

Lecture 14 – Acts: A Challenge to Mission, Part 2

“But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry... ‘I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity....’” Jonah 4:1-3

“But the Lord said, ‘You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?’” Jonah 4:10-11

Key Terms

Reluctance, God’s character

Objectives

- *Describe and demonstrate from Scripture the reluctance of the early church to follow the commission and explain what we can learn from them.
- *Identify issues of faith with which we must deal as individuals and as a church.
- *Identify some of the less obvious means God has of accomplishing His redemptive purposes in the world.

Acts: A Challenge to Mission (cont.)

2. Out from Jerusalem at last! (or) the reluctant missionaries (cont.)

c. The reluctant missionaries throughout church history (review of prior points)

10) Slavery and the slave trade from Africa to the Americas: the failure of the church to send missionaries to Africa; and its failure (with a few exceptions) to speak against slavery and the slave trade

11) Today? Example of Wycliffe in New Guinea

Do we believe that the fields are white to harvest? Do we believe that God is a God of compassion and mercy?

“You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity....Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left....Should I not be concerned about that great city?”

God is concerned about every city and every people group in the world.

3. The Missionary God

a. Reluctant apostles/unreluctant God

b. The Ethiopian eunuch – God’s extraordinary measures

c. Cornelius – God in action

d. The conversion of Saul – a turning point in the history of mission

-Prayers for his conversion?

-The apostle to the Gentiles

-The new work at Antioch

-Mission to the world, to where the Gospel had not yet been preached

e. God’s infinite variety of means

-Timothy