

## **"Reach the Lost" / April 29, 2018**

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**Last week we started a series that will span over 6 weeks, with Mother's Day being in the middle of it covering our new Mission Statement.**

**WDLT, RtL, StF, DoG, and CtW...**

**This week we are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> banner – "We will Reach the Lost!"**

**There has never ever been a more polarizing love story in all the history of the world than that of the Gospel of Grace and Truth – the Gospel of Jesus Christ! That a man would come and live His life for the ransom of sin of everyone that has ever lived on the planet. That a man, who was God, would humble Himself and come to this earth to die for us all. To some it is preposterous. To some it is foolishness. To some it is good or bad story. To some it is nonsensical. But the few call it the "Greatest Story Ever Told"! The Gospel!**

**This morning we have a hand out for you to give you some great ideas and thoughts as to sharing your faith with those that are lost. This will help you in your heart, soul, and mind in taking what God has done in your life and sharing with others around you in your world – whether family, neighborhood, school, workplace, and maybe even complete stranger!**

**Let's pray!**

**The Asian monk living in a little remote village, spending most of his time in prayer or tending the garden from which he obtained his sustenance. It was Telemachus, back in the fourth century. One day, he thought he heard the voice of God telling him to go to Rome, believing what he had heard, he set out. Weeks and weeks later, he arrived there, having traveled most of the way on foot.**

**It was at a time of a festival in Rome, they were celebrating a triumph over the Goths. He followed a crowd into the Coliseum, and then there in the midst of this great crowd, he saw the gladiators come forth, stand before the Emperor, and say, "We who are about to die salute you." And he realized they were going to fight to the death for the entertainment of the crowds. And he cried out, "In the name of Christ, stop!" His voice was lost in the tumult there in the great Coliseum.**

**As the games began, he made his way down through the crowd and climbed over the wall and dropped to the floor of the arena. Suddenly the crowds saw this scrawny little figure making his way out to the gladiators and saying, over and over again, "In the name of Christ, stop." They thought it was part of the entertainment, and at first they were amused. But then, when they realized it wasn't, they grew belligerent and angry. And as he was pleading with the gladiators, "In the name of Christ, stop," one of them plunged his sword into his body. As he fell to the sand of the arena in death, his last words were, "In the name of Christ, stop."**

Suddenly, a strange thing happened - the gladiators stood looking at this tiny form lying in the sand. A silence fell over the Colosseum. And then, someplace up in the upper tiers, an individual made his way to an exit and left, and others began to follow. In the dead silence, everyone left the Coliseum. That was the last battle to the death between gladiators in the Roman Coliseum. Never again did anyone kill or did men kill each other for the entertainment of the crowd.

One tiny voice that could hardly be heard above the tumult, ``In the name of Christ, stop." It is a message that we can speak loudly or softly to the world in which we live!

Telamegas – Something worth dying for, something worth living for! Somewhere in this world, there needs to be a little grave with your name on it.

The Gospel, is it that God is calling you to crucify yourself for?! Remember that being a Christian is all about dieing to self and never going back to the former things!

## 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM I KINGS 20 ABOUT TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

A. Benhadad was the King of Syria. His army had defeated everybody EXCEPT Samaria (Samaria was God's people at this point in history. They were the "good guys.")

2. **THE FINAL, ULTIMATE TACTIC THAT BENHADAD AND SYRIA DECIDED TO USE TO DEFEAT SAMARIA WAS TO...Surround Them.**

3. **THE ENEMY'S ULTIMATE TACTIC TO DESTROY ANY PERSON OR MINISTRY IS FOR US TO GO Inward.**

4. HOW THE LIVING GOD WANTS US TO HANDLE "BEING SURROUNDED" BY THE WORLD...

### **2 Kings 7:3-10 (TLB)**

<sup>3</sup>Now there were four lepers sitting outside the city gates. "Why sit here until we die?" they asked each other.

<sup>4</sup>"We will starve if we stay here and we will starve if we go back into the city; so we might as well go out and surrender to the Syrian army. If they let us live, so much the better; but if they kill us, we would have died anyway."

<sup>5</sup>So that evening they went out to the camp of the Syrians, but there was no one there!

<sup>6</sup>(For the Lord had made the whole Syrian army hear the clatter of speeding chariots and a loud galloping of horses and the sounds of a great army approaching. "The king of Israel has hired the Hittites and Egyptians to attack us," they cried out.

<sup>7</sup>So they panicked and fled into the night, abandoning their tents, horses, donkeys, and everything else.)

<sup>8</sup>When the lepers arrived at the edge of the camp they went into one tent after another, eating, drinking wine, and carrying out silver and gold and clothing and hiding it.

<sup>9</sup>Finally they said to each other, "This isn't right. This is wonderful news, and we aren't sharing it with anyone! Even if we wait until morning, some terrible calamity will certainly fall upon us; come on, let's go back and tell the people at the palace."

<sup>10</sup>So they went back to the city and told the watchmen what had happened.

## 2 KEY CONCEPTS HERE:

- ♦ **The "main players" in the story were four Starving Lepers.** Nobody's, Outcasts, Rejects...
- ♦ Verse 4 pinpoints something very pivotal about them: **They Had Nothing Too Lose!**

**ONE OF OUR BIGGEST PROBLEMS IN THE CHURCH WORLD TODAY IS OUR PERSONAL RIGHTS. WE ALL, IF WE ARE HONEST WITH OURSELVES, HAVE TOO MUCH TO LOSE.**

**5. THE FOUR LEPERS, WHEN THEY FINALLY WENT INSIDE, FOUND A DESERTED CAMP. (VERSES 5-7)**

A. **You'll never really attack "enemy territory" until you come to believe "in your gut" how really empty it is.**

**6. "GOD, INCREASINGLY, GIVE ME YOUR KIND OF LEPROSY...I ADMIT BEFORE YOU TODAY...I OFTEN HAVE "too much to lose."**

**Mark 8:34-38** <sup>34</sup>Then he called his disciples and the crowds to come over and listen. **"If any of you wants to be my follower,"** he told them, **"you must put aside your own pleasures and shoulder your cross, and follow me closely.**

<sup>35</sup>**If you insist on saving your life, you will lose it. Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live.**

<sup>36</sup>**"And how does a man benefit if he gains the whole world and loses his soul in the process?"**

<sup>37</sup>**For is anything worth more than his soul?**

<sup>38</sup>**And anyone who is ashamed of me and my message in these days of unbelief and sin, I, the Messiah, will be ashamed of him when I return in the glory of my Father, with the holy angels."**

**Mark 9:1** <sup>1</sup>Jesus went on to say to his disciples, **"Some of you who are standing here right now will live to see the Kingdom of God arrive in great power!"**

This morning, I want to leave us with a beautiful written word about the cross, **The Gospel!**

**All of the hymn is on 4 slides!**

**When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,**

**Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.**

Oh, the wonderful cross,  
Oh, the wonderful cross,  
Bids me come and die,  
And find that I may truly live.

Oh, the wonderful cross,  
Oh, the wonderful cross,  
All who gather here by  
Grace draw near and Bless your name.

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Oh, the wonderful cross,  
Oh, the wonderful cross,  
Bids me come and die,  
And find that I may truly live.

Oh, the wonderful cross,  
Oh, the wonderful cross,  
All who gather here by  
Grace draw near and Bless your name.

Love so amazing, so divine  
Demands my soul, my life, my all

Oh, the wonderful cross,  
Oh, the wonderful cross,  
Bids me come and die,  
And find that I may truly live.

Oh, the wonderful cross,  
Oh, the wonderful cross,  
All who gather here by  
Grace draw near and Bless your name.

**"The Wonderful Cross" – Video**

**Prayer**

**Title Slide**

**If you are here this morning, and you are not life with anyone. You are running this race of life alone and hopeless. You feel defeated and like quitting, let me read to you one more time...**

**Rom. 5:6-9,** <sup>6</sup> When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. <sup>7</sup> Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. <sup>8</sup> But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. <sup>9</sup> And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation.

### **Title Slide**

**Now is the time to make your relationship right with God! And stop running your race alone! It is time to start doing life together with Him and His family! And we are that family!**

**Join our team down at the front!**

**If you are "DLT", yet you standing in His identity, you are not living in unity, or you not sure how to let your destiny be fulfilled... I want to pray with you!**

**Come join me down here at these altars...**

**Salvation Altar Call...**

**Closing Video – "The Wonderful Cross"**