

The Gospel in Practice 1

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Study Given by W.D. Frazee—April 9,

“And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” Mark 16:15.

This commission addressed to the leadership of the church was planned by the Lord to embrace the entire church membership. Our only excuse for existence is a movement. Our only reason for living as individuals is to carry out this commission. As inspiration says, The gospel commission needs no reform.

Everybody is to go and preach the Gospel to every creature. Everybody who hears is to echo it. What is the Gospel?

“So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” Romans 1:15,16.

The Gospel is power. Those who read Greek tell us that power comes from the same word that we get dynamite from. And what is the power of God? The Gospel. This is what we are to share with all the world.

“And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up: and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto Him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised” Luke 4:16-18.

Jesus gave His disciples a commission to preach the Gospel to every creature. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. So that which we present isn't merely a theory, it is an experience. It is not merely talking about something. It is getting something done. This agrees with the text we just read where Jesus reads from Isaiah 61 and applies it to Himself for He says, “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.” So Jesus was preaching the Gospel.

Did Jesus unite healing with talking? Very definitely. Inspiration calls this medical missionary work. The prophet to the remnant says that when the medical missionary work was made plain to her, this Scripture was given to her as outlining it. I read in *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, page 77 that the medical missionary work is "the Gospel in practice." In *Medical Ministry*, page 239 it says it is "the Gospel practiced."

What does Gospel mean? Good tidings. Luke 4 gives it the Gospel, and Isaiah 61 calls it good tidings. It means the same thing. It means good news.

Is it good news that a tobacco slave can be delivered from the nicotine habit? Is it good news to the alcohol slave that he can be delivered from whiskey? Is it good news to the person who can't control his appetite, who eats between meals and is overweight? It is good news that there is deliverance in Christ. It is good news when a person is in pain that there is relief. It is good news, when a person is under the burden of guilt or grief or anxiety, to know that there is a message, which is practical, that brings relief. Oh, I thank God for medical missionary work. It is the Gospel in practice. It is the compassion of Christ revealed.

"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. 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" Matthew 9:35-36.

Then He told the disciples to pray that the Lord would send forth more laborers. Jesus could not come in contact with the needs of the multitude without being moved with compassion. Someone has pointed out that contact with human needs such as we have in medical ministry produces one of two results. It either brings us a softness of heart or else we become calloused and selfish. It is a sad day when a worker who has contact with the sick becomes calloused, isn't it? Yes, a sad day for the patients. To be heart to heart with Jesus means to be moved with compassion. And medical missionary work is the Gospel practiced, the compassion of Christ revealed. That is why He gave us medical missionary work.

The love of Jesus is demonstrated in medical missionary work. David Livingstone, the great pioneer missionary to Africa, once remarked that God had only one Son, and made Him a medical missionary. That's why Christ came. He came to reveal the love of His Father. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

God's power is the power of love. He could make people do things. But if He were going to follow that plan we wouldn't need Calvary. God, with all the options of eternity in front of Him, choose the way of love, even though it was the most costly plan of all. So in medical missionary work the power of the Gospel is revealed as the power of love. I read:

“The gospel is the revelation of God's love to men”

Fundamentals of Christian Education, page 186.

The Gospel is a revelation. It is not just some theory, some tidings. It is a revelation of God's love to men. Jesus was so full of this love that His very presence brought healing, for love has power to heal.

“The love of Christ, in a healing, life-giving current, is to flow through your life” *Ministry of Healing*, page 156.

So love has a wonderful power.

“The power of love was in all Christ's healing, and only by partaking of that love, through faith, can we be instruments for His work” *The Desire of Ages*, page 825.

So love has a wonderful power. He loved people so much that His presence brought healing to them. And when we love people as He loved them, the church will see a return of the Pentecostal power of healing as it was in the early days of the gospel message. Thank God, we are in that hour. But we begin by learning the experience of love. And one of the greatest reasons why God has permitted you and me to have the privilege of being medical missionaries is that we may experience this love.

There are some things that can be understood only as we experience them. Taste and flavors are like that. Nobody knows what a peach or a watermelon tastes like unless he eats one. The only way a person can know is to experience by eating. So the wonderful love of God is to be revealed not only to us, but through us. And it is only as we love that we know love.

Jesus came to this earth with love that He might show us how to be medical missionaries, and He spent His life in unselfish ministry for others. Let's keep in mind that the first thirty years of His life were without miracles. Yet we are told that while He did not raise the dead or open blind eyes, His very presence brought healing as virtue. The healing power went out from Him to comfort the discouraged and sad, and to actually heal many cases of physical infirmity. We are in that stage in our experience at the present time, learning to work without the marvelous miracles that later characterized the Savior's ministry. When we have taken our primary grades we can go into the high school. When we have learned to be as loving as Jesus was at Nazareth we can do some of the miracles He did later. Medical missionary work is the training school in which we learn these precious experiences.

I want to share with you one of the most beautiful presentations of why God has given us medical missionary work in revealing His compassion.

“The Great Physical cooperates with every effort made in behalf of suffering humanity to give light to the body and life and restoration to the soul. And why is this? Satan came into our world and led men into temptation. With sin came sickness and suffering, for we reap that which we

sow. Satan afterward caused man to charge upon God the suffering, which is but the sure result of transgression of physical law. God is thus falsely accused and His character misrepresented. He is charged with doing that which Satan himself has done. God would have His people expose this falsehood of the enemy. To them He has given the light of the gospel of health; and as His representative they are to give the light to others. As they work to relieve suffering humanity they are to point out the origin of all suffering, and to direct the mind to Jesus, the great healer of both soul and body. His heart of sympathy goes out to all who are sufferers, and with everyone who works for their relief He co-operates. As with His blessing health returns, the character of God will be vindicated, and the lie thrust back upon Satan, its originator”
Spaulding and Magan Collection, page 127.

What is back of sickness? Sin. What is back of all sin? Satan. So Satan is responsible for all sin and sickness that afflicts this world. But sin and sickness bring suffering. And as men have experienced that for six thousand years, it is the Devil's scheme to charge God with the responsibility.

People say, I don't know why God has done this to me. I don't know why God has done this to my loved ones.

But who is back of those ideas? Satan. He is trying to mask the fact that the suffering of this world comes from sin, the transgression of God's law. He is trying to blame God for it.

What is God's answer to that problem? His answer is to send His church as an army of medical missionaries to relieve the suffering, to destroy the works of the Devil, and to lead people into an experience of harmony with heaven which results in health and relief from the suffering and sickness that sin has brought. Thus God is vindicated, and the responsibility for sin and suffering is thrown back upon Satan, the originator of sin. Do you see God's strategy?

The great reason for medical missionary work is to vindicate the character of God, to reveal the love of God. So medical missionary work is the Gospel practice, the compassion of Christ revealed. We are revealing the character of God. Oh, I think that is a wonderful privilege, don't you?

When a person sees this, he knows what he was born for. He has a destiny. He can say with Jesus, “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.” We are here as medical missionaries to reveal the compassion of Jesus, to demonstrate His love and concern. That is why we are doing what we are doing. Wouldn't it be a shame to put a price upon that? Wouldn't it be a shame to bribe someone to do it? Oh, I know it takes money to buy food and pay electric light bills and all the other things. But I am talking about something infinitely more important. I am talking about the inducements.

What are the inducements in medical missionary work? What inducements did the disciples have to be medical missionaries? What caused them to unite with Christ in this medical missionary work? What kept them at it? In effect, all the disciples sealed their testimony with their blood. Their life's witness found its capstone in a martyr's death. What a wonderful testimony to the inducements that sent them. It was love.

You can't buy love. There is no way to buy it. There is an expression in medical circles today—TLC. How do you get TLC? You don't get it with greenbacks, whether you measure them with one dollar bills or five dollar bills or ten dollar bills. Love is not a commodity. Love is not something that can be bought. Love is something that must come from the Holy Spirit. Jesus must impart that love.

“In almost every community there are large numbers who do not listen to the preaching of God's word or attend any religious service. If they are reached by the gospel, it must be carried to their homes. Often the relief of their physical needs is the only avenue by which they can be approached. Missionary nurses who care for the sick and relieve the distress of the poor will find many opportunities to pray with them, to read to them from God's word, and to speak of the Saviour.... Their unselfish love, manifested in acts of disinterested kindness, will make it easier for those suffering ones to believe in the love of Christ.

“As they see one with no inducement of earthly praise or compensation come into their homes, ministering to the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, comforting the sad, and tenderly pointing all to Him of whose love and pity the human worker is but the messenger—as they see this, their hearts are touched. Gratitude springs up. Faith is kindled. They see that God cares for them, and they are prepared to listen as His word is opened. *The Ministry of Healing*, page 144.

The great purpose of God in sending missionary nurses into the homes is to make it easier for people to see and believe in the love of Christ. This is something that cannot be purchased. This is something that is not a business. It is a calling.

The same Jesus that called Peter and John and Martha and Mary to His medical ministry two thousand years ago has called this church to give their lives in this type of ministry. And we have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work. Every person who is old enough to understand what I am saying is called to have a part. Physicians and nurses, because of their training, can do things that some of the rest of us can't do. But regardless of how little training we have, we must have this love, or else we can't be medical missionaries.

Here is a child whose hereditary factors will give him a maximum of six feet in height. No matter how well you feed him and take care of him he won't be more than six feet. But the way he is fed, and some other factors, may make him less than six feet. There are cases on record whose children were arrested during periods when for one reason or another they were deprived of affection, and who began to grow again at a normal rate when they once more came under the influence of love. Love has healing power. We can't buy it. We can't pay enough wages to get people to turn it on. But we will find Jesus at the mercy seat. He has put all He has at Calvary, in the holy place, and in the most holy place in this one objective of revealing the character of God and sharing the compassion of heaven with the lost and weary world. We are privileged to know and share it with others.

How can I seek for comfort living for self alone?
How can I call my body or ought that I have my own?
How can I sit and listen while suffering millions weep?
Jesus is out in the darkness seeking His other sheep?

Let's go with Him, what do you say? Let's tarry long enough to get love. Let's go with it. Let's carry the living water to the thirsty, the food to the hungry, the breath of life to those who will die without it.

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."
1 John 4:10.

"We love him, because He first loved us" 1 John 4:19.

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" 1 John 4:11.

May God bless us as we study His wonderful things. And may He do something in our hearts to stir anew that spirit of response to His love that shall spoil us for everything in this world except medical missionary work.

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