

10-23-16
SETBACKS IN FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION

Intro: What are the setbacks we experience in the getting out the great commission?

I. ONE GREAT SETBACK IS THE DISCOURAGEMENT WE EXPERIENCE IN SHARING THE MESSAGE OF THE GREAT COMMISSION.

Plain old derision and persecution will discourage us. Note how bad it can be.

Jeremiah 20:8 For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily.

Jeremiah 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

Jeremiah 20:14 Cursed be the day wherein I was born: let not the day wherein my mother bare me be blessed.

Jeremiah 20:15 Cursed be the man who brought tidings to my father, saying, A man child is born unto thee; making him very glad.

Jeremiah 20:16 And let that man be as the cities which the LORD overthrew, and repented not: and let him hear the cry in the morning, and the shouting at noontide;

Jeremiah 20:17 Because he slew me not from the womb; or that my mother might have been my grave, and her womb to be always great with me.

Jeremiah 20:18 Wherefore came I forth out of the womb to see labour and sorrow, that my days should be consumed with shame?

Remember the word witness is the word Martyrus meaning Martyr.

How is it that the Moslems have a greater zeal and willingness to suffer for a false cause than we who have the good news are willing to suffer for the truth?

Paul understood this, and when John Mark left the mission filed because the going got tough Paul felt this disqualified him from going on the second missionary journey with him and Barnabas.

Acts 15:36 And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do.

Acts 15:37 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

Acts 15:38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

Acts 15:39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

Acts 15:40 And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

Acts 15:41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

II. ANOTHER HINDERANCE TO THIS GREAT COMMISSION IS LABORERS.

Luke 10:1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

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.

Luke 10:3 Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

There are just not enough labourers to do the work.

Not enough people willing to be messengers.

Not enough people willing to be labourers.

III. ANOTHER HINDERANCE IS THE DEVIL HIMSELF.

1. TO DO THE WORK OF THE GREAT COMMISSION IS TO ENTER THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE WITH SATAN HIMSELF.

Acts 26:15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

Acts 26:16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Acts 26:17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

2. PAUL CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD WHO IT WAS THAT HE FOUGHT AGAINST.

I Thessalonians 2:18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

3. GOD OPENED MY EYES TO THIS BATTLE IN THE EARLY PART OF OUR MINISTRY HERE.

A. WE ARE IN FACT ENTERING INTO A SPIRITUAL BATTLE WHEN WE DO THE WORK OF THE GREAT COMMISSION.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

B. THIS FIGHT CANNOT BE WON IN THE FLESH.

II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

II Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

IV. THE GREATEST HINDERANCE TO THE WORK IS OUR OWN HEART.

The whole book is an object lesson showing how hardened Jonah is to the great commission of saving souls.

Plan old fact is most of us just do not care for the souls of men and women.

Jonah 4:9 And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death.

Jonah 4:10 Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night:

Jonah 4:11 And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?

Went out sharing the gospel, talking to a man's mother.

She was about to pray and the man whose mother wanted to pray and get saved was about to excuse himself and leave.

I rebuked him, even while I was praying.

TO SOLVE ALL THESE HINDERANCES WE NEED ONLY ONE THING.

Acts 1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Acts 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

Acts 1:7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

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.

Acts 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

When the Holy Ghost filled them and empowered them they were different people.

**SO THIS IS WHAT WE NEED TODAY.
WITH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT NONE OF THESE OBSTACLES
WILL MATTER.**

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.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.