

FULL EVANGELIZATION AT THIS LAST HOUR

GOLDEN TEXT

“And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen”. (Mark 16.20)

USEFUL PRACTICE

Let's talk about Christ to everyone, in every time and place, by all means.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 24:44-53



⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,

⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.

⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.

⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To emphasize the importance of full evangelization at this last hour.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- I. **To show** what full evangelization is.
- II. **To raise awareness** of the importance of full discipleship.
- III. **To understand** the characteristics of the full evangelization church.

INTRODUCTION

The early church did not need more than one generation to take the Gospel of Christ to the ends of the Roman Empire. By following the model that the Lord had left to them, the disciples, by the power of the Holy Spirit, simultaneously evangelized Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria until they reached the capital of Rome, in the West. If we take into account the authentically Pentecostal model of evangelization, we will fulfill, in record time, the divine program to reach both our neighborhood and the most distant nations. But to do so, we must return to the simple, but effective, method of evangelization of early evangelists and missionaries.

I - WHAT FULL EVANGELISATION IS

1. Full Evangelization. It consists of the simultaneous proclamation of the Gospel at all levels: local, national and cross-cultural. The Acts 1:8 model implies joint action, ie, evangelizing Samaria, Judea and the ends of the earth at the same time. Jesus did not command his disciples to evangelize Jerusalem first, then Judea, Samaria, and finally the ends of the earth. His master plan was very clear and objective, "and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." This implies an action from the Church (Acts 13.1-5). To be successful, world evangelization has to operate according to the manual that the Lord Jesus left to us in the New Testament.

2. Revival and evangelization. No evangelistic plan, however well designed, will succeed unless we return to the Upper Chamber. Without the baptism with the Holy Spirit, we will not have enough power to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. Evangelism and Pentecost are inseparable

twin themes. The power from on high is irreplaceable in the church's life. Full evangelization requires the empowerment of those who offer to speak of Christ in their neighborhood, city, country and abroad.

II - FULL DISCIPLESHIP

Full evangelization must be accompanied by full discipleship, which comprises the following actions: teaching, integration, training and identification.

1. Teaching. The teaching of the new convert is the passing on of the central truths of the Christian faith, so that he may think, act and live according to the command of Christ. This way, he can observe all things ordered by the Lord, until the rapture of the Church (Mt 28:20). Teaching should be started at the time of conversion, and continued throughout the Christian life (Acts 2:41-43).

2. Integration. Without the social integration of the new believer, his instruction becomes ineffective. The new convert needs to feel that he is part of God's family. It is not about a mere sociological exercise, but about Christian love sharing (Acts 2:44). John knew that if Christians did not love each other, they would never feel part of Christ's body. So he did not cease to urge the Church. Love that integrates is not only about words, but effective action (1 John 3:18).

3. Training. Still at the stage of teaching and integration, the new convert must be trained to make new disciples. The deliverance of the demon-possessed Gadarene man very well illustrates this phase of radical discipleship. No sooner did Jesus deliver him from that legion, he advised him: "Return home and tell how much God has done for you [...]" (Luke 8:39). And at the same moment, the man went out to proclaim the great things the Lord had done to him.

4. Identification. This phase will only be effective if the previous ones are well executed. The fullness of radical discipleship will be to lead the new believer to be known, through his testimony and behavior, as a follower of Christ. The early believers, because of their commitment to Jesus were known as Christians (Acts 11:26). Today, more than ever, due to the brevity and urgency of these days, we lack men, women and children who are identified as disciples of Jesus Christ (John 8:31).

III - THE FULL EVANGELIZATION CHURCH

The full evangelization church is characterized by three basic actions in spreading the gospel of Christ: promotion, commission and maintenance.

1. Promotion. Like Antioch, the full evangelization church does not live

by itself and for itself. Rather, it promotes the proclamation of Christ at all levels (Acts 13:1-3). It is evangelistic and missionary. For her, there is no greater event than evangelizing and doing missions. May the Lord revive our churches, pushing it to the ends of the earth.

2. Commission. In full evangelization, the church has to act as the evangelizing and missionary agency par excellence. No organization can replace it in this task. On addressing the assumptions of world evangelization, the apostle Paul asks: "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? [...]" (Rom 10:14:15).

3. Maintenance. At the height of the economic prosperity of Brazil, what did we do on behalf of world evangelization? We know that some churches took advantage of that moment to reach the ends of the earth. Others, however, lived only for themselves, as if that time would not end. The churches of Macedonia, though poor, enriched many, supporting workers and missionaries (2 Cor 8:1-7). In this crisis that we are now experiencing, let us demonstrate our faith by keeping the already created evangelistic fronts and opening others.

CONCLUSION

May full evangelization characterize our churches in these difficult and perilous days. The crisis that disrupts our country may not be the last one. Other more serious ones may emerge. But supported by the author and finisher of our faith, let's not be discouraged. Let's move from victory to victory, evangelizing and doing missions, until the Lord comes for us.