

THE DISOBEDIENT CHURCH



I would like to speak to you today
the message that I have entitled:

THE DISOBEDIENT CHURCH

THE DISOBEDIENT CHURCH

□ I have divided my sermon into 4 major divisions and each division starts with a **C**:

1. THE COMMAND

2. THE CONCERN

3. THE CAUSE &

4. THE CURE

THE COMMAND

- ❑ This is was the last word of Jesus which He spoke at the very end of His ministry on earth. Scholars have called it the **GREAT COMMISION**.
- ❑ To ensure its importance, it has been recorded in different styles in four books of the Bible; **MATHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN AND IN THE BOOK OF ACTS**.
- ❑ **MATHEW 28:18-20:**
Then Jesus came up and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

THE COMMAND

□ MARK 16:15-16:

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved, but the one who does not believe will be condemned."

□ LUKE 24:47:

and repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

□ JOHN 20:21:

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. Just as the Father has sent me, I also send you."

THE COMMAND

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 farthest parts of the earth."

- ❑ That is the command that Jesus gave to us. Do you understand it?
- ❑ Now after looking at the command, let us see where we (the global church) are, in as far as obedience to this command is concerned. I call the second part,

THE CONCERN

- ❑ The church has been trying to obey this command for over **2,000** years now. However my main concern is the progress in which we have obeyed the command.
 - Out of **6.7 billion** people living on earth today, the gospel has not yet reached **2,000,000** people!
 - We still have **6,642** people groups (tribes) without the church among them!
 - **1.3 billion Muslims** still bow towards Mecca in prayer 5 times a day!

THE CONCERN

- Over 900,000,000 Hindus of India and Nepal are still worshipping over 330,000,000 gods!
- 412,000,000 Indians have never heard the name of Jesus!
- 500,000 villages of India have no gospel witness!
- 40,000 people die daily in India without ever hearing about Jesus!

Source: Joshua project, Gospel for Asia, Operation World.

THE CONCERN

- ❑ Only **5%** of the church's missionary work is focused on those who have never heard the name of Jesus even once!
- ❑ **95%** of our missionary work is focusing on those who are already Christians!
- ❑ **95%** of all preachers are busy preaching to their own people!
- ❑ Out of every **100 missionaries**, only **3** go to the **2,000,000** who have never heard the gospel once!
- ❑ Out of every **R100** given in the church around the world, only **5 cents** goes to the **2,000,000,000** who have never heard the name of Jesus!

Source: Mission to unreached peoples

THE CONCERN

- ❑ That is the concern we have this morning! That is the sickness of DISOBEDIENCE the church is suffering from.
- ❑ Do you see it? Do you feel it?
- ❑ This then takes us to the third division. This is where we will answer the question “why” is the situation as it is? Why has the church not made the much desired progress in world missions today? I call the third C,

THE CAUSE

- ❑ In my opinion, the church has disobeyed God's command to evangelize the whole world up to this time for FOUR main reasons. I call them FOUR viruses that cause DIOBEDIENCE to MISSION in the church:

THE CAUSE

I. COMPROMISE

- ☐ We are living in the days when the spiritual condition of the church is below the standard of the Bible.
- ☐ The church is neither hot nor cold, but rather lukewarm and the Lord feels like vomiting it out His mouth.
- ☐ John Osteen was right when He said, "the church is more worldly and the world is more churchly that you cannot tell the difference"
- ☐ We have lost our first love and commitment to God!
- ☐ That is why the gospel is moving nowhere!
- ☐ That is why more people are dying without ever hearing the name of Jesus!

THE CAUSE

COMPROMISE

- ❑ There is sin in the church of God!
- ❑ Sin among the so called Christians! Sin among Pentecostals! Sin among preachers, prophets and apostles!
- ❑ THE SIN OF COMPROMISE, CARELESSNESS AND LACK OF HOLINESS AND INTEGRITY!
- ❑ Because of this, we have forgotten the last command of our saviour, the command of taking the gospel to the lost, especially those who are at the end of the earth!
- ❑ How can a sick person have energy to help another sick person?

THE CAUSE

COMPROMISE

- ☐ It takes love and commitment to remember a sinner and give him the gospel.
- ☐ We need to repent or else we will perish together with those who have never heard the name of Jesus!

THE CAUSE

SELFISHNESS

- ☐ The second root cause of the church's disobedience to the Great Commission is that the church has become a selfish organization.
- ☐ We are only thinking of ourselves.
- ☐ We don't care about others who have never hear heard the gospel! (Especially those living far away from us)
- ☐ We don't feel responsible for their salvation!
- ☐ The church of today is primarily focusing on its members more than its no-members!
- ☐ Churches have become a cerebration centres!

THE CAUSE

SELFISHNESS

- ❑ Christians have become “spiritual tourists” jumping from church to church chasing for miracles and prophetic words!
- ❑ Preachers have become fortune tellers who focus more on making believers into millionaires instead of missionaries!
- ❑ No wonder the Great Commission has been forgotten!
- ❑ Sinners are dying without hope!
- ❑ Unless we repent and seek God's mercy, the gospel will be on the standstill!

THE CAUSE

SELFISHNESS

☐ May God send us revival and move us into missions!

Mendell Taylor said;

"The Church must send or the church will end."

THE CAUSE

MARGINALIZATION

- ❑ The third root cause of the problem that I see in the church today is that world missions is simply a department in our churches today!
- ❑ It is not the central focus of our being and existence!
- ❑ Jesus never said so!
- ❑ His last command was supposed to become our first concern!
- ❑ The devil has stopped our pastors from putting missions on the priority of our local churches!
- ❑ We have mission **programmes** but not missions **passion!**
- ❑ We have mission **departments** not mission **dynamics!**

THE CAUSE

MARGINALIZATION

- ❑ Christians have mission **consciousness** not mission **commitment!**
- ❑ Mission has been marginalized!
- ❑ That is why 4,000 languages on earth are yet to have the Bible translation!
- ❑ The church is busy with other departments like feeding programs, Sunday school, building, music until there is no money for missions!
- ❑ We are feeding sinners and not winning them!
- ❑ Evangelists are only healing the sick sinners and allow them to go to hell while healed!

THE CAUSE

MARGINALIZATION

- ❑ Pastors are only focusing on their **finances** and **facilities** and not on those who are **doomed** and **dying** without Christ!
- ❑ Instead of going into the entire world, we have chosen to stay at home and teach our people over and over again until they become full of the word and spiritually fat for nothing!
- ❑ Let us put missions at the centre of the church!
- ❑ Let us go into the entire world, and touch those who have never heard the name of Jesus!

THE CAUSE

MATERIALISM

- ❑ The last virus that is causing the church to disobey the Great Commission today is materialism.
- ❑ Today's Christians are living for now not for eternity!
- ❑ Most of our preachers are preaching about material prosperity over and over again until Christians have lost the whole idea of heaven and hell!
- ❑ "God's judgment" and "the Lake of fire" are old fashioned messages in the church today!
- ❑ No wonder the Great Commission is only on paper today!
- ❑ Few Christians are feeling the urgency for the perishing people!

THE CAUSE

MATERIALISM

- ❑ Christians have wrong priorities and time and money is wasted on ourselves until this generation will die leaving the Great Commission unfinished!
- ❑ Lesser priorities are becoming more important than preaching the gospel to the lost!
- ❖ Mike Stachura said; *"The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity."*
- ❑ I therefore don't care how many people are sitting in your church, if you are sending no missionary to the lost nations of the world, you are nothing but a bless me club!

THE CAUSE

MATERIALISM

- ❑ The accumulation of things has become more important than eternal investment for souls!
 - Shop until you drop!
 - Buy until you die!
 - Spend to the end!
- ❑ We have become a ME ME generation!

THE CAUSE

MATERIALISM

- ❑ Instead of praying for Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims to see God's light, our prayers have been,
 - Bless ME!
 - Anoint ME!
 - Appoint ME!
 - Prosper ME!
 - Help ME!
 - Heal ME!
 - Fill ME!
 - Teach ME!

THE CAUSE

MATERIALISM

- Give ME!
 - Inspire ME!
 - Encourage ME! Etc. Etc.
 - Until God is sick and tired of our selfish desires!
- ❑ These are the four **CAUSES** to the church's disease of **DISOBEDIENCE!**

THE CURE

- ❑ Finally let us see what we can do get out of this problem.
- ❑ I call this section, **THE CURE**

"The best remedy for a sick church is to put it on a missionary diet." — Unknown

THE CURE

In order to be cured from this sickness I suggest the following medications:

❑ VISION

- Every church has to have a missionary vision and it should be communicated to every member. The vision should start with the leadership.

❑ TEACHING

- Missions should be taught in the church on a regular basis in order for people to see God's heart for missions in the scriptures. Bible Schools and seminaries should have missionary curriculums as a requirement not as an option!

THE CURE

□ PRAYER

- There should be passionate and regular prayer for the world, the lost, the persecuted church and for the missionaries.

□ GIVING

- The church should have give an opportunity to every member to participate in world missions through their finances.

□ GOING

- The church should train and send its members on a long or short term mission trips.

CONCLUSION

"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed"

-Hudson Taylor

□ We have seen:

- THE COMMAND
- THE CONCERN
- THE CAUSE &
- THE CURE.

MAY WE OBEY THE MASTER IN REACHING THE
WORLD FOR HIM!

CONCLUSION

- ❑ Jesus says: Blessed is the one who hears my word and keep it!
- ❑ James says: Be doers of the word, not just hearers and deceive yourselves!

MAY GOD HELP US TODAY TO OBEY THE GREAT COMMISSION AND REACH THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HEARD HIS NAME!

THE END!

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