

Introduction:

1. Have you ever wanted to go and do the work of the Lord on a mission field?
 - a. A lot of people—especially young people—may dream about going to South America, Africa or Asia to preach the gospel to the natives. And you don't have to be young to dream that.
 - b. If you have ever dreamed of working in a mission field, then this lesson is for you! "But what if I have never thought about something like that?" Then this is still the lesson for you.
2. Your mission field is right here! And the time to work is right now!
 - a. That's what Jesus taught His disciples in John 4:35. While it is true that Jesus later sent them into all the world to preach the gospel, at this particular time He told them to look at the fields where they were—that those fields were ready for harvest.
 - b. He wasn't talking about harvesting cucumbers, corn or cantaloupe. He was talking about souls. There were people right there in Samaria—right there where the disciples were—who were ready and willing to be converted.
 - c. These people were ready for the gospel at that time. The harvest wasn't four months down the road, or even two months away. Jesus said the fields are "already white for the harvest."
 - d. And Jesus was right. There was a large harvest at Samaria. It wasn't only the Samaritan woman who believed in Jesus; many more also believed, John 4:39-42.

The Lesson:

I. Your mission field is at home.

- A. You don't have to go far away to do the work of evangelism.
 1. In fact, the mission field is so close to you that you are sitting in the middle of it right now.
 - a. "You mean here in the church building?"
 - b. Yes, right here in this auditorium you can do the work of evangelism!
 - c. "The only one who can do evangelism in the church building is the preacher as he preaches to those in the audience who need to become Christians."
 - d. Would you then agree with me that there are people in an audience of this size who might need to become Christians?
 2. Why does this work have to be limited to the preacher? Why can't you have part in it? There are ways that you can seek the lost right here, right now!
 - a. The fact that people who are not yet Christians come to our worship services says that they have come here looking. They are looking for something. They want to find something. Can you help them find what they are looking for?
 - b. Would you play the role of a vacuum cleaner salesman for a moment? Do you want to sell your vacuums door-to-door or do you want to sell them at Sears? At Sears, people come to you wanting a vacuum. The door-to-door man has to go out and find the person who wants a vacuum.
 - c. When people come to our assembly, they come looking. We don't have to go door-to-door to find them. They come to our door! They are our best contacts for evangelism.
 - d. This isn't our only way of making evangelistic contacts—but these are our best!
- B. You don't have to wait a long time to do the work of evangelism.
 1. Sometimes people think they have to study personal evangelism for months before they act. Jesus said, "Don't say four months and then comes the harvest." Because people think it takes a long time to learn, they never get much done.
 2. I will show you this morning all you need to know to get started.

II. Four simple things you can do right now in your mission field.

- A. *Shine*. Jesus commanded us to do that, Matthew 5:16.
 1. This applies to you wherever you are. Let your light shine wherever you find yourself.
 2. This just means that you live the way Jesus wants you to. You live right. You live according to the gospel. You do this whether you are in or out of the assembly.
 3. Your light has power. You show others the right way to live. You aren't like everyone else. You can't win others if you don't live right. But this is something you can do now, right?
- B. *Speak*. We salt our speech with references to God. We confess Him daily, Matthew 10:32.

1. Don't be afraid to mention the Lord in your everyday speech. Don't we naturally talk about the things we are interested in—our kids, our teams, our cars, etc.
 2. For us, the most important thing in life is our relationship with God. It makes sense that God should be in our conversation: His book, His church, my brethren, etc.
 3. Give glory to God for the good things in your life; let unbelievers know you are praying for them; point hurting, troubled people to God's word; speak positively about the church.
- C. *Invite*. Follow the example of Philip, John 1:45-46.
1. Invite people to come and see. Talk positively about Bible class; then invite them to come. Talk enthusiastically about worship; then invite them to come. Talk up a special study; then invite them to attend. Use invitation cards. Studies show that 25% of those who do not attend church say they would come if someone invited them. You are someone!
 2. Inviting people to worship is evangelism. Which of these three things can you not do?
- D. *Welcome*. God tells us to give special attention to guests in our assembly, James 2:1-4.
1. How we treat guests has a tremendous impact on whether they will be converted. If we treat them as unwelcome guests we will say goodbye to them only once!
 2. Start your welcome in the parking lot. Do you know how hard it is for people to come to services for the first time? One lady sat in her car for 15 minutes before she could get up her courage to get out of the car and come in. In the parking lot, if you see someone who is a visitor, introduce yourself and welcome them to our assembly. So far, no one that we know of has been bitten by any visitors in the parking lot! They don't bite. Speak to them.
 3. Do you have a heart that cares about other people? Then latch on to guests! This is your mission field. Let them know this is the place where they belong.
 4. Attending a church for the first time is like walking onto a stage in a play. Everybody knows their part and their lines—except the visitors. They are counting on you to help them with their part. Make them feel comfortable. Introduce yourself. Invite them to sit with you in Bible class and worship. Give them a class book or a songbook.
 5. Remember that there are no reserved seats in this auditorium. Nobody has your seat!
 6. Follow the ten-minute rule. For the first ten minutes after service, seek out the visitors. Don't talk to your buds! Talk to guests! Put on your guest radar and seek them out. (This may scare our guests here this morning to death, but don't worry, we won't hurt you; we don't bite.) Don't let guests get past you without speaking to them.
 7. "But won't guests be upset if too many people talk to them before or after services?" Actually, what upsets people is when too few people talk (or no one talks) to them. We have all been to that church where no one talked to us.
 8. What to say to someone after services? Introduce yourself; tell them you are glad they came; invite them to come back; introduce them to other people. If they have kids, tell them about Bible classes; maybe show them the kids' classrooms.
 9. This can be your field of evangelism. This isn't hard stuff. Sometimes Bible studies are hard. Sometimes difficult questions can really be a challenge. But that's not what this is. This is easy stuff! Don't count on other people to do this. You do it!
- E. There is nothing in these four points that you can't do!

III. Why we see this work as our mission field.

- A. To our guests who are with us this morning, we want you to know that we do this because we care about you. We have a burden in our hearts for souls. We see our work as an extension of the work of Jesus, Luke 19:10. We make no pretense; we want to convert all men to Jesus.
- B. Secondly, we do it for Jesus. He told us to do this work. He said there is a shortage of workers who seek souls, Matthew 9:37-38. Jesus is our Master. We are on a mission from our Master.

Conclusion:

1. You don't have to go to Asia, Africa or South America to work in a mission field. This is your mission field—right here, and it is right now!
2. This is easy evangelism. And this is effective evangelism. When we have guests, you don't have to go beyond the walls of this building to do effective evangelism. Will you commit yourself? Maybe there are some Christians somewhere not interested in winning souls. But that isn't you, is it?
3. We are committed to evangelism because we are committed to Jesus. Are you committed to Him?