

## 1. We are called to witness to the glory of the Redeemer with great joy.

- a. "all the people...said, 'We are witnesses'"
  - i. ALL the people at the gate witnessed this act of redemption and love by Boaz
  - ii. Marriage is intended to be a publicly witnessed institution from its very outset
    1. Its purpose is to reflect the union between Jesus and the Church (Eph 5)
- b. To Witness: Proclaim – Herald – Testify
  - i. "to herald an announcement" "to proclaim a message"
    1. Proclamation is not a *mutual journey* or *common wondering* discussion
    2. A *proclamation* of Truth, a testimony of what is objectively known and true
      - a. This does not exclude teaching, but it is different and precedes teaching
      - b. Authoritative because it is revealed from God
      - c. We testify to the veracity of the Gospel, the work of Jesus Christ
  - ii. Matt 3:1 – J.B. proclaimed
  - iii. Matt 4:17 – JC proclaimed
  - iv. Matt 10:7 – Apostles called to proclaim
    1. **Matthew 10:7** And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'
  - v. Acts 8:35 – Phillip preaches to the Ethiopian
    1. **Acts 8:35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he proclaimed Jesus to him.
  - vi. Rom 10:14 – "How will they hear without a preacher?"
    1. **Romans 10:14-17** But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?<sup>1</sup> And how are they to hear without someone preaching?<sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"<sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"<sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
- c. Witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Luke 24:46-47)
  - i. **Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
  - ii. We need to be rescued from sin and God's wrath toward sin
    1. All have sinned and fall short of God's glory (Rom 3:23)
    2. The wages of sin is death, the wrath of God (Rom 6:23; Eph 2:1-3)
      - a. **Ephesians 2:1** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins<sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience -<sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body<sup>1</sup> and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.
  - iii. Jesus came down and died in our place to satisfy God's wrath and give us eternal life and joy (Eph 1:7; Romans 5:9-10; John 3:36), the forgiveness of our sins (Matt 26:28; Col 1:20-23)
    1. **John 3:36** Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
    2. **Ephesians 1:7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,
    3. **Romans 5:9-10** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.<sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.
    4. **Matthew 26:28** for this is my blood of the<sup>1</sup> covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

5. **Colossians 1:20-23** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. <sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, <sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation<sup>1</sup> under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.
- iv. He rose again for our justification, that we would be right with God (Rom 4:25-5:1)
    1. **Romans 4:25-5:1** who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we<sup>1</sup> have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - v. In this gospel we find a deep distinction from the pattern of world,
    1. which seeks for power and works for self-righteousness, comparing themselves to themselves and where “grace” is a hidden and deceitful form of selfishness;
    2. which seeks for power and cannot give up its own out of fear, defining oneself by success and power and not able to truly repent or show weakness;
    3. which seeks to save itself, to be its own savior, whether in self-pity (trying to save myself and am failing) or in boasting (trying to be my own savior and feel I am succeeding),
    4. has no room for the Christ as the *sole* worker of salvation
      - a. Any gospel without the necessity of complete *rescue* from sin is not the gospel
      - b. Any gospel without the proclamation that we saved by complete *grace* through Jesus is not the gospel, either
      - c. Galatians 1:6-9
  - d. Proclaim the gospel by being *witnesses* to the glory of Christ, speaking the truth of the gospel in words
    1. Proclaim the gospel in the way that you live: saved by grace (I am better than no one else), repentance/humility (I can freely admit my own weaknesses and lose my own power), faith (I trust only in Jesus for my salvation and my significance).
    2. By the power and presence of the Holy Spirit – Acts 1:4-9
      - a. **Acts 1:4** And while staying<sup>1</sup> with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with<sup>1</sup> the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” <sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.
    3. The Holy Spirit is working to produce disciples from all people groups, bringing them together into the One New Humanity under Christ (Eph 1:10; 2:18,22; 4:3)
      - a. **Ephesians 1:10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.
      - b. **Ephesians 4:3** eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
      - c. **Ephesians 2:18,22** For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father... In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by<sup>1</sup> the Spirit.

## 2. The Purpose of Our Witness is to Glorify God and to See Him Worshiped in All the Earth

- a. All the people and the elders desired that Boaz be renowned in all the land for his gracious redemption of Ruth
  - i. Their witness was one of his honor, his grace, his love for her
  - ii. Their blessing, their prayer, was that he would be given great glory in Bethlehem and throughout all of Judah through the “seed” of Ruth
    1. The “seed” mentioned is David

2. There is a greater David in this line that brings great glory to God
- b. God's goal is to glorify God
  - i. Our witness of Christ's work is first and foremost for God
    1. God's desire and work in all of His self-revelation is for the purpose of proclaiming His greatness and glory to all the nations
      - a. Ex 9:12-16
    2. The Bible is about God and His purpose
      - a. Colossians 1:16 – "...all things were created through him and for him."
      - b. Eph 1:6,12,14 – "to the praise of the glory of his grace" "praise of his glory"
      - c. Heb 1:8 – "of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever...'"
      - d. John 20:31 – "these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of god, and that by believing you may have life in His name."
    3. Scripture is about God revealing Himself
      - a. Hebrews 1:2-3
 

**Hebrews 1:2-3** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
    4. We are Tempted to Read Scripture as if it were All About Us
      - a. What do most people see as the themes of the book of Daniel?
        - i. God's Provision for Me
        - ii. God's Protection over Me
        - iii. Bible Prophecy
      - b. Look at 4:34 and 6:25-27
        1. **Daniel 4:34** At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;
        2. **Daniel 6:25-27** Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. <sup>26</sup> I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. <sup>27</sup> He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."
      - ii. Daniel is about revealing the one true God to other peoples
      - iii. Notice Jeremiah 29:4 – "to all the exiles *whom I have sent* into exile in Babylon..."
    - c. We Must Change the Way We View All of Scripture
      - i. **The Bible is a God Book, not a 'me' Book!**
  5. When we treat evangelism as if it's all about humanity's worthiness, we tend to twist the revealed word of God to make it palatable so that people will make a choice
    - a. We tend to look for "decisions" rather than repentant faith and the worship of Jesus Christ
    - b. Our work ends with the decisions, rather than having the work continue to God's glory in discipleship: helping people finding their joy in the worship of the Lord
    - c. We tend to run from discomfort or suffering because we cannot understand how that fits into God's purpose
      - i. God ends up existing (in our deceived minds) for our purpose, rather than we existing for His

- ii. We end up defining God the way we think He should be, rather than having His self-revelation transform the way we view Him
  - ii. Witness is not *against or apathetic* towards people, either
    - 1. In fact, it is for people, too, so we pray for the building up of the people of God
      - a. "May you be like Rachel and Leah...who built Israel"
    - 2. It is loving and compassionate as Jesus is loving and compassionate toward us
    - 3. It is giving up our own power and reputation for the sake of the glory of God and the salvation of others
    - 4. We definitely desire that people are free
      - a. Free from idols and false worship
      - b. Free to worship, finding their greatest joy in God
      - c. God is most glorified when people are most satisfied in Him (Piper)
  - iii. Witnessing is about God being praised and honored and loved for Who He is and what He has done in Christ
    - 1. Just as the people praised Boaz and desired him to be honored throughout the land for his faithfulness and redemption of Ruth
      - a. For including this Moabitess in the family of God's people
      - b. For purchasing all her debt and freeing her as his wife
      - c. For covenanting to bless her with children
    - 2. Proclaim with Praise
      - a. Ps 78:1-4
        - i. **Psalm 78:1** A MASKIL<sup>1</sup> OF ASAPH. Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! <sup>2</sup>I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, <sup>3</sup>things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. <sup>4</sup>We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.
      - b. Ps 107 – "Let the redeemed of the LORD say so!"
      - c. Rom 15:11-13 – Christ the praise and the hope of the Gentiles (all the nations)
        - i. **Romans 15:11-13** And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." <sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." <sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
    - 3. Question: Do you desire God to be known because He's beautiful as He has revealed Himself?
    - 4. Question: Do you want to praise Him to all peoples? To be honored where He deserves to be honored (all the earth)? Worshipped by those who do not worship Him now?
  - c. God is worthy of the praises from all people groups in the world
    - i. Ruth is blessed by the people with the desire that she grow to be as foundational and honored as Rachel and Leah, who built up the house of Israel
    - ii. Ps 22:23-27
      - 1. **Psalm 22:23-27** You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! <sup>24</sup>For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him. <sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him. <sup>26</sup>The afflicted<sup>1</sup> shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever! <sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.
    - iii. Ps 117
      - 1. **Psalm 117** Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! <sup>2</sup>For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

- iv. John Piper quote: “Missions is not the ultimate goal of the Church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever...”
- v. Rom 16:25-27
  1. **Romans 16:25-27** Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages<sup>26</sup> but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith -<sup>27</sup> to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

#### Conclusion:

Our mission is the same mission that God has (makes sense, right?): to declare and reveal His glory to all the peoples of the earth. He is bringing into His redeemed family peoples from every tribe and nation and tongue of the world and is making us full citizens of the Kingdom and giving us all the full rights of sons through the blood and resurrected life of Jesus Christ.

Our passion is for His reputation and to see him honored that He deserves for His grace toward us! “May You be renowned in all the earth, My Redeemer, My Jesus! And may your house, O Lord, be built up through your redemption of your Bride!”

Our purpose is to see Him worshipped! Our desire is for Him to be known and adored and glorified through the redemption of sinners set free, the times of ignorance having passed and God stretching out His hands of mercy to all who will trust in Jesus. That is our witness! We gain motivation and passion for this witness by seeing Jesus, the Beautiful One, the Redeemer of our souls, the Lamb of God, the glorious King, and gazing upon the tremendous beauty of who He is and what He has done. But when our eyes turn inward and we gaze upon our own strength, our own wisdom, and our own righteousness we do not witness to the greatness of the glory of Christ.

But when we turn from our own power, our own wisdom, our own righteousness and lay these things down into the gracious and love-filled hands of the Savior, then we begin to witness to His greatness, and His kindness in our redemption because He is worthy of our praise and boasting. To the degree which we find Him worthy of our praise, the more that we praise Him, the greater we glorify Him. What has He done for us, O redeemed Church? How has He redeemed you? From what has He redeemed us? O, the love of the Father and the grace of the Son that has been poured out upon us by the Spirit! What a Redeemer! Run to Him and gaze upon Him. Recall and proclaim His gracious works!

May it be so in my life by the grace of God. May it be so in yours. May it be so to all whom He has called from the ends of the earth. It’s time to witness to glory of the gospel of Jesus Christ.