

Unlikely Places

Imagine being a missionary ...

Where would you go and why would you go, and when would you go?

How about a holiday destination which is more beautiful and luxurious? Perhaps it is like home; only better?

Would you go because you have had enough of how 'bad' things are at home, and you could mission better somewhere better?

Would you go when you fully educated, rich, & respected full of years of experience and 'stuff' to attract people?

Our greatest missionary is Jesus.

Jesus broke all these principles.

Jesus came from a better place; He was not upgrading His circumstances. He came to an incredibly lowly place compared to where He was.

Php 2:1-11

"1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,

2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Jesus chose to come here!

Jesus did not come because it was best place, and Israel was not the easiest place to be.

- Political intrigue and rivalries
- Border guards
- Enforced travel as well as travel expenses
- Census issues
- Taxes!
- A strong Jewish lives matter movement
- Leprosy and so on

Perhaps the sacrifice is an important aspect of obedience and anointing in the things of God.

Eph 5:1-2

1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Jesus came not for the benefit of Himself, for He fully intended to 'spend' His life, seeking to save that which was lost; even to through the cross.

He later affirmed in

Luk 19:10

10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

However, Jesus was not an instant success.

Jesus was born and became recognised as the one they called Christ; the messiah.

Matthew 1:16

"And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ."

Your world may not be the best.

But you are born for now

You are a gift that can make a difference in time.

But consider this, perhaps there is somewhere that you do not think of as good that you could go to; somewhere God is calling you to.

As the old song goes, "... but please don't call me to Africa!"

Of course, that is exactly what God was doing!

Rather than fear your Africa, consider what your Africa's may be. Perhaps you will witness to one of them.

You will be a cross cultural missionary regardless of how little or far you may travel.

Jesus modelled reaching out to young, old, male, female, local, foreign, sick and well alike.

It is not all up to you
But you can make a difference to people.

Be prepared to do some learning. Jesus was a learner for 30 years growing in to His ministry.

You can learn to connect with both the Holy Spirit and the people God is leading you to.

Christ is born in us
Christ is carried in us

Jesus quietly and humbly went about being who he was meant to be.

He was so good at it that he became famous.

Our earthly future may be uncertain.

But I am certain we will still be able to be a blessing. ... even more able ... the worse things become.

The thing is, once He was released, Jesus made a difference to the world and history over a short time in a small place.

If not for those he touched, who knows what the world would be like now.

As people lose the false hope of this world, through all the shaking, there is more readiness to consider the next.

Jesus was not anointed to save the existing system.

He was anointed to save us from the system and into the family of God. It is liberating to know that Jesus does not expect us to change the system, but to join His system, the Kingdom of God, the Family of God.

He was also anointed to commission us to do likewise, including commissioning others, so that little you could become a movement.

We are all part of a movement. However, continued movement will result from the movement that we stir along.

When someone stirs the pond water with their hand, the fish swim upstream (in a circle).
The fish come to you.

Do not let the water near you become stale. Recognise your pond.
Stir it with prayer.
Stir it connecting with people.

Stir it helping people to believe, worship and hear for themselves.
Stir it by encouraging people that they too can do what you do.

I believe you are anointed and gifted to be the body of Christ and change the future

It is an act of faith.

Failures become success;

Little things big things.

In short you are anointed to love the one next to you as well as the one very different like the Good Samaritan.

And the next ... and the next.

Remember to look in unlikely places!