

Study Notes based on Sunday morning 31 March 2019

Mission : Acts 8:4-7; Acts 13:1-3

1. 'Your missionfield is where you are.' (Graeme's Mum) – How do you respond?
2. 'We are not excused mission because we have missionaries.' (Graeme) – How do you respond?
3. Consider Graeme's three main points –(i) Mission is our default position – Graeme suggested that if we start to talk to people about Jesus, then we will see other needs. Is this your experience? Or has it worked the other way round – when you meet people's felt needs then they ask you about Jesus?
4. John Stott wrote a book entitled *Your Guilty Silence*, arguing that we are culpable if we keep our mouths shut about Jesus. But he also argued that mission is like a bird with two wings – evangelism and social action. What do you think is the Biblical position? Did Peter (1 Peter 3:15) and James (James 1:27) get it wrong while Paul (Romans 10:13-15) get it right?
5. Where do timing, and the prompting of the Holy Spirit enter the picture when we consider speaking to people about Jesus?
6. (ii) Mission is the church's natural direction. Why for example do we meet together? (Hebrews 10:24-25) 'We don't need any more preparation, we need boldness from the Holy Spirit.' (Graeme) Do you agree? See Acts 1:8
7. (iii) Mission is our Divine Appointment – is it possible that 'your missionfield is where you are' misses the point - that God may be calling us to new places, dangerous places as his missionaries?
8. How do we best support those who like Nicky Brand are career missionaries? Do you agree with Graeme that we have a better understanding of the missionary when we engage in mission ourselves? Some of the groups may have been on short term mission trips or visits. Has this helped in better understanding the challenges and needs of those we support?
9. How do you react to the concept of Integral Mission? Integral mission can be defined as the task of bringing the whole of life under the lordship of Jesus Christ, and includes the affirmation that there is no biblical dichotomy between evangelistic and social responsibility.....'our proclamation has social consequences as we call people to love and repentance in all areas of life' and that 'our social involvement has evangelistic consequences as we bear witness to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ'.
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