



***Let Your Light Shine—Part Four  
God's Word Commands Us***

**Matthew 28:18-20**

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*Objective and Aim: Everyone should invest their lives into reaching others because of the Biblical reasons God reveals concerning His feelings of people.*

- 1) People Are The Closest Thing To God's Heart
- 2) People are Perishing
- 3) Time is Challenging Us; 4) God's Word Commands Us

***Introduction:*** In 1858, a Sunday School teacher, Mr. Kimball led a Boston Shoe clerk to Christ. This clerk, Dwight Moody, became an Evangelist won a million souls to Christ. In England in 1879 Moody was preaching and awakened an Evangelistic zeal in the heart of Fredrick B. Meyer, the pastor of a small church. Meyer, preaching to an American college campus, won to Christ a student named Wilbur Chapman. Chapman, engaged in YMCA work, employed a former baseball player, Billy Sunday, to do evangelistic work. Sunday held a revival in Charlotte, North Carolina. A group of local men were so enthusiastic afterward that they planned another revival with Mordecai Hamm. During Hamm's revival, a young man named Billy Graham heard the Gospel and gave his life to Christ. Only eternity will reveal the tremendous impact that one Sunday School teacher made on the world by investing his life in others.

- I. God's Word Commands Us In The Great Commission** (*Matt.28:18-20 Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*)

A. **Sermon Illustrations:** *An elderly gentleman, walking along the beach one dawn, noticed a young man picking up starfish and flinging them into the ocean. “Why are you doing this,” the man asked? The boy explained he was afraid the stranded starfish would die if left until the morning sun. “But the beach goes on for miles what difference will it make? There are so many starfish that nothing you can do will matter.” As the boy picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea, he said quietly, “It matters to this one.”*

1. **Live The Life (Acts 1:8; Matt. 5:13)**

- a. **Pastor Dan:** *We are living today in a darkest hour in human history because there has been no other time when mankind has had the ability to push a button and destroy the world. Weapons of Mass Destruction and the wrangling of religion among nations makes us vulnerable to self destruction. The best way to make an impact on your world is to let your light shine is simply to live for Jesus the way you are supposed to live for Him.*
- b. **1 Jn. 3:1-4** Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called the children of God. Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this **hope** in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
- c. **Pastor Dan:** Living right is not boring or hard. Conditioning yourself to live right and maintaining consistency is the challenge. The pleasure derived from wrongdoing is real but fleeting and brief. The sacrifice will far exceed anything you gain. When you practice things (sin, wrongdoing) that are contrary to the nature of your creation the outcome is always painful and tragic. **Isaiah 48:22** says, “There is no peace says the LORD for the wicked. “
- d. **Phil. 4:6-8** Don’t worry about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.
- c. **Jude 20** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit
- d. **Ro. 8:5** Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit
- e. **Col. 3:1-3**
- f. **Pastor Dan:** The power to keep every command is provided by the One who gave us every command to keep. (**Ro. 8:11-16** If the Spirit of Him ....)
- g. **Phil. 2:13** God is working in you giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.
- h. **William Barclay;** Christianity is something which is meant to be seen.... An individual’s Christianity should be perfectly visible to all men.
- i. **Paul Tournier; 1898-1986:** Our task is to live our personal communion with Christ with such intensity as to make it contagious.

- e. *Rick Warren; Purpose Driven Church:* The question we (the church) need to ask is, “What is keeping our church from growing?” “What barriers are blocking the waves God wants to send our way?” “What obstacles and hindrances are preventing growth from happening? All living things grow—you don’t have to make them grow. It’s the natural thing for living organisms to do if they are healthy. For example, I don’t have to command my three children to grow. They naturally grow. As long as I remove hindrances such as poor nutrition or an unsafe environment, their growth will be automatic. Lack of growth usually indicates an unhealthy situation, possibly a disease. The church is a living organism; it is natural for it to grow if it is healthy. When a human body is out of balance we call that disease. Likewise, when the body of Christ becomes unbalanced, disease occurs. I believe the key issue for churches in the twenty-first century is church health, not church growth.
2. **Make A Difference** (*Ez. 22:30* *So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.*<sup>31</sup> *Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads,*” says the Lord GOD).
- a. *Pastor Dan:* One person can make a big difference.
- b. *Spirit Filled Life Bible:* It was a sad day in Israel’s history when God commands Ezekiel to prophesy against the sins of Jerusalem .... The spiritual condition of the Jews had deteriorated so shamefully that God finally cries, “Enough!” Then He makes a startling declaration: this could have been avoided if only one intercessor had stood before Him on behalf of the land. He says, “I sought for a man who would stand before Me on behalf of the people.” No single phrase in Scripture more accurately describes the work of an intercessor than the phrase “stand before Me on behalf of.” The intercessor always comes “before God” on “behalf of” others. The intercessor has a twofold responsibility: He or she will make a wall, which suggest he or she would restore a breach caused by an enemy, and he or she would stand in the gap or plug up that breach against that enemy throughout the building process ... an intercessor recognizes a gap between God and an individual and tries to repair it through prayer.
- c. *Luke 14:16-24* The master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled.
- d. *Compel them: W. E. Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words:* Compel means to constrain or force by all means; by threats, persuasion, and entreaties. Scare the devil’s hell out of people.
- e. *Oswald Chambers:* The evidence that we are in love with God is that we identify ourselves with His interest in others, and other people are the exact expression of what we ourselves are, that is the humiliating thing! (*John 21:15-17* Feed my sheep)
- f. *John Osteen:* We measure the success of our church, not by how many we get in to our services, but by the number of those we send out in service for Christ.
- g. *Isaiah 6:16* Isaiah stood in the gap (Send Me)
- h. *Matt. 28:18-20* The Church must stand in the gap for the world today.

i . One day a lady criticized D. L. Moody for his methods of evangelism in attempting to win people to the Lord. Moody's reply was "I agree with you. I don't like the way I do it either. Tell me, how do you do it?" The lady replied, "I don't do it." Moody retorted, "Then I like my way of doing it better than your way of not doing it."

*h. Oswald Chambers:* God will baptize you with the Holy Spirit, not for anything for ourselves at all, but that we may be witnesses for Him. God will never answer the prayer to be baptized with the Holy Spirit for any other reason than to make us witnesses to Jesus.

**Closing:** These are some Statistics compiled in 2005 by the Joshua Project and One World Missions Organization when the population of earth was approximately 6.7 billion people:

- World Population: 6.7 billion people (2014 7.3 billion).
- Approximately 11% of the population confess to be born again Christians. Another 20% attend church but may not profess to be Christian.
- Around 36% of the world's population has opportunity to hear the gospel but remain unreached despite the prevalence of churches in their region.
- 32% of the world's population has no opportunity to hear the gospel. Many of these have never even heard of the name of Jesus.
- Death Rate: Approximately 58 million people die yearly
- 160,000 people die each day
- 66,000 people die each day having had no access to the Gospel
- 6600 people die each hour
- 110 people die each minute
- Approximately 1.64 people die each second who have never heard the Name of Jesus. Approximately two people go into eternity without faith in Christ every second.

**Lester Sumerall** was dying of tuberculosis and he had a vision of a casket and a Bible. Preach and live or do not preach and die. He preached but he didn't like people. He delivered his message and told people to receive Jesus or go to hell. One night in an old one room schoolhouse where he was holding a revival he had another vision during the son service, of a long line of people dropping off the edge of a cliff and perishing in hell. God said to Lester, "You are the reason these people are going to hell." They were all kinds of people; Chinese, Africans and many nationalities. His heart was broke and he rolled on that dirty floor all night long in agony for having been so hard hearted. When he got up the next morning he was a different man.