

THE INTRODUCTION

HOSTAGES

The Doctor's Dilemma

Barking Dogs

Proverbs 24:10-12 *If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small. (11) Deliver those who are drawn toward death, And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. (12) If you say, "Surely we did not know this," Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?*

Job 29:14-17 *I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban. (15) I was eyes to the blind, And I was feet to the lame. (16) I was a father to the poor, And I searched out the case that I did not know. (17) I broke the fangs of the wicked, And plucked the victim from his teeth.*

WHO AND WHERE ARE THEY?

No Need for GPS

Hebrews 2:15 *...through fear of death ... all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

Ephesians 2:10-13 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (11) Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— (12) that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (13) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

In this passage the apostle plainly teaches that the heathen, apart from the evangelizing labors of Christian missionaries, have no saving knowledge of the gospel, and that so long as that ignorance continues their condition is hopeless. GIRARDEAU

The Plight of the Hostage

Selected Tools, Not Essential Elements

But Still Selected Tools Put to Work

John 6:37 *All that the Father gives Me (that is, to the Savior) will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*

Psalms 126:5-6 *Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy. (6) He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.*

Marching Through a Wasteland

THE MISSION

Isaiah 43:10-11 *"You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me. (11) I, even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior.*

Isaiah 44:8 *Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.'*

Ambassadors of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 *Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. (21) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Heaven or Not!!!!?

Rescue or Not

The Extent of Grace

Romans 9:14-16 *What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! (15) For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON*

WHOMEVER I WILL HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOMEVER I WILL HAVE COMPASSION." (16) So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

Isaiah 55:6-8 Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. (7) Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. (8) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.

Mark 9:48 where 'THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.'

Luke 13:28 There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when (they) see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and (themselves) thrust out.

The Calling—Ambassadorship

Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. (15) Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. (16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Spurgeon says,

(A) genuine Christian has mercy on the souls of all men. He cares not merely for the extremely fallen class, so called by the men of the world, but he regards the whole race as fallen. He knows that all men have gone astray from God, and that all are shut up in sin and unbelief till eternal mercy comes to their deliverance; they may be brought to know the Savior, and he makes efforts to reach them; to the utmost of his ability, he tries to win souls to Jesus. He also prays for them; if he is really a child of God, he takes time to plead with God for sinners, and he gives what he can to help others to spend their time in telling sinners the Way of salvation, and pleading with them as ambassadors for Christ.
SPURGEON

The Qualification

Romans 6:20-22 ...when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. (21) What fruit

did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. (22) But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

Ephesians 2:11-13 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— (12) that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (13) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

1 Peter 2:9-10 ...*you are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (10) who once were not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

1 Peter 2:15-16 ...this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— (16) as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.

Will You, Are You?