

We Will Not Stop Proclaiming #1

Sermon in a Sentence: We must resolve to faithfully proclaim the message of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sermon Purpose: That the people commit themselves to Christ and the proclamation of His gospel.

Texts: Acts 4:1-20 (note verses 8 and 20)

Introduction

1. Sometimes pastors are tempted to preach popular, yet shallow, messages.
 - a. As a result, they forsake the true message of the gospel.
 - b. Today we learn an important lesson from Peter and John.
2. Tell the story of the arrest and confession of Peter and John in Acts 4. (When they were commanded to stop preaching in Jesus' name, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and replied, "We cannot not stop speaking about Christ!")
3. We would do well to make four similar commitments:

I. **Commitment 1: "WE WILL NOT STOP PROCLAIMING CHRIST TO THE LOST."**

- A. Sadly, many Pentecostal churches have forsaken the message of Christ for "other gospels" (see Ga 1:6-9).
- B. However, when commanded to stop preaching Christ, the apostles answered, "We cannot stop speaking about Christ!"
- C. Christ was the one message of the church in the book of Acts.
 1. Philip went to Samaria and preached Christ (Ac 8:5).
 2. Paul preached Christ to the Philippian jailer (Ac 16:30-31).
 3. Peter: "Neither is there salvation in any other..." (Ac 4:12).
- D. We must never stop proclaiming the message of Christ.

II. **Commitment 2: "WE WILL NOT STOP PREACHING IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT."**

- A. The apostles and preachers in the Book of Acts proclaimed Christ in the power of the Spirit.
 1. Peter on the Day of Pentecost (Ac 2:4, 14, 22-24).
 2. Peter again (Ac 4:8-12).
- B. We too must proclaim Christ in the Spirit's power.
 1. Jesus final command: Ac 1:4-5: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised..."
 2. Jesus' final promise: Ac 1:8 "But you will receive power..."
 3. Ask the Spirit to come upon you and fill you right now.

III. Commitment 3: “WE WILL NOT STOP PLANTING SPIRIT-EMPOWERED MISSIONARY CHURCHES.”

- A. In the book of Acts, the apostles planted Spirit-empowered missionary churches.
 - 1. That is, the planted churches that would soon plant other Spirit-empowered missionary churches.
 - 2. Like the church in Antioch (Ac 11:19-21).
 - 3. As a result, churches multiplied through the Roman Empire.
- B. We too must plant Spirit-empowered missionary churches.
 - 1. That is, churches that are empowered by the Holy Spirit...
 - a. ...and will soon plant other churches of the same type.
 - b. ...and will get involved in sending missionaries.
 - 2. Such churches will not result without an intentional, well thought out plan to plant them.

IV. Commitment 4: “WE WILL NOT STOP MOBILIZING OUR CHURCHES FOR MISSIONS.”

- A. When the apostles mobilized Spirit-empowered missionary churches, they did so with the intent of spreading the gospel “in Jerusalem, Judea, and to the ends of the earth.”
 - 1. Every local church must be mobilized to participate in the work of missions.
 - 2. Every believer must be taught about his or her responsibility of participating in missions.
- B. We must all participate in missions in three ways:
 - 1. We must all *go* to the lost and share the gospel.
 - 2. We must all *pray* for the harvest at home and abroad.
 - 3. We must all *give* to the work of missions.

Conclusion and Altar Call

- 1. Come and commit yourself to Christ and the proclamation of His gospel to the lost.
- 2. Come and be empowered by the Spirit to proclaim the gospel.

— Denzil R. Miller