

Refuge City Church
“Be My Witness: Missions Anywhere” (Crossing the S.E.A.)
October 24, 2021

Introduction

- Has anyone here served on the mission field?
- There was a time when I didn't think I'd ever go on the mission field! Go to another country?! No way, I'm a hometown boy.
 - The Lord had other plans... Mexico, Belize, and Zambia.
- **QUESTION:** What's the definition of a Missionary?
 - Being a missionary doesn't mean you have to **cross the sea**.
 - You just have to **see the cross** wherever you go.
- Have you ever thought about the name of the book of Acts...“The *Acts* of the Apostles”
 - It's a pretty telling title, and an example for us today in how we are to live our lives.
 - The majority of the book tells of the *missional acts* of Peter and Paul, who are living out the commission given to them by Jesus.
 - **Matthew 28:19-20**, “Go and make disciples of all nations...”
 - **Acts 1:8**, “[after receiving the Holy Spirit]...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judaea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- What do we do with the Great Commission in our lives here and now?? Is everyone supposed to forsake all they have, go here, there, and everywhere with the gospel?? In short...**yes**.
- If we are going to be intentional about “seeing the cross” in all we do, it is imperative that we begin, or continue the preparation needed to cross the S.E.A.

S.E.A. [Study, Encourage, and Act]

- **STUDY the Word of God**
 - **Acts 17:11**, “...they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”
 - Are we just as eager to receive the Word of God? Do we long for it? Study it? Search it daily?
 - Develop an appetite for the pure, true Word of God.
 - **John 1:1**, Jesus is the Word... **John 6:35**, Bread of life... **John 4:14**, Living Water.
 - **Hebrews 5:11-14**, “About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”
 - Are we growing in the knowledge of the Bible?

- If not, what do we need to get rid of, and replace with more of the Word?
 - **Proverbs 3:5**, “...do not lean on your own understanding...”
 - A lot of us do this because we may be too proud to ask for help/what we need.
 - **Proverbs 18:15**, “An intelligent heart *acquires* knowledge [practical understanding; not just information], and the ear of the wise *seeks* knowledge.”
 - **Proverbs 2:1-6**, “My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, *if you call out for insight* and raise your voice for understanding, if you *seek* it like silver and *search* for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;”
- Are you studying? Are you acquiring? What is the *depth* of your reading and studying of the Word of God?
 - Various levels of study... dependent upon where we are, individually, in our walk/relationship with Jesus.
- **Romans 12:2**, “...be transformed by *the renewal of your mind*...”
 - There is a *huge* difference between being informed and being educated.
 - Social media, news, even bible study...
 - **QUOTE:** Denzel Washington = uninformed vs. misinformed
- God wrote a book for you! It’s your instruction manual. Your GPS. Your playbook. Curriculum. Fieldmap. Bread. Water. Truth. Life. Why would we take it lightly, or even disregard it altogether?!

- **ENCOURAGE the people of God**

- The word “encouragement” literally means to put courage in to someone else.
 - To give support, confidence, hope.
 - To stimulate the development of an activity, state, or belief.
- How do we do this on a practical, daily basis?
 - To answer this, let’s go back to the beginning of Acts.
 - **Acts 2:42-47**, “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the *fellowship*, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were *together* and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple *together* and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”
- Interesting to note how the development of the church coincides with the development of Jesus, as was mentioned in Luke 2.
 - Jesus grew in wisdom [**Luke 2:40**]
 - The church devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching, and attended the temple together.

- Jesus grew in favor with God and men **[Luke 2:52]**
 - The Church gathered together to praise God and had favor with all the people.
- If we pattern our lives after Jesus, than there is no doubt our life will be one of encouragement to those around us.
- We ought to enjoy the same type of fellowship as we attend church together, eat together, take communion & pray together, serve & show the community around us the true unity of the spirit in how we “do church”.
 - **Question:** Are we caring for one another? BUT, are we also willing to be vulnerable and share our needs with each other?
 - **Question:** Are we praying for each other? BUT, are we also willing to share our hurts, hangups, and hardships with each other?
- Are we living in true, biblical community? Are these strangers you see once a week and nothing more? How are we encouraging one another the other 6 days of the week?
- **QUOTE:** “The Christian life is meant to be full of **fellowship**, of sharing one with another. We share the same Lord Jesus. We share the same guide for life. We share the same love for God. We share the same desire to worship Him. We share the same struggles. We share the same victories. We share the same job of living for Him. We share the same joy of communicating the gospel.” [David Guzik]
- **Romans 15:2-7**, “Let each of us please his neighbor for *his* good, to build *him* up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, ‘The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.’ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through **the encouragement of the Scriptures** we might have hope. May the **God of endurance and encouragement** grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”
- Let me throw this out there. The greatest way to bring encouragement, is to do so with someone you typically would not associate.
 - Can we show the same kind of love we have for our closest family and friends, with those we call “acquaintances”, and even strangers?
 - **Philippians 2:3**, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”
 - **Galatians 6:10**, “...let us do good to *everyone*...”
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:11**, “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up...”
 - When you provide love, support, and hope to others, you will more clearly demonstrate the concept of true church unity, both in and out of this building, for each other and for others.
- **ACT for the glory of God!**
 - Have the vision to see the needs of those here and there that need Jesus.

- **1 John 2:6**, “whoever says he abides in him ought to *walk* in the same way in which he walked.”
- **Hebrews 12:2**, “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...”
 - **How did Jesus walk?!** The answer is seemingly simple: Love, sacrifice, and service for the sake of the gospel, which is for everyone!
- **Matthew 28:19-20**, “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 observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- **Acts 1:8**, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be** my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
 - We have been given the commission to GO!
 - It may take you 2 seconds [**home/cross the street**], 20 minutes [**work**], or even 20 hours to get there [**international**]. Regardless of *where*, there is no question we’ve been called to GO.
- God has provided us a myriad of examples of various people who lived out there commission to GO. [**Hebrews 11, “The Hall of Faith”**]
 - v. 4 Abel offered...
 - v. 5 Enoch pleased God...
 - v. 7 Noah constructed...
 - v. 8-10, 17-19 Abraham went out, offered, and obeyed...
 - v. 11 Sarah believed and conceived...
 - v. 20 Isaac invoked blessings...
 - v. 21 Jacob blessed and worshipped...
 - v. 22 Joseph instructed...
 - v. 23-28 Moses refused riches, became enslaved, and “exited”...
 - v. 29 The Israelites crossed...
 - v. 30 By Faith the walls of Jericho fell...
 - v. 31 Rahab believed and welcomed...
 - v. 32-35 Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the Prophets conquered, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched fire, escaped the sword, strengthened, made mighty and defeated their enemies.
- If there is anything we learn from Hebrews 11, it’s that *faith* and *action* take on many different forms. Regardless, we still ACT!

Conclusion

- Now that we’ve crossed this S.E.A., I ask again: Raise your hand if we have any missionaries with us today?
- Please allow me a second to make this very, very clear...
 - To live out the missionary call that you have on your life, you can **not** leave any of the above out of the equation.
- **Colossians 3:16-17**, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly [**STUDY**], teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God [**ENCOURAGE**]. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him [**ACT**].”