



The Department of Ministry to Men

Eight Steps to Start an Outreach Ministry

Text: Habakkuk 2:1-4



The Department of Ministry to Men

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Introduction

- Mission work is not limited to foreign lands
- We are surrounded by a population of souls who need a Savior
- As follows of Jesus we are called to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20)
- The Great Commission is a Commandment
- It's not Optional



Introduction

- Author: The Prophet Habakkuk
- Date of Writing: Likely between 610 and 605 B.C.
- Purpose: Habakkuk was wondering why God was allowing His chosen people to go through current suffering and the hands of their enemies. God answers and Habakkuk's faith is restored
- Habakkuk means to wrestle, to embrace or to cling to



Background of the Lesson

- The prophet is perplexed that God does not punish iniquity of Judah – The burden
- He complained to the Lord about the terrible violence, robbery, strife and injustice in Judah
- He asked the Lord how long it would be allowed to go unpunished
- The Lord replies that He would use the Babylonians to punish Judah



Background of the Lesson

- God would raise up the Chaldean army punish Judah
- Under the rule of King Nebuchadnezzar the enemy would be hasty, bitter, violent, dreadful and proud
- The Babylonians were noted for their swift cavalry, swift in conquest and fiercer than wolves
- Habakkuk now questions God's choice of a more wicked nation to punish Judah
- He is troubled
- How could God allow this wicked nation to punish Judah



Scripture

(v.1) “I will stand like a guard to watch and place myself at the tower. I will wait to see what he will say to me; I will wait to learn how God will answer my complaint.” (NIV)

(v.2) “And the Lord answered me, and said Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables that he may run that read it.” (KJV)



Interpretation

- The prophet is speaking metaphorically
- Habakkuk goes to God in prayer – the tower of his mind
- He waits with anticipation of hearing from God
- What is the shared burden or complaint of MTM
- Ask God to show us the burden or complaint and wait for the answer through prayer, Bible study and meditation
- Pray and ask God what we should do about our burden or complaint



Interpretation

- We must first see the vision – If we can't then others can't we must catch the vision – This is our Cause
- When God gives us an answer write the vision down
- Everyone must understand the vision
- We must make the vision known in many ways possible
- Make the vision plain for others so that they may take the vision and run with it – This is our Call
- The answer is not just for us but to edify others
- The vision must be permanent and practical in order to impact the lost – This is our Ministry



Scripture

(v.3) “For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie; though it tarry, wait for it; because the it will surely come, it will not tarry.” (KJV)

(v.4) “Behold, his soul is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.”



Interpretation

- Habakkuk spoke to an age beyond his own
- Remember the vision is for an appointed time – we may not get to see it, but future generations will benefit from the vision
- The answer may take a long time to come, but wait patiently for God to give us clear revelation
- Faith gives us Spiritual Vision



Interpretation

- The just shall live by faith not the law
- Paul used this passage three times in the NT
 - Romans 1:17 (Just)
 - Galatians 3:11 (Live) Christian Life
 - Hebrews 10:38 (Faith)



(8) Steps to Start an Outreach Ministry

1. We must first begin praying for our ministry and our leadership – pray that God will give us a shared vision.



(8) Steps to Start an Outreach Ministry

2. We must commit ourselves to get involved in a scriptural-based outreach. Make the vision permanent and practical.



(8) Steps to Start an Outreach Ministry

3. We must be consistent in our work.



(8) Steps to Start an Outreach Ministry

4. We must employ appropriate methods to reach the lost. Make the vision known in many ways possible – Make it plain.



(8) Steps to Start an Outreach Ministry

5. Our approach must be based on Scriptural principles and directed by the Holy Spirit.



(8) Steps to Start an Outreach Ministry

6. Our group (MTM) must draw upon the best energy – Only through God's Spirit can members be equipped for effective long-term witnessing.



(8) Steps to Start an Outreach Ministry

7. We must have the right motivation – The right reasons for sharing the gospel, which includes a love for God, a love for God’s people, and a desire to be obedient.



(8) Steps to Start an Outreach Ministry

8. We must walk by faith in God; praising & thanking Him for the awesome of being involved in kingdom building - Faith gives us Spiritual Vision.



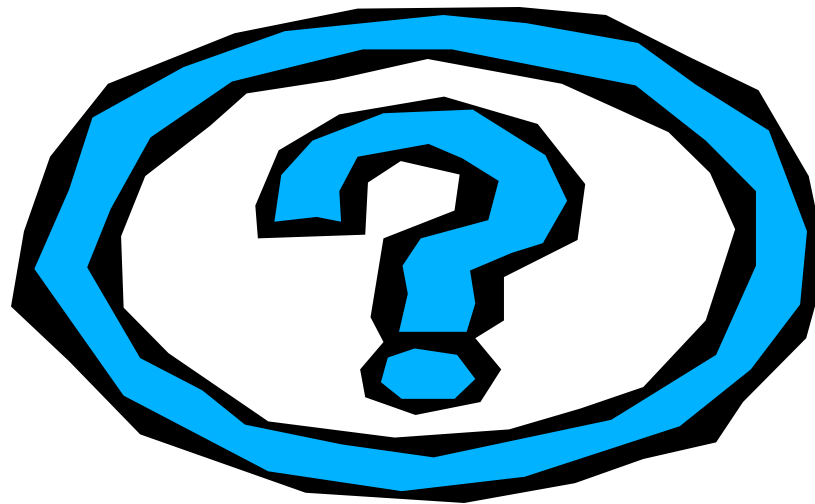
Quote

“It is impossible to enslave mentally or socially a
Bible reading people”

Author Unknown



Questions





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