

Summer Camp | Denmark | 16/07/2023

Pastor Genivaldo Agner, Sao Vicente, Brazil.

Matthew 10.5-20

Behold, I am sending you out.

Once upon a time, many, many years ago, in a far far away era, a very ancient people wrote what they called then as **LETTERS**.

When writing a letter to someone, people had a goal in mind. Sometimes to simply responding the affection of someone who wrote us first; or to let the other person know when a child was born, or about our problems and ask for some help; or to declare our all our love to the woman of our dreams, or to our charming prince. There was always a purpose behind on writing a letter.

(Show a Bible) -

This right here is the biggest and the most powerful letter anyone could ever send or receive. It is about love, redemption and salvation. How the human being, separated from God because of sin, condemned to hell, can again approach the Creator and transform and modify his cruel destiny of death. And that is something that all people on earth should know about.

God could very well have chosen heavenly and much more powerful and effective beings to deliver this letter. For sure, people would listen better to angelical beings than they do listen to human beings. But he chose me and you for this mission.

The Old Testament prophets once were his messengers. For centuries, they were responsible for preaching all God's purpose to his people. And God did it out of love. These people did not deserve God to care about them. Quite the opposite. Because of their rebellion, they deserved God's total oblivion.

In the New Testament he again chooses those who would be the messengers of His salvation's deeds.

In the context of our text, Jesus is teaching, preaching and healing. Looking at the miserable situation of the people around him, he

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Pastor Genivaldo Agner fra søsterkirke i Brasilien

Matthæus 10,5-20

Se, jeg sender jer ud

Engang for mange, mange år siden i en svunden tidsalder skrev et meget gammelt folk noget, de dengang kaldte "BREVE".

Når man skrev et brev til nogen, havde man et formål med at skrive. Nogle gange skrev man blot at reagere på det, den anden havde skrevet; eller man skrev et brev, for at fortælle den anden, når et barn blev født; eller man skrev og fortalte om problemer for at bede om hjælp; eller man skrev for at erklære sin kærlighed til drømmekvinden eller til ens charmerende prins. Der var altid et formål bag med at skrive et brev.

(Vis en bibel) -

Dette her lige her er det største og mest kraftfulde brev nogen nogensinde kunne sende eller modtage. Det handler om kærlighed, forløsning og frelse. Hvordan mennesket, adskilt fra Gud på grund af synd, dømt til helvede, igen kan nærme sig Skaberen og forvandle og ændre sin grusomme døds-skæbne. Og det er noget, som alle mennesker på jorden bør vide om.

Gud kunne meget vel have valgt himmelske og meget mere magtfulde og effektive væsener til at levere dette brev. Folk ville bestemt lytte bedre til englevæsener, end de lytter til mennesker. Men han valgte mig og dig til denne mission.

Gamle Testamentes profeter var engang hans budbringere. I århundreder var de ansvarlige for at forkynde hele Guds hensigt for sit folk. Og Gud gjorde det af kærlighed. Disse mennesker fortjente ikke, at Gud bekymrede sig om dem. Tværtimod. På grund af deres oprør fortjente de Guds totale glemsel, at han helt glemte dem.

I Det Nye Testamente vælger han igen dem, der skulle være budbringere for hans frelses gerninger.

Vores tekst står i en sammenhæng, hvor Jesus underviser, prædiker og helbreder. Når han ser på den elendige situation for mennesker omkring ham, får han medfølelse: „*Da Jesus så mængden, havde*

sympathizes: "When Jesus saw the crowd, he felt very sorry for those people because they were afflicted and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd." (Matthew 9:36)

So many desperate people seeking for some help and for some love. Jesus saw them and loved them. They were so many. It was (and is) necessary to send more workers for those who were like "sheep without a shepherd."

Then, at the beginning of chapter 10, Jesus chooses his "workers". He had already called some to be his disciples: Andrew, Peter, James and John (Matthew 4:18-22) and Matthew (Matthew 9:9). Now he gathers some more.

In this first moment Jesus asks his disciples to preach the gospel of the Kingdom to "...the lost sheep of the people of Israel." (v.6), announcing repentance and the coming of the Kingdom. He was giving a new opportunity for the people who often rejected the prophets. They had now a new opportunity. "The harvest is indeed great..."

Although at this first moment, Christ restricted the mission to "...the lost sheep of the people of Israel." (v.6), in the light of Matthew's own text and of the entire New Testament, we see that the Good News of salvation is for "...all the people of the world and make them my followers, baptizing these followers in name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20).

"Heal lepers and other sick people, raise the dead and cast out demons." (v.8). The Lord reminds his apostles that the gift of redemption and salvation is directed to fallen men, stained by sin and corrupted in their nature.

Unfortunately, people are not always willing to listen. This is nothing new. It seems that we live in a society where talking about God is outdated and old. God? What God?

Our Lord exhorted his disciples to always trust in divine providence. The God who sent, will provide

han meget ondt af disse mennesker, fordi de var plaget og forladt, som får uden hyrde." (Mattæus 9:36)

Så mange desperate mennesker søger efter hjælp og kærlighed. Jesus så dem og elskede dem. De var så mange. Det var (og er) nødvendigt at sende flere arbejdere efter dem, der var *som "får uden hyrde."*

Derfor vælger Jesus i begyndelsen af kapitel 10, sine "arbejdere". Han havde allerede kaldt nogle til at være hans disciple: Andreas, Peter, Jakob og Johannes (Matt 4:18-22) og Mattæus (Matt 9:9). Nu samler han nogle flere.

Først beder Jesus sine disciple om at forkynde evangeliet om riget til "... *de fortabte får af Israels folk.*" (v.6), der bebuder omvendelse og Rigets komme. Han gav en ny mulighed for de mennesker, som ofte havde forkastet profeterne. De havde nu en ny mulighed. "*Høsten er virkelig stor...*"

Selvom Kristus i dette første øjeblik begrænsede missionen til "... *de fortabte får af Israels folk.*" (v.6), så ser vi i lyset af Matthæus egen tekst og af hele Det Nye Testamente, at den gode nyhed om frelse er for "... *alle verdens folk og gør dem til mine tilhængere, idet I døber disse tilhængere i Faderens, Sønnens og Helligåndens navn og lære dem at adlyde alt, hvad jeg har befaleet jer.*" (Matthæus 28:19-20).

"Helbred spedalske og andre syge mennesker, opvæk de døde og uddriv dæmoner." (v.8). Herren minder sine apostle om, at forløsningens og frelsens gave er rettet mod faldne mennesker, plettet af synd og fordærvet i deres natur.

Desværre er folk ikke altid villige til at lytte. Det er ikke noget nyt. Det ser ud til, at vi lever i et samfund, hvor det at tale om Gud er forældet og gammelt. Gud? Hvilken Gud?

Vor Herre formanede sine disciple til altid at stole på guddommeligt forsyn. Den Gud, der sendte, vil sørge for alt, hvad der er nødvendigt for dem, der prædiker for de fortabte derude.

with everything that is necessary for those who preach to the lost ones out there.

Our orders are, **"Go and preach!"** and not **"go and convert!"** Under the Spirit's guidance, we must always remember the fact that we are walking in this world like a great cemetery: **everyone is dead.** No one really wants to listen to us.

Some will welcome us. Others don't. The disciples were exhorted to **"...get out of that place. And on the way out, shake the dust off your sandals, as a sign of protest against those people"** (Matthew 10:14).

We are not committed to results, but to the command to go and testify that God has visited us by sending his Son, that through repentance and faith we may be saved from his final and eternal wrath: **"For God so loved the world, who gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."** (John 3:16)

The Word of God cannot fail to be proclaimed. The salvation of many depends on it. **"But how will people ask (the help of the Lord) if they don't believe in him? And how can they believe if they don't hear the message? And how can they hear if the message is not announced?... Therefore, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through preaching about Christ."** (Romans 10:14,17) We have Christ's request to preach the gospel to every creature. That's all. Just preach and pray. The power of action is not in us, we are just instruments in God's hands to carry his message.

We have some great advice that Paul gives to young Timothy: **"Preach the message and insist on announcing it, whether the time is right or not. Seek to convince, rebuke, encourage and teach with all patience."** (2 Timothy 4:2)

"Listen! I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Be smart like snakes and harmless like doves." (Matthew 10:16). He warned them that there would be persecution, betrayals, and people who would not support his work (vs. 17-21). However, he promised to be with them: **"I am with you always, until the end of time."** (Matthew 28:20)

Vores ordre er: **"Gå og prædik!"** og ikke **"Gå og omvend!"** Under Åndens vejledning skal vi altid huske det faktum, at vi går i denne verden som på en stor kirkegård: alle er døde. Ingen vil rigtigt lytte til os.

Nogle vil tage godt imod os. Andre gør ikke. Disciplene blev opfordret til at **"...gå væk fra det sted. Og på vej ud skal I ryste støvet af jeres sandaler, som et tegn på protest mod disse mennesker"** (Matt 10:14).

Vi er ikke forpligtet på resultater, men på befaling om at gå og vidne om, at Gud har besøgt os ved at sende sin søn, for at vi ved omvendelse og tro kan blive frelst fra hans endelige og evige vrede: **"For således elskede Gud verden, som gav sin eneste søn, for at enhver, som tror på ham, ikke skal fortæbes, men have evigt liv."** (Johannes 3:16)

Guds ord kan ikke undgå at blive forkyndt. Manges frelse afhænger af det. **"Men hvordan vil folk bede (Herrens hjælp), hvis de ikke tror på ham? Og hvordan kan de tro, hvis de ikke hører budskabet? Og hvordan kan de høre, hvis budskabet ikke forkyndes?... Derfor kommer troen af at høre budskabet, og budskabet kommer gennem forkyndelsen om Kristus."** (Romerne 10:14,17).

Vi har Kristi anmodning om at forkynde evangeliet til enhver skabning. Det er alt. Bare prædik og bed. Handlekraften er ikke i os. Vi er blot redskaber i Guds hænder til at bringe hans budskab.

Vi har nogle gode råd, som Paulus giver til den unge Timoteus: **»Forkynd budskabet og insister på at forkynde det, uanset om tiden er inde eller ej. Søg at overbevise, irettesætte, opmuntre og undervise med al tålmodighed."** (2 Timoteus 4:2)

"Hør efter! Jeg sender jer ud som får blandt ulve. Vær smart som slanger og harmløs som duer." (Mattæus 10:16). Han advarede dem om, at der ville være forfølgelse, forræderi og mennesker, der ikke ville støtte hans arbejde (vers 17-21).

Men han lovede at være hos dem: **"Jeg er med jer altid, indtil tidens ende."** (Mattæus 28:20)

In our lives, each of us, pastors or not, will face difficulties. It may be that fear and lack of courage takes over us. It may be that we wonder what we are doing. Our task is very hard. However, we must not give up. We can and must not stop announcing this saving Word of God. Christ will be supporting us on our journey.

We are the church of God. Members of the church's body, with Christ as the head. **"The harvest is indeed great, but the workers are few. Ask the plantation owner to send more workers to harvest." (Matt 9:37-37)** Pray for the church of Christ in this country and all over the world. Pray for more pastors, for more Leif Jensens. Pray for more "workers".

This love letter has reached us. It reaches us every day. We have free access to God's love through Jesus Christ. And that feeling, power and love moves us towards other people, so that they have free access to the same power, love and salvation that we have.

All together, we have a great mission ahead of us: **delivery the love letter of God to all people.**

The action of the Word in people's life is a matter that concerns the Holy Spirit. He is the one who will work faith in people's hearts. The power to change people's lives is in the Word and not in the preacher. We are the messengers. The message is Christ. We just deliver the letter.

Under Christ's command, we fulfill our calling. Having been vivified by the Holy Spirit to be saved by faith through the grace of God, we were also called to proclaim that same salvation of God who, being kind, continues to call all the dead back to life. Christ will certainly be on your (our) side and never abandon you (us).

The message contained in this book is essential for the salvation of many. Here we see God's pure love for all of us, from Genesis to the Book of Revelation. The message contained in this "letter"

I vores liv vil hver af os, præster eller ej, stå over for vanskeligheder. Det kan være, at vi bliver grebet af frygt og mangel på mod. Det kan være, at vi undrer os over, hvad vi er i gang med. Vores opgave er meget hård. Vi skal dog ikke give op. Vi kan og må ikke stoppe med at forkynde dette frelsende Guds ord. Kristus vil støtte os på vores rejse.

Vi er Guds kirke. Medlemmer af kirkens legeme, med Kristus som overhoved. **"Høsten er virkelig stor, men arbejderne er få. Bed plantageejeren om at sende flere arbejdere til at høste." (Matt 9:37-37)** Bed for Kristi kirke i dette land og over hele verden. Bed om flere præster, flere af dem, som I allerede har. Bed om flere "arbejdere".

Dette kærlighedsbrev er nået til os. Det når os hver dag. Vi har fri adgang til Guds kærlighed gennem Jesus Kristus. Og denne følelse i Guds hjerte, hans magt og kærlighed bevæger os hen til andre mennesker, så de får fri adgang til den samme kraft, kærlighed og frelse, som vi har.

Alle sammen har vi en stor mission foran os: at levere Guds kærlighedsbrev til alle mennesker.

Ordets handling i menneskers liv er en sag, der vedrører Helligånden. Han er den, der vil virke tro i folks hjerter. Kraften til at ændre menneskers liv ligger i Ordet og ikke i forkynderen. Vi er budbringerne. Budskabet er Kristus. Vi leverer bare brevet.

Under Kristi befaling opfylder vi vores kald. Efter at være blevet levendegjort af Helligånden for at blive frelst ved tro gennem Guds nåde, blev vi også kaldet til at forkynde den samme frelse fra Gud. I sin venlighed og kærlighed fortsætter med at kalde alle de døde tilbage til livet. Kristus vil helt sikkert være på din (vores) side og aldrig forlade dig (os).

Budskabet i denne bog er afgørende for manges frelse. Her ser vi Guds rene kærlighed til os alle, fra Første Mosebog til Åbenbaringsens Bog. Budskabet i dette "brev" er det, der frelser menneskeheden fra deres synder og garanterer evigt liv i himlen.

is the one that saves humanity from their sins and guarantees eternal life in heaven.

The message is in our hands. We are fed from it every day. And, once fed, we are able to take that food also to all those who are dying of hunger and thirst for this Word. We once were like them, "distressed and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd". The Word and love of Christ once reached us and changed us too. And it was wonderful. Still is. Praise the Lord for his kindness towards us.

He who sends us promises to be with us on our side. Amen.

Budskabet er i vores hænder. Vi bliver næret og mættet af det hver dag. Og det er først, når vi har spist af det, at vi er i stand til også at give denne mad til alle dem, der dør af sult og tørst efter dette Ord. Vi var engang som de andre, som **"forladte og ensomme får uden hyrde"**. Kristi ord og kærlighed nåede os engang og ændrede også os. Og det var vidunderligt. Er stadig. Pris Herren for hans godhed mod os.

Han, der sender os, lover at være med os på vores side. Amen.

OUR GOD WILL GO BEFORE US

Words and Music by Matt Boswell, Keith Getty, and Matt Papa

Our God will go before us | And guide us by his presence.

What confidence this promise is | We will never walk alone.

Through unknown paths, through shadows | Our hearts fear not tomorrow.

For every step his faithfulness | Is the truth that lights our way.

Our God will go before us | The Lord of Hosts is with us.

O praise the one who leads us on | For his grace will bring us home.

Though evil forms against us | All heaven will defend us.

The gates of hell shall not prevail | For the battle is the Lord's.

Our God will go before us | The Lord of Hosts is with us.

O praise the one who leads us on | For his grace will bring us home.

Now send us with your presence, | And lead us on to heaven,

Where songs of sorrow strain no more | And our every breath is praise

Our God will go before us | The Lord of Hosts is with us.

O praise the one who leads us on | For his grace will bring us home.