

What makes us missionary?

John 14:15-
" 15:12
Matt. 28:19

I have been asked to preach to you to-day on the subject, "What makes us missionary?" I want to use as the text these passages of Scripture:

1. John 14:15 - "If ye love me keep my commandments."
2. John 15:12 - "This is my commandment that ye love one another as I have loved you."
3. Matt. 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."

We like to find the meaning of the terms we use in our preaching. To day let us first define our subject "What makes us missionary?" what do we mean by the word "missionary"? Webster says that it means as a noun "one sent to propagate religion." To be missionary in spirit would mean that we are in accord with the gospel religion being propagated. All religions may be missionary in a sense but the Christian religion is more so than others. Propagate means "to spread from person to person." "Beginning at Jerusalem, and in Samaria and on and on to the uttermost parts of the earth."

Now, what makes us missionary - what makes us spread religion - the Christian religion from person to person? This expression implies that we do do that thing and we do. Seventy seven missionaries worked in China last year, fifty six in Japan, 52 in Korea, 69 in Brazil, 47 in Mexico, 29 in Congo, 29 in Cuba, 18 in Europe, 377 to say nothing of 173 deaconesses, and 471 workers in Home Mission work. This makes 1021 in mission work which is aside from all the pastors, S. S. teachers, and so on. You will remember these figures are for only our Church the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

Q2. What makes us missionary?

But what makes us missionary? In the first place I would say it is knowledge of the need of the Gospel and what it carries with it. In the last chapter of Luke we read that "He (Jesus) opened their understanding, then said unto them, Thus it is written and thus it behooved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations. He gave them knowledge of the thing to be done. You are not going to get up much enthusiasm for a person to work at a thing or to give money to a cause until you have taught them the nature of the movement and the real need of the cause. Knowledge is our thing that makes us missionary.

A Chinaman is not going to be converted to Christ by missionaries preaching the Gospel of Jesus to him in a language he does not understand. But the first thing to do is to teach him our language in which we can get the best definition of Jesus. We are not going to be very missionary in spirit concerning our Conference mission until we know what faces the men on our mission charges.

Another thing that makes us missionary is love. The most missionary being that we know about is God. He gave His own Son to carry a burden no one else has ever carried the experience of eternal death for the whole world. And we read "God is love." The nearer we approach the love of God the more missionary we become. Having knowledge of the world's need and having in our hearts the love of God we want to meet that need.

Jesus makes love fundamental in His religion. "If ye love me keep my commandments." This is my commandment that ye love one another. Around the world, "Go ye therefore and teach the whole world etc."

This love is one that carries with it self

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giving. "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." And the same are who taught us this in words also taught us by deeds to lay down our lives not only for our friends but also for our enemies. He did that as you know.

A third thing makes us missionary is our own will. we may have the knowledge and have love but decide not to act. A man saw his son drowning but saw it was death for him to jump into the current it almost killed him not to go in although it meant death but he thought of other dependants. Our wills do figure in it.

yes our wills form an element in our becoming missionary, so does knowledge, but under all this as the basic principle is love that love that sends us to teach, that love with which God loved the world so that out of His great missionary heart He gave His Son as the first missionary to the world. Self giving prompted by love is missionary.

William the Silent saved liberty for Holland by giving his life. He said, "I commit my poor people to God and myself to God's great Captain, Christ" when he died little children ~~did~~ cried in the streets.

To be missionary means to sacrifice, the law of sacrifice is the law of the Saviour, who being rich for our sakes became poor. Man gains life through death and renewal through self-renunciation. In that spirit we are all missionary.

"Omer"

