

## THE CALL TO MISSION

**Text:** *“And shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in Judea and all Samaria, and to the ends of the World” { (Acts 1: 8).*

The words of our text today were the very last words to fall from the lips of Jesus as he left earth to glory. As we observe mission today and reflect on the text, bearing in mind our call to the ministry and mission of Christ and the Church. We need to reach human kind for Christ. In this text we find embodied there the heartbeat of Christ for humankind. In this final statement, Christ left his disciples his own programme for redeeming the lost world. The early church in Acts followed the blueprint to the letter and turned the world upside down for Jesus.

In leaving his disciples he left with them a mission which was to be his witnesses throughout the entire world, to preach the gospel, baptize, and to heal the sick in his name. Today my B&S the same mission is still relevant. We are called to be disciples of this age, to preach the gospel, to live the life that Christ wants us to live. We are called to be missionaries in our own situations.

In order to do the mission of Christ, when he left this earth, they were in need of four (4) essentials for the mission.

1. The disciples needed to **ENLIST**. They needed to get involve in the task. The Lord had a passion for the lost of this world. He was moved with compassion for them. This he made known to his disciples as well as to us today. When we look around us at the works of Satan in our world and in our country Jamaica, young people as well as older people, by the many lures of the enemy, e.g. drugs, guns, sex, and false doctrine. We cannot help but have a heart of compassion and claim the words of Jesus when he said *“ye shall be my witnesses to the utmost parts of the earth”*.
2. The disciples needed **ENCOURAGEMENT**. WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE PHASE WHICH SAYS THAT *“Encouragement sweetens labour.”* The disciples like us today needed encouragement in their task for the Lord. There are times in or mission for Christ we feel that we are alone, no one else is there with us. But God through his word has given us a great promise, in that He says *“Lo I am with you always even to the end of the age.”* He will never leave us or forsake us. His abiding presence will always be with us.

This He made known to us through His resurrection, and the reality of his return.

3. The disciples needed to know where to go and what to do. They needed to be **ENLIGHTENED**. Jesus said that they first needed to begin in Jerusalem, their home. Our first mission field is to be where we are , our home, in our community..... We need to be His witnesses in this community and care for the needy we find there. The second step is to move into Judea, the country. Jamaica needs Jesus..... Then we move into Samaria. The continent. The Caribbean needs to hear and know the mission of Christ and his Church. There are hungry souls that are dying for the gospel of Christ. We need to rescue the perishing..... The time is now.
  
4. In order for us to do the mission of Christ and to be His missionaries, we need to be **ENABLED**. This enabling for the disciples is given by God through the person of the Holy Spirit, which he made known to His disciples. The word says “*Ye shall receive power...the Holy Spirit...*” This power will enable us to transform this world, and turn it upside down for Jesus.

My B&S, mission today has taken on a new concept. No longer are we thinking of overseas places like Africa, China.... Our mission field is here at home..., next door. No longer are we talking preaching the gospel only, we are talking about living the gospel. Taking care of the whole person no matter who they are.

I challenge us therefore, today, to arise to the cause of mission. Let us enlist for service, we will be ***encouraged***, we will be ***enlightened***, we will be ***enabled by the power of the H.S.***

The call to mission is an urgent one. Let us respond to it now.

AMEN!  
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15/09/02 – Glen Stewart UC