

The Human Touch For the Human Race

“The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach. Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen. 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 1:1-2; 8

The God With the Plan

An imaginary story **without biblical basis** speaks of Jesus ascending back to Heaven and meeting with the Angel Gabriel. Jesus explained how He had died on the cross to save mankind from their sins; and had been raised up again. He had now returned to Heaven to intercede for those that He had gone to save. Jesus concluded by saying that it was His desire that all men everywhere would hear the Gospel message of what he had done for them.

Gabriel asked, **“What is your plan for getting this done?”**

Jesus responded, **“I have left the message in the hands of a dozen men.”**

Visibly surprised, Gabriel questioned, **“Twelve men! And what if they fail?”**

Jesus responded, **“I have no other plan.”**

Samuel Gordon once said, “The way from God to a human heart is through a human heart.”

It was with the Great Commission that Jesus Christ revealed His plan that men would carry the Gospel to the world. It is through the fulfillment of the Great Commission that we get involved in world evangelism. Evangelism

is making known the Good News. This **“Good News”** is **“God’s News”** the Gospel.

In the Book of Luke (companion book to Acts, also written by Luke) we read of all that Jesus began to do and to teach. In the Book of Acts we see Jesus working in the hearts of men to reach men and women with the truth. He reproduced His life and ministry in the church.

A primary reason for the baptism of the Holy Spirit is to receive the power to be a witness for Jesus Christ.

The Great Commission

In all five instances of the **Great Commission** (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:47-49; John 20:21-22; Acts 1:8) there is a promise of divine power. God is working through our heart to touch the hearts of men. That is the reason for the power. God is using the human touch to reach the human race.

“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.” (Ezekiel 22:30)

God is depending on us to preach the Gospel. He has not commissioned the angels to do this because they have not been partakers of God’s salvation themselves. However, in Acts the angels did direct men to where they could go to receive the truth. (Acts 10:3-5)

In Matthew 22:37-40 you find the **Great Commandment**. We must love God and love people. These are the two greatest commandments. We show our love and loyalty to God by loving others and trying to reach them.

Formula for a Great Church
<i>The Great Commandment</i>
(Matthew 22:37-40)
+ <i>The Great Commission</i>

(Mark 16:15)
= <i>A Great Church</i>
(Acts 2:42-47)

The Boston Marathon is a race that is run each year. It is named after Marathon, a plain close to Athens, Greece. Following the victory of the Greeks over the Persians in 490 B.C.; tradition states that a runner raced to Athens to carry the good news. As he reached the city completing the mission, he collapsed and died. Jesus also calls us to be a runner for Him carrying the Good News to everyone. We can become **Redemption's Runners**.

"...Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." (Hebrews 12:1) Also look at Mt. 24:13-14; Eccl. 9:11.

"Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost." (2 Corinthians 4:1,3)

God has chosen you because He needs **"the human touch for the human race."**

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did Samuel Gordon say was the way from God to a human heart?

2. Where do we find the Great Commandment? _____

3. What are the two greatest commandments? _____

4. What is the formula for a great church?

5. What do we find in all five instances of the Great Commission? _____

6. How does God intend for the world to be reached? _____

7. What is one of the primary reasons for the baptism of the Holy Ghost? _____

8. What is the difference between what Jesus does in the books of Luke and Acts?

9. Where do we find the Great Commission? _____

10. Can angels preach the Gospel? If not, why not? _____
