for the first time. Please do not

forget to fill in your name when the Fellowship Pad is passed to you.

Our Pastor Doug Edwards is away on study leave and will return and be available for you on Monday. That - by the way - is one of the reasons that you have the chance to enjoy my preaching today. Next Sunday is one of the cherished occasions when our pastor Doug Edwards will be preaching on the topic "Who are We to the World, God". Do not miss him!

The Genesis Project meets tomorrow as every Monday at 7:00pm for the study of the Book of Genesis. The theme for tomorrow is the "Table of Nations" from Genesis Chapter 10 covering all the major characteristics of nations around Israel in the ancient near East. Do not miss this! Especially if you have any complaints about the message today since I will be leading it!

The Mid-Week Biblestudy will meet on Wednesday at 9:00am led by Pastor Doug Edwards. It is open to all who seek a deeper understanding of the Scriptures.

The Followers of Faith (Junior and Senior High Youth Group) meet also on Wednesday after school from 3:30 to 5:00pm.

The Session will meet also at 7:00pm. Boy, Wednesday will be a quite busy day around here!

Coming up after the Sunday Service next week at 12:15 will be a discussion of Proposition 186 "Health Security Acts of California". Childcare is available, please bring your own lunch. The meeting is sponsored by the "Health Ministries Cabinet",

Remember next Sunday Daylight Savings time ends.

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour. If you dont turn your clock back then you will be here one hour early. The choir will be here and gladly take care of you.

The following Sunday, November 7th we will have an organizational meeting for those interested in starting a walking group. Some of our congregation seem to be interested as a result of a survey of the "Health Ministries Cabinet".

All these items can also be found in greater detail on your Church Bulletin.

Now we will have a minute for Missions from <I do not know>

2. Minute for Missions

3. Call to Worship

Liturgist: We will walk the land with hearts on fire;
and every step will be a prayer.

People: **Hope is rising, new day dawning;
sound of singing fills the air**

Liturgist: Two thousand years, and still the flame
Is burning bright across the land.

People: **Hearts are waiting longing aching,
For an awakening once again.**

Liturgist: We will walk for truth, speak out for love;
In Jesus name we shall be strong

People: **To lift the fallen, to save the children
To fill the nation with Your song.**

Liturgist: Let the flame burn brighter
in the heart of the darkness
turning night to glorious day

People: **Let the song grow louder
as our love grows stronger.
Let it shine!**

Graham Kendrick (England)

Liturgist: *Announcing of Hymn*

4. *Hymn #555 “Now Thank we All our God”

5. Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Prayer of Confession (Unisono):

It is so easy, O Lord, to assemble here and hear your word
and go back home and not do according to your word.

*Have mercy Lord,
Forgive us Lord.*

Alas! O Lord, often we do not even know your will.
Teach us Lord, Let us understand your will.

*Have mercy Lord,
Forgive us Lord.*

Woe to us! O Lord, if we notice the speaking of your spirit.
It does not suit us and we resist your spirit..

Give us an obedient heart!

*Have mercy Lord,
Forgive us Lord.*

WPC Productions

6. Time of Personal Silent Confession

7. Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist: Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full
acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He
himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might be dead
to sin and be alive to all that is good. In the name of Jesus Christ, we
are forgiven.

People: Glory to God. Amen

8. *Gloria Patri #579 “Glory be to the Father”

C. The Proclamation of God's Word

1. Solo "Teach Me To Stop and Listen" by Lynne Best
2. In the Children's Story (Preacher)

Would all the children come forward please!
<Shuffle Ruffle>

The last weeks the important topic for us was Mission. We spent so much time talking about this because Jesus commanded us to do Mission.

Do you know what doing Mission means?

[Replies from children. Discussion].

At the end of the Gospel of Matthew Jesus commands us:
I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.
Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples,
baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the Age.

So Jesus is saying, that Jesus has all authority. Everywhere. And we are to go everywhere and tell of Jesus and make them disciples - that means students - like we are.

<Children leave for their groups>

3. In Scripture: Acts 20:17-38

The Scripture that we read today is a speech of Paul to the elders - to the Presbytery - of the churches that he has founded in the area that is now Turkey. Paul tells us how he worked in those churches.

Hear the Word of God as given to us by Luke in the book of Acts. I am reading from the 20th chapter starting at verse 17 to the end of the chapter.

[Read Acts 20:17-38]

4. In the Sermon: Paul's Farewell

[Read Sermon Script beginning at Page 2!]

5. Introduction to Hymn "Grosser God wir loben dich" from my home Church.

The following song is very special to me. It is a kind of national anthem of my home church the St. Matthaesus-Gemeinde in Bremen, Germany. We sing it for the conclusion of each service like you are since the Hymn "Let there be peace on earth" after a service. I thought it would fit here since I just talked a bit about the St. Matthaesus-Gemeinde. Of course I cannot have you sing it in German. But it is in our songbook Hymn #460 with the title "Holy God We Praise your Name".

It was translated into English a long time ago and so I can share it with you. Many of you already know this old hymn, which is very dear to me.

6. *Hymn #460 "Holy God We Praise Your Name"

D. Our Response to the Lord

1. Prayer of Dedication

Minister: Let us pray together

Our Lord, God of Heaven and Earth, our strength, our Savior.

We dedicate ourselves to you, commit ourselves to your guidance.

Let your Spirit work within us, show your love to us by changing us, by teaching us your ways. Let us be a light for the world, a light that shines in this present darkness, a light that attracts others, your light.

Let us not be afraid to talk openly and honestly among us about our problems and give us the courage to lovingly confront

each other and learn with each other to follow your will. Let us accept your discipline and your chastisement because we see your care for us in it.

Our Lord, God of Heaven and Earth, you alone are worthy of our worship and our adoration. The things of the world, they perish but you are eternal and your word is eternal. We want to build our lives on this, your, foundation.

We praise you Father that you have given this foundation to us in the Holy Scriptures. We thank you for the giving of your only Son for the redemption of our sins.

Glory be to God alone.

Amen.

2. **Gathering of Offerings**

The Piano is accompanying the collection of the offerings.

3. ***Doxology #592 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"**

4. **Prayer of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

Now we will have a time during which we can bring our concerns before the Lord. Please feel free to thank the Lord and pray for concerns on your heart.

We will close with the Lord's Prayer

<Time of Silence and Personal Prayers>

And all that still is on our heart that we bring to you in the prayer that you taught your disciples saying:

**Our Father who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors
And do not lead us into temptation
but deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever.
Amen.**

E. Going out in God's Name**1. Benediction (Command to Mission in Matthew)**

Matt 28:18- Jesus said to his disciples:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you,

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Amen

2. Hymn "Let there be Peace on Earth"**3. Passing of the Peace**