

The Greatest Ingredient in Building Bridges –



Mt. 9:35-38

“Building Bridges from Albuquerque to All the World”

Mt. 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when **he saw** the multitudes, **he was moved with compassion** on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then saith he unto his disciples, **The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;**

38 **Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.**



Our theme this year is *Building Bridges*, and this morning we will continue looking at the topic:

The Greatest Ingredient in Building Bridges – LOVE

The main ingredient in building a relationship with Christ = LOVE.

The main ingredient in building a marital relationship = LOVE.

The main ingredient in building a parent/child relationship = LOVE.

The main ingredient in building a loyal friendship = LOVE.

For us to be “building bridges” with anyone, our foundation must be built upon LOVE.



Our theme for our conference and the title of this message is...

“Building Bridges from Albuquerque to All the World”

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF MISSIONS TO CHRIST

Jn. 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.

20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: **as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**



A. The Timing, 20:19 – “...being the first *day* of the week...”
= **The RESURRECTION DAY!**

B. The Testimony, 20:20 – “...he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side...” = **the reality determined** (Zech. 13:6)

C. The Task, 20:21 – “...**as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**” = **the role declared**

The Great Commission has been called our
“marching orders!” We need to be...



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II. THE INSPIRATION OF MISSIONS TO CHRIST

Mt. 9:36 But when **he saw** the multitudes, **he was moved with compassion** on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep **having no shepherd**.

A. The Perspective – “But when **he saw** the multitudes...”
= **The Seeing**

- The Good Shepherd was limited, at the moment, to those in the immediate vicinity.
- He “saw” the need of missions, to have His body, a church, in every locality.

Prov. 29:18 “Where *there is* **no vision, the people perish...**”



B. The Passion – “...**he was moved with compassion** on them...”
= **The Sentiment**

Jn. 3:16 For **God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Rom. 5:8 But **God commendeth his love toward us**, in that, while **we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us.

1 Jn. 4:9 In this was **manifested the love of God toward us**, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that **he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**



C. Problem – “...they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep **having no shepherd.**” = **The Sin**

Rom. 5:6 For when **we were yet without strength**, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.**

D. The Provision = **The Savior**

Rom. 12:5 So **we, being many, are one body in Christ**, and every one members one of another.

1 Cor. 12:27 Now **ye are the body of Christ**, and **members in particular.**



Eph. 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

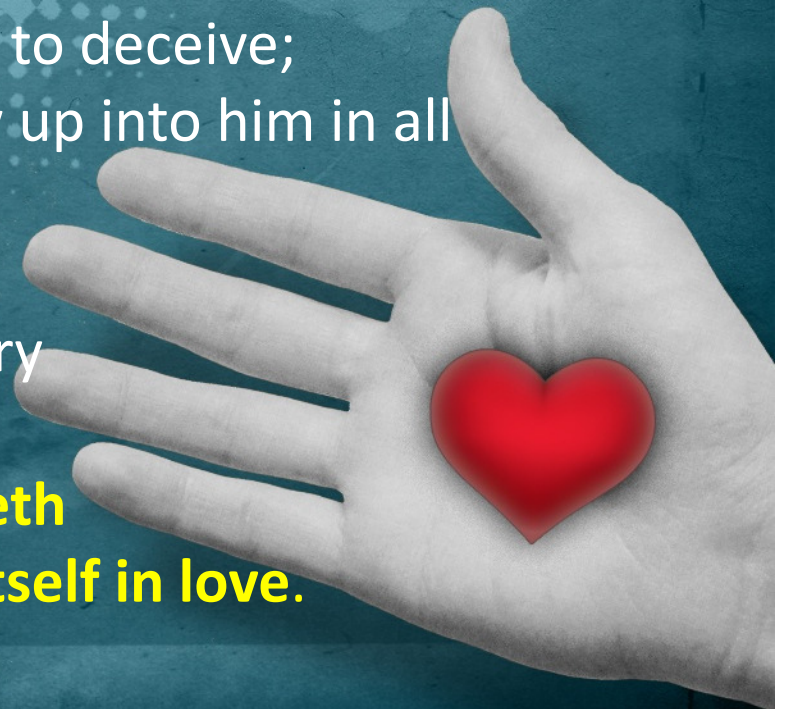
12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, **for the edifying of the body of Christ:**

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

16 From whom **the whole body fitly joined together** and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, **maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.**



III. THE IMPLICATION OF MISSIONS FOR CHRIST

Mt. 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few;

38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

A. The Demand is Plenteous

“Then saith he unto his disciples, **The harvest truly is plenteous...**”

1. The Declaration of the Challenge –

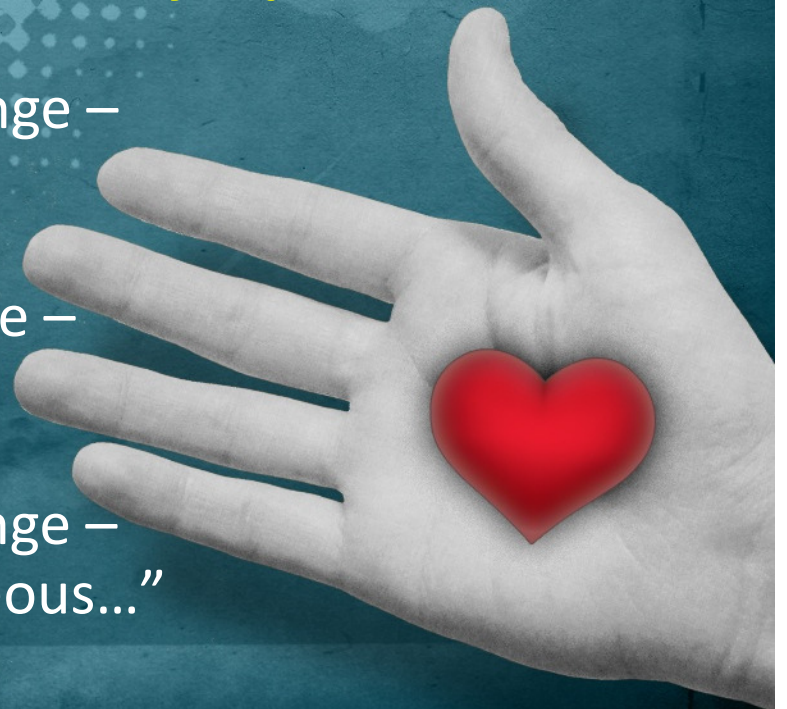
“Then saith he...”

2. The Disciples get the Challenge –

“...unto his disciples...”

3. The Description of the Challenge –

“...The harvest truly is plenteous...”



Original Word: θερισμός

Transliteration: therismos

Definition: reaping, harvest; met: the harvest, crop

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2326.htm>

Original Word: πολύς, πολλή, πολύ

Transliteration: polus

Short Definition: much, many, often, (high in *number*); multitudinous, plenteous, "much"; "great" in *amount (extent)*.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4183.htm>



POPULATION 2016

Retrieved 4/2/16 from <http://www.census.gov/popclock/> 3:30 p.m. MDT

World Population = 7,315,714,400 +

USA Population = 323,279,960 +

The United States population on April 2, 2010 was: 308,751,946

In six years, the USA gained a population of 14,528,014



COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE

One birth every 8 seconds

One death every 12 seconds

One international migrant (net) every 28 seconds

Net gain of one person every 13 seconds

If there are neither births nor deaths, and we win 1,000 souls per day, every day, we would win 365,000 souls per year.

$323,279,960 / 365,000 = 885$ years
to win the USA to the Lord.

$7,315,714,400 / 365,000 = 20,043$ years
to win the world to Christ.



B. The Dearth of Participants – “...but the labourers are few;”

1. The Savior’s Concern – “...but the labourers are few;”

Paltry = **ridiculously or insultingly small: Utterly worthless**

Estimates of the world population in the 1st & 2nd centuries are from 170 – 400 million, but most “experts” average it to be about 200 million.

https://www.census.gov/population/international/data/worldpop/table_history.php

<http://www.ecology.com/population-estimates-year-2050/>

The ratio for the 12 Apostles would have been about 16.7 million to 1.

If there are 560,000,000 Christians worldwide, the ratio is 13 to 1.

<https://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=1006050911125>



One source states that the total number of “Christians” worldwide is 2,265,000,000. Of those, 26% claim to be “born-again” (153,114,000.) If, as this source speculates, 8.1% is truly saved, (183,465,000 – my figure) the source claims 170 million are genuine (7.5% - my figures) Christians. <http://www.888c.com/worldChristianDenominations.htm>

If there are 170 million Christians in the world, the ratio is about 43 to 1.

If there are neither births nor deaths, and all 170 millions Christian won **one soul each per year**, it would only take 43 years to win the world to Christ!

Luke 10:2 Therefore said he unto them,
The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.



It has been said that 95% of all Christians never lead a soul to Jesus.
http://www.fbbs.com/messages/one_step/one_step_07.htm

2. The Saint's Challenge – to see the way the Savior sees

Mt. 9:36 “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.”

a. Christ looked upon the souls –
“...when he saw...”

Original Word: ὁράω

Transliteration: horaó

Definition: I see, look upon, experience, perceive, discern, beware.

Properly, *see*, often with *metaphorical* meaning: "to see with the mind" (i.e. spiritually see), i.e. perceive (with inward spiritual perception).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3708.htm>



b. Christ looked with sympathy – “...moved with compassion on them...”

Original Word: σπλαγχνίζομαι

Transliteration: splanchnizomai

Definition: I feel compassion, have pity on, am moved.

"from *splanxna*, 'the inward parts,' especially the nobler entrails – the heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys. These gradually came to denote the *seat of the affections*" <http://biblehub.com/greek/4697.htm>

c. Christ looked for a solution – “...a shepherd.”

- Those scattered around the globe need the Good Shepherd.
- Christ saw so many that “...were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.”
- The shepherds are to guide their flocks.



Luke 12:32 **Fear not, little flock**; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

- The “flocks” are representatives of “churches”

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and **to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God**, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, **not sparing the flock.**

1 Pet. 5:2 **Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof**, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

3 Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but **being ensamples to the flock.**



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C. The Duty of Prayer

Mt 9:38 **Pray ye therefore the Lord** of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

- We pray, asking the Lord to lay on our heart the amount for us to trust Him, for us to give.
- We trust the answer, of the amount to give weekly, is God’s will.
- We do our part, give, by faith, of what we have, to the Lord via our church.
- The Lord is true and faithful, and we trust His faithfulness, that He will do His part.



- The power, for us to “perform the doing *of it*” is by the grace of God.
- God gets the glory for what He has done THROUGH us!
 - A. Seek the Solution – “Pray ye therefore **the Lord** of the harvest...”

Original Word: δέομαι

Transliteration: deomai

Definition: I want for myself; I want, need; I beg, request, beseech, pray.

Properly, to feel pressing need because of lack – hence, to make urgent appeal; to have deep personal need causing one to beseech (make earnest, specific request).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/1189.htm>



B. Send the Servants – “...that **he will send forth labourers into his harvest.**”

Jn. 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to **do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.**

35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? **behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.**

36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

Jn. 6:38 For I came down from heaven, **not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.**



Mt. 12:50 For **whosoever shall do the will of my Father** which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Jn. 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: **as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

- Obedient believers are to fulfill the purpose of His mission.
- Obedient believers are to produce fruit, for His glory, via participation in His mission.
- Churches starting churches, around us, and abroad, are fulfilling His mission.



Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me **both** in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, **and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

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Conclusion

Gal 5:6b “...faith...**worketh by love.**”

Jn. 14:15 **If ye love me**, keep my commandments.

Jn. 15:10 **If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love**; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

1 Jn. 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, **when we love God, and keep his commandments.**

3 For **this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments**: and **his commandments are not grievous.**

