

Two Monumental Tasks

New Life by the Gospel of Grace

When it comes to our problems down here, God has His Hands full. Every individual person needs saving from sin and restoration to the life they were created to live in full fellowship with the Lord. Every world system needs saving from injustice and oppression and restoration to the Lord's way of running things. Out of this emerges our twin tasks: the Great Commission which is aimed at the spiritual needs of individuals and the "Great Compassion" which is aimed at creating freer, nobler societies.

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:14 ESV

Double Duties

Of the two great tasks assigned to us by Jesus right before His departure, one is primarily outward, the other inward. You can focus on one or the other in pursuit of your calling, but the truth is that they are necessarily interdependent, just as bodies and souls are. We need an eye and a heart for both. We will all be called at times to share the faith or to help someone in distressing circumstances. Get ready! Fortunately, Jesus now lives in us by His Holy Spirit and can supply us with His vision, passion and abilities to work in both these areas of tremendous need.

The Great Commission

The Great Commission was given to us by Jesus right before His ascension. It looks inward to the soul of every individual and sees their absolute need to hear, receive and believe the Gospel which alone can bring them to new birth and the full hope of eternal salvation. Unless genuine spiritual transformation takes place in the hidden depths of the heart, no outward changes will be of lasting value in anyone's life. The lost have no sense of priorities: Winding up in hell obliterates any previous feeling of well-being. They should know this, but they pay it no mind.

The salvation of souls is the Father's top priority. He knows what is at stake in their lives, even if they don't! Let us *never* forget that the eternal destiny of every individual we meet is of immense concern to the Father who loves them, Jesus who died for them and the Holy Spirit who is working with them. This doesn't mean that preaching has to come first or that it is the best way to reach everyone, but it does give the Great Commission a greater priority. If you want to join in fishing for people, consider these proven ways of "baiting the hook":



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1) The Glorious Liberty

Learn to live with such joy and freedom that people will seek what you have. John Wesley is credited with saying, “Set yourself on fire and people will come for miles to watch you burn.” This is good Biblical advice. We are told to live in such a way that people will come to us, asking us to give them the reason for the hope that upholds us. Paul wants us to display such joy in our relationship with the God of Israel that even Jews will be jealous and want it for themselves.

2) Signs and Wonders

Nothing opens hearts and creates faith like supernatural manifestations of God’s power. The Early Church spread like wildfire, but it wasn’t due to good preaching alone. Signs and wonders stirred up interest and ignited seeking hearts. People will run past all their obstacles to reach the God who proves that He can heal them or their loved ones. This has been called “Power Evangelism” and it really works. It worked for Jesus; it worked for the first apostles; and it is at work all over the Third World today.

3) The “Seven Mountains”

This is primarily a strategy for changing organizations and cultures through advancing the kingdom of God “by stealth.” Jesus said that we were to make disciples of all nations, not simply converts. This implies that if you can effectively demonstrate to people the superior principles by which God’s kingdom works, then they will see results that the corrupted ways of the world cannot match. This prepares them to want to know the Source of our wisdom: convinced disciples become willing (and lasting) converts. The Seven Mountains strategy carries this even further, calling for Christians to “invade” the culture shaping “mountains” of power as the best means for transforming nations and preparing them for spiritual harvest.

The Great Compassion

The outward focus of our call to action looks to the physical realm of bodies and societies. It is concerned with temporal justice, not eternal salvation. One would expect that a converted individual or society would have a fully alive compassion and an impartial sense of justice—that the inward grace of conversion would overflow in all of our outward ways. Sadly, it doesn’t always happen like that. Perhaps that’s why the Lord made compassion and justice a command of the New Covenant.

Ultimately, we will be judged as nations by how well we acted according to this divine mandate, not by the number of converts we made. James warns us that faith without “works” is dead. The love that we are shown by God through Christ is meant to carry us forth into transformed ways of loving our neighbors. Of necessity our own conversion has to come first—we need to be saved! However, once faith come to us and the “love of God is shed abroad in our hearts,” then faith will wither and die if we don’t let it carry us out into the world of pain around us, seeking to be part of God’s answer in other lives. Consider these ways of serving:

1) Compassion Ministries

Between private charities, church outreach, and Christian ministries there never has been a time when so many avenues have been opened for working with the poor and afflicted. Matthew 25 clearly shows how important it is to the Lord that we learn to love others by attending to their physical needs. Even so, the poor are not our top priority—the gospel is. Everyone, both rich and poor, powerful and powerless, is in desperate need of the gospel and of genuine and lasting conversion. God has no favorites; He sees everyone's needs, both spiritual and physical with equal compassion.

2) Everyday Work

Any legitimate form of employment is also a way of serving others. When we do what we do as “unto the Lord,” He floods us with a sense of purpose and contentment. Why? Because He wants to work through us and we are letting Him. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. At the very least this means He loves to help us learn to do things the right way. He loves a job well done! This pursuit of just and proper ways of working is the easily the most extensive work of God in the world, since it affects all of us who labor in any worthwhile endeavor.

3) The Seven Mountains Strategy

Lance Wallnau points out that Joseph was sent to Pharaoh's court and Paul was sent to kings. The best way to change “the mountains of power” is to get to the top of them. Unless we take seriously our calling to penetrate all the spheres of influence in our cultures, we can hardly expect to see real change come to the poor and oppressed. Naturally, the enemy knows this and has ruthlessly taken the higher ground wherever he can, even boasting to Jesus that he controls the “kingdoms of the world” and promotes whoever he wishes (i.e. those who sell out to corrupt and unethical ways in order to gain advancement).

4) Signs and Wonders

Jesus went at it this way. He evidently lived for God in such a way that the supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit went with Him everywhere. The poor not only had “the good news preached to them,” they also were set free from physical illness and demonic oppression. Whenever this compassion way of reaching out is pursued successfully, there is often an explosion of converts. A thrilling blend of our two great tasks.

One More to Explore

Two True Testaments We have been given, not one, but two Testaments of scripture in the Bible. Obviously, we need them both and it would be a mistake to neglect either one. But it would also be a mistake to think that they can be read the same way. We who believe in Jesus have been brought into the new and “better” covenant which the New Testament contains. We read the Old Testament as believers in the New. Put your gospel glasses on, if you want to keep your understanding grounded with a proper perspective.



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For over a decade Steve Evans and [Healing Streams](#) have been helping people recover inner peace and freedom through the free eCourse for healing, [Matters of the Heart](#). Through Forerunners4Him he has been showing how we can be saved for heaven and teaching the way to live a Spirit-filled life on earth. Go now to receive a completely free primer, [Getting to Heaven](#) and/or an introduction to [Living in the Spirit](#) at our website.



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