

Missional Church
Pastor Derrick Hamre
February 25, 2018
Text: Judges 16:15-19; Acts 2:38-45

NOTES

A. Introduction:

1. We are concluding a month of mission emphasis designed to teach us about missions, inspire us, remind us to pray, and challenge us to give and go short- or long-term.
2. We can also live a missional lifestyle here—all of us praying, loving others, sharing Jesus, working toward the goal of becoming a missional church that impacts our neighbourhood, nation, and the world.

B. Learning from Samson (entire story of Samson is in Judges 13-16; we'll focus on Judges 16:15-19):

1. Samson was set apart from birth, a Nazarite. The Spirit of God was on him.
2. But his habit was to dance with the enemy. Repeatedly he got himself in trouble by giving in to his lustful, selfish cravings. Then he used his spiritual gifts, specifically his strength, to get free.
3. In his relationship with Delilah, he played with fire, getting ever closer to telling her the source of his strength until one day he did. She cut off his hair and then betrayed him to the Philistine leaders.
4. When the leaders came to take him, he rose as at other times, thinking he could again free himself, not realizing God's Spirit had left him.
5. Lessons from Samson:
 - a. We're not given spiritual gifts for ourselves but to edify the body of Christ and help one another.
 - b. Our wrong actions will catch up with us.
 - c. God's calling is precious and should not be wasted by playing with our gifts instead of using them to bring deliverance.
 - d. In our walk, we must stay connected to the Holy Spirit lest we find one day He has departed.
 - e. God can and will use anyone. Even in weakness there is mercy and grace. Samson was used by God in spite of his faults.

C. Keys to Church Success (Acts 2:38-45):

1. **Purity – Acts 2:38-40:**
 - a. The Pentecostal church has historically taught and practiced purity in lifestyle and doctrine.
 - b. Pastor has lately received several words of warning about the **need to repent**. One says, in part: *"... as we draw close to God, we cannot drag our sins along with us. God is calling us to repent. There is drunkenness and sexual promiscuity and all kinds of perversion in the church. You think that no one has noticed but God has noticed. If we repent there is forgiveness but if we continue to hide our sin, it will be exposed and because of this it may explode and cause devastation."*
 - c. This is not a purity of legalism but a dynamic purity that listens and obeys.
2. **Prayer – Acts 2:42:**
 - a. Churches that are advancing around the world are churches that pray.
 - b. For us to be a missional church with power and authority, we need to be a church of prayer.
 - c. This is not ritualistic prayer but a dynamic relationship with God – Romans 8:26.
3. **Power – Acts 2:43:**
 - a. Modern miracles happen, e.g. the story of the Ethiopian man who turned to Christ after Jesus multiplied the small supply of macaroni he had to feed his guests, and then appeared to him in a dream.
 - b. The church has always been about signs and wonders to advance the Kingdom of God. **Pastor Derrick:** *"We must maintain a strong connection of Spirit-dependency on God."*
4. **The Poor – Acts 2:44-45**
 - a. God has a special place in His heart for the poor.
 - b. In Rio de Janeiro the church has a good reputation and favour because of its treatment of the poor.
 - c. **Pastor Derrick:** *"God is raising up a church in the last days that will reach out to the poor. In our self-sufficiency, may we not forget the poor."*

DISCUSSION:

1. How might we be playing Samson by: 1] using our spiritual gifts for ourselves? 2] Playing with our gifts instead of bringing deliverance with them? 3] Losing our connection with and anointing of the Holy Spirit?

2. What are the four aspects of a missional church pastor named?

3. In the call for purity, he read a word that was given to him recently. What was your reaction to that word? What is our next action if we feel implicated and convicted by this word? What part does prayer play in a missional church? What part does power play in a missional church? How does Acts 2:44,45 model for us a way to treat the poor?

PRAYER:

Dear Father, today we pray that You would speak to us about our calling and our mission, both personal and corporate. May we not lose our purpose and power because of apathy, self-centeredness, and sin. Please convict us of our prayerlessness and abandonment of the poor. May CLA be a missional force to be reckoned with in Langley, B.C., Canada, and the world as we live under the direction and in the power of Your Spirit. Amen.