

“Trouble and Evangelism”

By Brother Parrish Lee

Sunday, October 4th, 2015

Greetings, everyone. Isn't it wonderful? Praise and worship unto God, for the father seeketh true worshippers to worship Him. Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

I don't know if everybody knows, but the man who sang that song, “I am blessed, I am blessed, every day that I live, I am blessed,” just came back from burying his grandmother. Brother Malcolm. And our hearts go to you and your family. And then, to turn around, and come into a pulpit of service, to say, “You know, I might be going through something, but I can turn my eyes to the hill, from whence cometh my help (Psalms 121:1-2), and say, ‘Lord, I know the way it looks, but, when I look to You, all I can say is, I am blessed, I am bleed, I am blessed. Every day that I live, I am blessed. From the moment I wake up until I lay my head to rest, I am blessed. I am blessed; I am blessed.’ Amen.” Amen. I appreciate that, brother, and we are keeping you and your family in prayer. You know, sometimes it seems like the death angel has been dispatched over an area, and you see calamity after calamity, and situation, and problem, and conflict, one right after another. Sometimes it seems that way, but isn't it wonderful to know that God is aware, and, actually, in control of everything on the earth? Don't nothing happen behind His back, or beyond His control. The Lord and Savior has a plan. The Lord and Savior has a plan. We are in the know that all things work together to the good, to them that love God, to them who are the called, according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). Amen? Amen, amen, and amen.

A wonderful month, last month, and the lessons of learning to, and the process of asking God for blessings for our lives, for more, for education, for wisdom, for understanding, for power, for anointing, for compassion, for forgiveness. Asking God for more. Wonderful time last month.

This month, our theme, actually, is, “Working the Field of Souls: The Lessons of Evangelism.” Our Scripture verse for the month is going to be from the Book of Mark:

Mark 1:17 *And Jesus said unto them, **Come ye after Me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.***

Giving honor to that same God; giving honor to that same savior, our wonderful Counsellor, our Heavenly Father, the Almighty God, the omniscient One, the omnipotent One, the One who is all-knowing, and all-powerful, and all-compassionate. Giving honor to Him who is the giver of all good and perfect gifts. Giving honor to all those who have gone before us in the ministry, and this is good. This is good that you give reverence to those who have paved the way, for none of us have gotten here by ourselves. Giving honor to those who paved the way, from our founding pastor, he and his family, to our pastor, he and his family, and all of those who have come, and stood in the gap to make up the hedge.

We are going to start today with our scripture theme for today, and that's going to be

Matthew 15:21-28 *Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, **I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.** Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, **It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.** And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.*

Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

If we could bow our heads for just a moment. Lord, we do come before You, and when is it that we have come in Your presence that You have not amazed? We joy over Your wonderful Spirit, God. We joy over Your precious Word. We thank You for a time of assembly, of coming together, and being able to worship the only One true and wise God. Lord, at a time like this, we are not ignorant, and the news had it there was a gunman out to shoot people if they were to confess that they were Christians and they knew and loved You. What a world we live in today, God. And we ask that You give us our portion to do Your will. Lead us, guide us, and direct us. Bless this time of worship, as we go through the reading and the learning from Your Word, God. May it do exactly as You have sent it to do. As You have said in Your word, that it would not return unto You void, but accomplish that to which You sent it. And, Lord, then we do present ourselves, as servants of the most High. Nurture us, feed us, guide us, and direct us, we pray and claim in Jesus' name. And everyone said, amen. Amen.

Amen, saints. We're living in the kind of world it is today, and your heart has to go out when you hear the statement that a gunman went onto a campus, and, before he would shoot someone, he would ask, "What is your faith? What is your religion?" And, if they were to say, "I'm a Christian," he would say, "Well, good for you, because you're about to meet Him," and he would shoot those people in the head, but, if they were to say some other, "I'm atheist," or anything else, he would shoot them in the leg. That's the type of world that we're living in today, and, God knows, God knows. He even said it, "The time will come when they will kill you and think to do God a service." (John 16:2) But, I will say this, no matter what we go through, no matter where we are, no weapon that is formed against us shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17). They might seem to get a victory, but God holds the ultimate victory over all.

Back to our lesson.

Part 1: Evangelism: Trouble Comes

Matthew 15:21 *Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.*

We've gone over this many times, but it's important to know a little bit of the background of Tyre and Sidon. They were merchant cities, they were along the coast, and, being merchant cities, they were able to have all kinds of goodly things coming to them, and one of the things—well, actually, several of the things that they were known for was, they were known for their weaving, and they were known for their glass-making material. After all, they didn't have a Saks 5th Avenue back then, they didn't have a Marshall Fields, they didn't have a Vanity Fair, they didn't even have a J. C. Penney or a Walmart. If you wanted to have clothes, and you wanted to look well, you had to—either somebody had to learn how to string out the cotton, or whatever it was going to be, and somebody else had to find some way to—they didn't have fancy needles—but they had to have some way to weave it back and forth to make the material that you were going to wear. And these two cities, they were known for that. And they also had purple, and purple was something that was very precious, because, well, all dyes were expensive, but purple was a color of prestigiousness and royalty. But all the dyes were special, because they didn't have the dyes like we have today. We wash our clothes, and if it leeches or bleaches or whatever, we say, "Oh, darn, it's ruined," but, back then, they didn't have the fancy dyes that we have today. You would go and do something, and, if your specific color meant that that was your profession, or that was your faith, you were part of that army, or that was your rank in the military or something, and that would wash down, then that would diminish your appearance in what you were trying to do, so these things were precious. And, another thing that they had was cunning craftsmen. Cunning craftsmen to do certain things.

Tyre had more of an illustrious history, shall we say, than Sidon. Now this is important: It had more of an illustrious history; for all you history buffs, Tyre was an island; it was about a third of a mile away from the actual coast, where Syria was. And that means that it could have certain type of fortresses. And, over the centuries—yes, that's right, over the centuries—because of its location, people had tried to take that over. In fact, it withstood six sieges, even Sennacherib, who went through, and he was saying, "No one has been able to stand against me," even Sennacherib, he laid siege to it, and it lasted months, and he couldn't prevail, because it was an island, so they the water as a backdrop, but then they also had these gigantic walls. So, if you could get to the island, then you still couldn't get to the city, because of its fortresses, and then you would just be fodder for whatever the people of the city would throw at you, or spear you, or shoot arrows or whatever. So, it was known to be highly protected, and this would have been the mindset, and, so, for all the people who are loving history, it really got a little cocky over the centuries, where they could handle things, because they had quite a navy, and they had quite an army, and they knew how to use what they had. Up until Alexander the Great came along, and he asked the same thing, "Hey, you know, I want to be able to come in and take what I need for my army, and blah, blah, blah," and they said, "Who do you think you are?" He sent messengers out; they killed his messengers as if to say, "We don't care who you are; we are Tyre." They didn't realize that Alexander the Great was great for a reason. He simply leveled a city, took its ruins, and built a bridge out there, a third of a mile out to sea. He didn't have a navy to get to them, but people that defected from their navy, he took them. Then, other people, he conquered them; took their navy, and now he has a navy, and he surrounds the city. It took him several months, but he did, he built a bridge out to the city; he took the city, and voila! Tyre is now a lace of Alexander the Great's conquest. That's just a thing I wanted to throw in to show a certain mindset. So, Tyre and Sidon were merchant cities, and they had much goods for trade and everything.

So these two cities represent a prosperity, a prosperity, if you will, of the area, and of the times. This would put a little more light on when the Lord said, "Woe unto you, Tyre and Sidon," later on in the Scriptures, because of their goods. And we know this. We know this. When you have a lot of goods, it can cause you some trouble. Well, Tyre and Sidon had the same problems as the Laodiceans. Because they thought that because they were rich and increased with goods, they thought to themselves that they wouldn't have need of anything. And this is the attitude of this place here the Lord goes. But, people in the faith know that, once you have goods and riches, you can have a tendency to trust in those goods and riches and less of a tendency, or less of a need, you would think, for what the Lord might provide, and this is where they were. So, here, when the woman comes, and says, "Have mercy on me," in verse 22, she came out of the coasts, and cried unto Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil." She would come out, and she would seek for the Lord who was there. And, an important point to realize here is, He answered her not a word. This is something that has to be addressed, in all of our faith, and all of our Christianity, He answered her not a word. Because, sometimes, it seems, no matter what you do, you might not get an answer for something that you are asking God for. He answered her not a word. And, right after that, the Scriptures say, "And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us." (Matthew 15:23) And He answered the disciples, clearly in earshot of her, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matthew 15:24) And the Bible goes on, and it says, "Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me." (Matthew 15:25) Now, this transpires over a period of time; it doesn't say exactly how long, but this distance that they were travelling, the whole time that was going on; our Lord didn't have a car, He didn't have a camel, He didn't have a horse, so, everywhere He went, He walked. And he walked specifically to be available to the people. Also, he was available to Israel, but that meant also that He was available to everybody else. They would come and they would do all manner of things, and we hear in the Scriptures where there was both Samaritans, and there was woman, and this one was from Canaan, of course. But, He was available to these people, so this would transpire over several days. And the

disciples, I'm sure, the disciples were saying, "You know what? I'm about through with that. Why don't You tell her, 'Enough is enough. Get out of here?' He just told you, He's only going to the House of Israel." And, verse 25, it's important to know that even after, even after she was told, "I'm not coming for you. Your need is not My major thing that I'm coming here for." The Bible said, here in verse 25, that she came and worshipped Him, saying, "Lord, help." Now, it's amazing that she could know that she could continue to press, after already getting a certain answer from God. Verse 26, "But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs." That, for many people, would have been the final straw. That, for many people, would have been, "I ain't got to take this off of nobody." That, for many people, would have been, "Wow! The Son of God insults me." That, for many people, would have been cause to turn and go away. But not for this Canaanite woman. Not for this woman, who was a Syro-phonician. Not for this woman. This woman says, in verse number 27, "And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

So often, when we get into the presence of God, so often, when we get into His presence, because He is righteous, and because we are none righteous, no, not one, because of that, there is a Spirit of conviction. And, truth be told, if there is anything between us and God when we present ourselves to God, those things come up. Those things come up: our shortcomings, and our sins, our prides, and our lusts, our faults, our failures, they come up. And some would think, "Well, I can't really go to God now, because I'm not going to get nothing but rebuking, I'm not in a place where I feel good enough to go. Obviously, this woman felt like that. Obviously, she had to deal with that. After all, she was told, "You're a dog!" But this is where faith comes in. This is where it comes in. To know, "God, I don't measure up to what You got; I don't measure up to who You are. I don't even measure up to what You're calling me to be. But I know I want the many blessings that You pour out. If You could just give me a morsel, it will shock my system. It will revive me! It will do for me, God, what nothing else in my life will do. If you will just give me a little, just a touch, God, whisper to me, speak to me, give me one word, God. I know, God, because I've seen it before." This is what this woman knew. And so, the Lord would say, "Great is your faith." Now, it tells us in the Book of Mark that this woman was Syro-phonician. It also calls her a Greek. When it says Syro-phonician, it's meant to say, you aren't of God's lineage, you aren't of the people of Israel, you aren't of the people who were called, who were chosen, you aren't of the elite brand. But, she knew, with a compassionate God, "I can come to Him, anyway. I can come to that God." Now, no doubt, there were other people in the land that had sick people in their house. No doubt there were other women who had children who were possessed of devils. It doesn't matter what kind of devil it was. It doesn't matter if the devil was drugs. It doesn't matter if the devil was prostitution. It doesn't matter if the devil was just whoring around. It doesn't matter if the devil was a lying devil or a stealing devil, a contrary devil. It doesn't matter what devil she was all wrapped up into. She had a devil. And the mother—and, no doubt, there were other mothers, and other fathers in the land, the people that needed a touch from God in their house. And, you never know. The Scriptures don't bear it out, but I'm sure some mothers have gone to the Lord, and maybe they got this answer, and they said, "You know what? I'm out of here. I didn't expect to hear that, but, what else would I have expected to hear from a Jew?" And they turned around and walked away, but not this woman, who is our example for today. This woman pressed through to see if, "Because I know, God, I know I can find mercy in You. If You are the Son of God, I can find mercy, I can find grace, I can find it." And the Lord said, "**Great is thy faith.**" Now, in verse 28, "Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt..."

And this is:

Part 2 Evangelism: Put on Display

The Lord said, "**Great is thy faith.**" Why would the Lord say, "**Great is thy faith,**" at this point? What did faith have to do with all that had transpired before? Everything. Everything. According to the

Scriptures, she kept following the Lord when it looked like He wasn't going to give her an answer. After all, He answered her not a word, at first. She kept seeking Him when it looked like He would answer her not. She kept going. "Great is thy faith." And, when the disciples said send her away, she wouldn't leave. The Lord said, "It's not meet for Me to just minister to you. I need to take care of these other things." God knew her problem, but He needed to show everybody else what real faith is. He needed to show them all, and this happened over days, for all these people to see it. It was a merchant city. It was a popular place. There was people of great prosperity coming there that felt like they didn't have a need for this Rabbi, this Nazarene coming through. And here's this woman crying through the streets, following Him, wherever He goes, "Have mercy on me." Because God will put your situation on display for all to see. For everyone to see. Now, all these people know that, (1) her daughter has a devil, and, (2) she's crying out to Jesus. That's the two things that they know. She's crying out to Jesus over days and days and days. She's crying out to Him. "Apparently he ain't going to answer her yet." I'm sure they had all kinds of thoughts going on. But would they have been there for the answer, when the lord told he, and she responded, "Yea, but even the dogs, they eat of the crumbs that all from the Master's table." Would they have been there for that answer, to hear Him say, "O, woman, great is thy faith. Be it unto you, even as you asked?" So, when the disciples wanted to send her away, he wouldn't go; she sought the Lord anyway.

And, this is the point: When it looks like God isn't answering, when we've prayed, and when we've sought—all over the world, this has to be the case—when we've thrown ourselves in to the lap of the Lord, put ourselves at His feet, and it looks like He hasn't spoken to us, that's not the time to stop. When it looks like I'm not getting the answer I'm seeking for, seek Him anyway. When I feel like I haven't gotten it in my time, pray to Him, and follow Him anyway. She sought Him anyway. She humbled herself anyway. No doubt the spirit around her was saying, "Stop it! Knock it off! Go back home! He's not going to give you what you want!" No doubt that spirit was permeating the entire environment where she was, but she wouldn't listen to it because she knew that, "If this is the Son of God, I can find mercy. I can find grace. I can find some great things if this is the Son of God."

I want to bring up a quick case of a Christian man who was a construction worker, and he had scratched his arm. You would think, we get scratches all the time, if we work in the mechanical field, or anything with utensils, you can get scratches and scrapes and whatever. And, he scratched his arm. He was like, "Oh, darn," and he washed it and put some ointment on it and went about his business, and went back to work, and went home. A day or two later, it got worse; that scratch. He put some more ointment on it, and he went to the doctor, and he said, "Hey, I just want to make sure everything's going to be okay." And the doctor said, "Yeah, it looks like it could be something, but, if it gets any worse, come back." So, he went over—he was a Christian, so he went over to his church, and they had prayer, they prayed for him, and it got worse! He went back to the doctor, and the doctor said, "Oh, you're infected. You've got to go in the hospital." After prayer. After the ointment. After washing it. After going to a doctor. Now he's got to go in the hospital. They put him in the hospital, and, you would think, "Why would a scratch turn like this? Why, why is this happening to this man?" Well, they admit him to the hospital, stuck him up to an IV, and it just so happens it was one of those hospitals where you have to share a room, you know, unless you've got plenty of money, you usually have to share with somebody in a hospital room. Well, the person that he had to share with, actually, was an older person. Actually, it was a person who was very senior, and, actually, it was a person who was on his deathbed. And this person who was in this hospital room, they had a conversation that went back and forth, but, if you're a Christian, sooner or later, the conversation is going to turn around to Christ. And it did. And, as it turned around, to the Lord Jesus Christ, the person who was dying said, "You know, that's what I have been asking for. I have been in here day after day asking for this." And he said, "I receive your word, by what you've been sharing with me and by what you're saying, and by what I see in the Bible." He said, "I believe, and I want to get baptized." And the Christian was like, "Great! This is a great thing!" And the older person

told the hospital staff, “I have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and I want to get baptized.” The hospital staff said, “Who do you think you’re talking to? You’re in the hospital! We don’t do that type of thing here! And, plus, you’re sick. You know you’re bad off. It could kill you! Nah, we ain’t letting that happen in here.” And this went on for a few days! And, so, because he was a Christian, and this person believed in the Lord, they had a prayer. “Lord, please allow me to get baptized in your name!” Well, guess what happened? That person got well. On his deathbed, and he got well! He got out of the hospital, went over to that Christian’s church, got baptized in Jesus’ name, and then, do you know what that older person did? He went back to the hospital, and he told the nursing staff and the doctors, and all the people who told him no, “See, not even you could stop God from saving me.” True story. A few weeks later, that man got sick again, and he was on his deathbed again—but this time he was looking forward to meeting his Lord and Savior. So, sometimes, we might not understand why this is happening to us, but God will put it on display, specifically, that everybody can see who we’re dealing with. I remember, from that, I know everybody who told me about the story, “Man, it was amazing. None of us could see, at the beginning, that a scratch—a scratch!—was going to cause somebody to get saved.”

Part 3 Evangelism: The Word gets out

Matthew 15:29-31 *And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the Sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there. And great multitudes came unto Him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and He healed them: Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.*

They glorified the God of Israel. Now, where in the world did this multitude—this multitude come—where did this multitude come from, and why’d they bring all these sick people? If we were to go to the Book of Mark, and chapter seven, it gives us an account of the same incident, but it gives us a few different details.

Mark 7:24 *And from thence he arose, and went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into an house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid.*

Now, why couldn’t the Lord enter there privately?

Mark 7:25 *For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:*

Because this woman came, and made the cry, “I’ve heard of you! And I am seeking you.” He wanted to do something privately, but this woman made that an impossibility, for she cried after Him through the days. And, so, because of this woman’s plight, because of her plight, and her crying out to God, a multitude found out what God could do. A multitude! And they said, “You know what? We need that healing, too.” Now, it would have been different if she had cried and cried and left, and nothing would have happened. It would have been different if the Lord would have spoke, and nothing happened. It would have been different, but this was the case. She sought, He spoke, her daughter was healed, everybody knew it; that’s the case.

And, I’d like to go a little further in Mark chapter seven:

Mark 7:28 *And she answered and said unto Him, Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs.*

And here it gives the account that His answer was a little different. It doesn't mean that these writers didn't have the same answer; it meant that they didn't write down all that happened. Because, after all, if they did, The Bible says that the whole world could not contain all the books of what the Lord did (John 21:25). Here, in verse twenty-nine:

Mark 7:29 *And He said unto her, **For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.***

For this saying—Now, she had followed Him for a while, she had sought Him for a while, she went through that whole, “I don't know if he's going to answer me,” thing, she pressed through, and then she kept, continued this, “Have mercy on me, heal my daughter.” She's grieved. And then she said, “God, I will take whatever you give. You don't have to make me the big shining thing in the sky; I will take your morsels, for they will be more than enough for me.” And, for this saying, the Bible says, for this saying, the devil is gone out of thy daughter. That is how important it is, our response to God. He even looks for our responses to everything we go through. For, whatever we face, or whatever we respond to, whatever our actions are to God, he is looking for us.

Mark 7:30 *And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.*

Because it didn't have to take no long time happening. As soon as she sought, and got the answer, right then, it was done. Even though she had to take her time to get back to her house, it was done, then, and the devil was gone.

And, our next-to-the-last Scripture:

Revelation 22:1-9 *And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.*

One thing we find consistent in the Word of God is that when God sends someone or something, it is for a purpose. When God sends someone or something, it's for a purpose. He set Adam, he was the one who birthed the human race. He was the one who started it; he had help, of course. He sent Abraham, and that as the beginning of God's people. He sent Moses to be a teacher, and a leader, and a guide for God's people. And, He sends His angels as messengers and protectors.

Well, the message from this angel was particularly marvelous, as he told John there's a river that proceeds from the very throne of God, a river of life that proceeds from the throne of God. The rivers of

delight shall ever roll. And, when he says it's clear as crystal; why in the world would it say it like that? As clear as a crystal? Well, the ancients, in the old days, they would look at crystal, and they would say crystal only is made by pure water. They didn't have a whole lot of chemistry, not like we do today. They had a periodic table of sorts, but not like we do today. They didn't have that understanding. They said a crystal, it's only formed, it's congealed, which means it's a liquid that's made hard over great pressure and great time, and its brilliance is because it's made from pure water. So, it's hard, and it's brilliant, and it's precious. That river that Apostle John described, he said that river is as clear as a crystal; it's beautiful.

And, when they would talk about this, Apostle John said there is a tree of life on either side of it which had different fruits, but there's healing in its leaves, for all the nations. All curses would be gone and God's servants will see His blessed face.

Could you put up the last verse for that song, "Lily of the Valley?"

He will never, never leave me, nor yet forsake me here,
While I live by faith and do His blessed will;
A wall of fire about me, I've nothing now to fear,
With His manna He my hungry soul shall fill.
Then sweeping up to glory, to see His blessed face,
Where rivers of delight shall ever roll:

This is what Apostle John was talking about. Amen. He's the Lily of the valley. Amen? Amen? And that's what Apostle John was describing. "I'll see His blessed face, and man, is it going to be awesome!" That river of life.

But, another point here, imagine an angel saying, "I am of your brethren the prophets. See thou do it not, for I am a fellow servant." The angel, that was telling him this, put himself, and Apostle John, and the prophets, all in the same boat. We are fellow servants. So, an angel says, "Hey, we got something in common. And, of thy brethren the prophets."

Years ago, we had here, when they first came up with evangelize, educate, and equip. That would be the mission part of the mission statement for our ministry here. I remember the two brothers who were assigned the evangelism part of the ministry, and I was thinking, "Evangelizing? I wonder what that's all going to be about." But, I was part of the education team, which was wonderful, but, the two brothers that were assigned evangelism, they were all excited about it, and I was wondering how anybody can get excited about that? Going out in the street, and talking with people, and who knows what you're going to go through. You're going to get your feelings hurt, and people are going to shout you down, because, when I was lost, I used to shout people down. I know what you're going to say, because I used to do it myself. But they had such a joy in a calling, and a position, and such an obligation to do for the Lord. They would say, "Hey! This evangelism is so awesome! Do you know who the first evangelist was?" I'm like, "Well, that would have been a long time ago, uh, Noah, maybe?" "No, the first evangelists were the angels!" "The angels? Tell me more!" "We're going to get the Bible study together, and it's going to be great, wonderful, and..." I never made it to that Bible study, I had to look it up on my own, and, sure enough, you can see it right in the word: **Evangelize**. **Evangelist**. And this angel here, puts himself to say, "I am thy fellow servant. I also am a messenger of God, like the prophets were messengers of God; like **you** are a messenger of God." "See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book..." We're all in the same boat. We're all fellow servants. If it's an angel that's a messenger, or if it's a prophet that's a messenger, or if it's those that keep the sayings of the Book, we're all in that same boat; we're all fellowservants. And then he said, "Worship God." Isn't that marvelous? Isn't that marvelous? In league with the angels. Coming side-by-side. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

So, us, personally, since we're not all prophets, what exactly is our mission? What is our assignment? What's our purpose? From the Book of Matthew, and this is it, I'm closing. What is our purpose?

Matthew 5:16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Amen. Give the Lord a praise.

