Notes of YF message on 19 Sep 2026 – "Life of Christ -- The Work of Preaching Revealed"
Text: Mark 6:1-6, Matt 9:35-38 Memory Verse: Matt 9:37-38 Speaker: Pr David Chew
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The preaching of the Gospel is the God-ordained means for the spreading of the Gospel. However, in many churches today, preaching is not prioritised. Sermons become shorter, and activities (instead of the preaching of God's Word) are used to attract people to the church. This is worldliness and reflects a wrong understanding of the work of preaching. Jesus Himself won souls by preaching, and we can learn from His example.

1 The Rejection of Gospel Preaching (Mark 6:1-6)

Even though preaching is the God-ordained means of spreading the Gospel, it does not mean that everyone who hears will be saved. In Mark 6, Jesus returned to Nazareth and preached, but many did not believe. Instead, they questioned His preaching, asking where He got His teachings from, and they rejected His message. Furthermore, they doubted Jesus' Person. They were familiar with Jesus' family and knew Him from the time He was a child. Thus, they could not believe that this same Jesus they knew was truly the Son of God. They were offended.

To His own people, Jesus was without honour: familiarity breeds contempt. By their rejection, the people rejected God, showing their unbelief. In response, Jesus did not do mighty works and marvelled at their unbelief.

Jesus' experience shows that faithful preaching can result in the rejection of the Gospel. Faithful preaching is no guarantee for success. The root problem is not the faithful preaching, but the hearers' unbelieving hearts. Thus, the hearers' rejection of faithful preaching should not lead to the replacement of faithful preaching by worldly, or ungodly, means just to win man's acceptance.

2 The Heart Behind Gospel Preaching (Matt 9:35-36)

Jesus had a heart of diligence. We see this from how He went to cities and villages, teaching. He was desirous that man should enter the Kingdom of God. He cared for and loved the people: He took time to heal the sick and was moved with compassion on them at their spiritual poverty. The multitudes *"fainted,"* i.e. they were weak, weary, with no rest because they were in sin or burdened by the impositions of the religious leaders. They were also *"scattered,"* navigating this world on their own without a relationship with God, like sheep with no spiritual shepherd to guide and protect them.

Jesus had a heart for the lost. Do we also have a heart for the lost? Are we moved with compassion for those who live their lives fainting, scattered far from the shepherd, heading towards death and hell? Do we have a heart for their souls? Do we share the Gospel with persistence and prayer, going beyond mere duty?

3 The Need for Gospel Preaching (Matt 9:37-38)

Jesus likened soul winning to harvesting. It is laborious, manual work in Israel's agricultural society. Likewise, soul winning today is difficult work, but it is our calling. All believers are called to do personal evangelism. The time to harvest is now. We must labour with urgency because there are many who need to hear the Gospel, and the labourers are few. We are called also to pray for God to send more labourers: more full-time preachers and pastors for the ministry.

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