A Threepold Duty Toward The Lost

Intro: There are two classes of people in this world. There are those who have submitted themselves to the will of the Father in baptism for the remission of their sins, and there are those who need to submit themselves to the Father’s will. These can be classified as the saved and the lost. Those in that saved group have certain responsibilities of their life. They have certain responsibilities toward the lost. In this lesson, let us notice a threepold duty toward the lost.

I. Look.
   A. John 4:35 “Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”
   B. Without a vision of something (seeing a need), we will do nothing.
      1. We find what we are looking for.
      2. We have lost the vision of lost souls.
         a. We think the good moral person is alright.
         b. We think those in the denominations will somehow be saved.
   C. We need to have a vision of lost multitudes.
      1. Pro. 29:18 “Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”
      2. Mat. 7:13-14 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”
      3. A vision of the lost multitudes should move us to do something to save them.

II. Pray.
   A. The effect of prayer.
      1. Prayer centers our mind on what we pray for.
      2. Prayer centers God’s mind on our request.
         a. Mat. 7:7-8 “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”
         b. Phi. 4:6 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”
      3. The power of prayer
         a. Jam. 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
         b. 1 John 3:22 “And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”
   B. We should pray for:
      1. Lost souls and their reception and obedience to the gospel.
         a. Rom. 10:1 “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”
2. For laborers to proclaim God’s Word.
   a. Mat. 9:37-38 “Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”
   b. The difficulty of the task:
      (1) A great harvest, but few laborers.
      (2) The solution of the task is not in wealth, education, or prestige, but in laborers.
   c. Underscore “laborers”; the Lord cannot use the idle.
3. For the freedom to proclaim the gospel.
   a. Col. 4:2-3 “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; 3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:”
   b. 2 The. 3:1-2 “Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: 2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.”
4. For the bold proclamation of that Word.
   a. Acts 4:29 “And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,”
   b. Eph. 6:18-20 “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

III. Go.
   A. We have the responsibility to go.
      1. To all nations; Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
      2. To every creature; Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
   B. The sinners obedience to believe and be baptized is dependent on our obedience to go into all the world.
      1. Mark 16:15-16
      2. Rom. 10:13-14 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”
   C. The blood of the lost will be on us unless we make a reasonable effort to save them.
      1. Eze. 33:8-9 “When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. 9 Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.”
2. The song, *You Never Mentioned Him to Me* aptly expresses it:

“When in the better land before the bar we stand, How deeply grieved our souls will be; If any lost one there should cry in deep despair, “You never mentioned Him to me.”

O let us spread the word where’er it may be heard, help groping souls the light to see, that yonder none may say, “you showed me not the way,” “You never mentioned Him to me.”

A few sweet words may guide a lost one to His side, Or turn sad eyes on Calvary; So work as days go by, that yonder none may cry, “You never mentioned Him to me.”

“You never mentioned Him to me, You helped me not the light to see; You met me day by day and know I was astray, Yet never mentioned Him to me.”

Conclusion: Have we and are we doing our part, our duty to the lost? If not, not is the time to start.