

## Sabbath School Lesson #7 – Jesus: The Master of Missions – 8-14 Aug 2015

**C**hrist is the author of missions. “Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you” (John 20:21). If you have read the opening trinity statement of this week’s Lesson, you will appreciate the clarity made herein that: unless we believe in spiritualism, we will not separate God from His own Spirit to form a third divine individual of the trinity gods. The Holy Spirit is not a third individual of the trinity gods, but rather: the Holy Spirit is that biblical “one Spirit” (Ephesians 4:4); who is “the Spirit of your Father” (Matthew 10:20); by and in whom God is everywhere (Psalm 139:7); who is an integral part of God just as the spirit of man is integral part of man (1 Corinthians 2:11); which one Spirit the Father gave to Christ, “for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him” (John 3:34); which same one Spirit is shared by both Father and Christ (Romans 8:9); to you who rejects the trinity gods, “God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father” (Galatians 4:6); and that one Spirit in you is Christ Himself, for “the Lord is that Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:17). The opening statement of this week’s Lesson should have read: according to Scripture, a core activity of Christ and His Father is mission.

Sin originated with Satan and distorted the glory of God. Since the fall, man has held a false conception of the glory of God. The mission of Christ was to show us the true glory of His Father. As we are called to follow Christ’s steps (1 Peter 2:21), the Master of Missions, our mission is to reflect to the world the glory of Christ, which same glory is the reflection of His Father’s glory. Our brother Moses understood this mission, which is why Moses prayed, “I beseech thee, show me thy glory” (Exodus 33:18). To be effective missionaries, we need to follow Moses’ example, present ourselves before the Lord every day, praying with earnest soul-hunger: “I beseech thee, show me thy glory.” The glory of God, which man lost sight of at the fall, of which our mission is to reflect it, was proclaimed to Moses, thus: “The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation” (Exodus 34:6-7). It is the glory of God to be merciful, full of forbearance, kindness, goodness, and truth. But the justice shown in punishing the sinner is as verily the glory of the Lord as is the manifestation of His mercy.

The commandments are aligned with the mission objective of proclaiming the glory of God. Having proclaimed the glory of God to Moses, the Lord then commanded him: “Thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God” (Exodus 34:14). The only one true God (John 17:3) is jealous for His glory. Yet, many Christians, even professed Adventists, believe in spiritualism, which distorts the glory of God. They have separated the Spirit of God from God and turned it into a third individual of their trinity gods; in this they are as verily worshiping other gods as were the worshipers of Baal. Further, through spiritualism, they have turned the glory of God, especially His mercy, into a weak sentimentalism that will accept evil and that will gloss over modern Baal worship.

If only we knew that no mission short of proclaiming the glory of God is true mission! This entails rejecting the modern Baal worship of the trinity gods, and proclaiming the truth about God. The ultimate mission of Christ is to give us eternal life. Eternal life cannot be found in concepts of false gods. “This is life eternal,” Christ, the Master of Missions, said, “that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent” (John 17:3). Why is it that many Adventists do not realise the value of this knowledge? Why is not this glorious truth glowing in our hearts, trembling upon our lips, and pervading our whole being?

As the ultimate mission of Christ is our eternal life, as followers of Christ, the lesson that must be graven in our minds and souls is found in the prayer of Christ to His Father, which lesson specifically declare that life eternal is all about knowing “the only true God, and Jesus Christ” (John 17:3). The experimental knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent, transforms man into the image of God. It restores the glory of God into man, gives to man the mastery of himself, bringing every impulse and passion of the lower nature under the control of the higher powers of the mind. To be effective missionaries requires us to behold the glory of God. His glory makes its possessor a son of God and an heir of heaven,

for by “beholding” the true God and His Son, not the trinity gods, by beholding “the glory of the Lord,” we “are changed into the same image from glory to glory” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

In this time when evil within and without is increasing, true mission of the faithful Adventist Christians will entail the desire and labour for souls to increase in a knowledge of the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom He did send. Christ, the Master of Missions, has given to every Christian his mission. To every man there is given a work. This work is of declaring the true glory of God, to both Jews and Gentiles, to both Seventh-day Adventists (whom our Lord estimates as lukewarm in Revelation 3:14-18) and to those still in Babylon who must come out of her (Revelation 18:4). If you are not doing missionary work, proclaiming the true glory of God, to you Christ has addressed the question: “Why stand ye here all the day idle?” and Christ’s command to you is, “Go ye also into the vineyard” (Matthew 20:6-7). We all have a work to do for Him in the vineyard. But while some are engaged in giving the last message of mercy to our world, others are living in careless indifference to God’s mission.

Upon Adventists who know the present truth rests the responsibility of making it known to both fellow Adventists and non-Adventists. We, as the servants of Christ, are responsible for the mission of Christ to save the world. Like the apostle Paul we will labour for the souls, teaching them the truth, even this truth: “But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by Him” (1 Corinthians 8:6). We preach the truth as it is in Christ. We preach not human, false and unbiblical theology. “We preach not ourselves,” Paul says, “but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake” (1 Thessalonians 2:4). We will exalt Christ. We will hold aloft the standard of truth until Christ returns or the hand is palsied in death.

In carrying out this mission, our efficiency is of God through Christ. “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament” (2 Corinthians 3:5-6). “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us” (2 Corinthians 4:6-7). This treasure is the glory of God, reflected in Christ, and God having sent the very Spirit of Christ into our hearts (Galatians 4:6), we too reflect the glory of God.

With all the light we have as Adventists, even with the greater light of the truth about the Father and His Son, we are cautioned against boasting. Christ is our only efficiency. God uses human beings as His instrumentalities, to do His work. Our capabilities and talents are all to be held in trust. They do not originate with us. They come from God, and are to be consecrated to His service for His glory alone. “But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That according as it is written, he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:30-31).

Unless attended by the humility of Christ, we will make a shipwreck of the true mission of Christ of restoring the glory of God in man. The humility of Christ fills us with a sense of the love of God, from which springs the true gospel we must present to the dying world. As we do mission, we continually humble ourselves to receive counsel as a blessing from God. In this humility, the way is ever open for us to receive still greater blessings, because God does not speak to us in vain. Each step upward on the ladder of progress prepares us to climb still higher. From the top of the ladder the bright beams of God’s glory shines upon every faithful soul. As faithful missionaries, we must not think of resting, but seek constantly to attain to the wisdom and righteousness of Christ. We must “press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). To be true missionaries, after Christ the Master of Missions, the humility of Christ must daily attend our experience.

In this mission, Jesus said, “Now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world” (John 17:11). Jesus also said, “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world” (verse 14). He who recorded these words said, “As He is, so are we in this world” (1 John 4:17). And Christ said in the same prayer just referred to, “As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world” (John 17:18). In this mission, we show the glory of God: merciful, full of forbearance, kindness, goodness, truth, and that His justice in punishing the sinner is as verily the glory of the Lord as is the manifestation of His mercy.