

Be a Missionary! (Part One)

- 1) **With Your Words**
- 2) **Without Fear**
- 3) Committed
- 4) Confident

*Introduction*

- What comes mind when think re a Xian msnry? Maybe J: Galilee, Gos, Kingdom – perf Msnry. Maybe think re msnrys came to N. Am 1700s: do msn wrk among Nat Amrcns; Spanish Msns, in TX/CA; even think Lutheran prs, trained at msnry societies in Grmny, then came Am 1800s to shepherd all Luths fleeing Europe for new start here – all msnrys. Maybe, when think msnry: think WELS opening brand new home mission here in US; pr called start new church; small, core group ppl meet, knock on doors, invite ppl to come. Or think WELS sending msnrys overseas (Vietnam, China, Russia, Malawi) – all that: msnry work! (Narthex posters.)
- What re when look in mirror? See self as msnry? Today begin 2-wk focus on msn wrk; hear same Gos 2 Suns in row; today preach 1st half; next, 2nd. Here, J speaking 12 Apstls, also all Xians: “I want you be msnry.” Today J: **vs. 25a**. We’re stdnts/Tchr, srvnts/Mstr; also makes us msnrys under perf Msnry J. J came to wrld on msn to proclaim good news God’s grace, frgvns to all ppl. So being a Xian, a mem of Ch, means Xp’s msn is our msn, as stdnts/Tchr, srvnts/Mstr. We are Ch of Xp; we are Ch on msn. So today & next wk, J speaks to our hrts, to every one us, w/pwrfl call: Be Msnry!

With Your Words

- 1st, w/words. Listen how J urges msnrys use words: **vs. 27**. Smtms J taught large crowds, out in public, on mntsd, in daylight – like sermon/mnt. Other times just 12 Aps, privly, in house, evening. Here, **vs. 27** (dark: just us private, quiet corner of Gal). “Go out, spread Gos, be msnry, w/words.” Today’s reading, Mt 10: acnt J sending 12 Aps out on own, very first time, preach thruout land. In fact, Mt 10 even called the Msnry Discourse, bec almost entire ch is J giving instrctns for msn wrk. These Aps had heard J preach; he’d whisprd in ears truths of Kingdom. Now in this Msnry Discrs, J sends them out to preach, as his msnrys, bec teachings/J never meant be kept to oneself, but be shared, verbally, w/world, w/our words.
- J: **vs. 32-33**. Way we acknwldg/disown someone: usually w/words. Think Pt. In Mt 16, J: who ppl say I am? Discs, various answers. J: but what re you? Who you say I am? Pt: You are Messiah, Son living God. Acknwldgd J before others. Now take same Pt, ten chs later, in Mt 26: J arrstd, Pt in crtyrd by fire, ppl question whether he’s disc. 3x denies even knows J. Disownd J before others, w/words. **Vs. 32-33**. Then jump **Rom 10:10** – “**It is w/your hrt that you bel and are jstfd, and it is w/your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.**” What you con/profess, w/words, is window into hrt. J wants be in our hrts, and wants us share what’s in our hrts w/others, w/words.
- But let’s face it: that can be really scary thing do! Lot ppl, maybe some you, say: not good at speaking in public; get too nervous talking others re faith; smthng cannot do. Might feel like Moses at burning bush; God told him go speak Pharaoh; he: “**Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent...I am slow of speech and tongue**” (Ex 4:10). We may feel same way; talking others re faith can be pretty nerve-wracking thing do. But J still: **vs. 27**; “**acknwldg me before others.**” Be msnry w/words. When we purpsly decide not to, that’s a sin; that’s disobeying J, failing to do what good – just like we confess in liturgy: “*I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good.*” Today J: it’s good, my will, you share your faith w/words. But so often we don’t, bec nervous; lot easier just let moment pass. I think of many times I’ve failed at this. I’m pr; still miss opps tell ppl re J; still smtms get nervous talking ppl re my faith. And I want be better. Here J saying: we all should be better at being msnry w/words.

Without Fear

- So how? Here's how; listen: **"Do not be afraid" (vs. 26a, 28a, 31a)**. J knows we get nervous; so 3x in Gos: don't be afraid. J wants us be a msnry w/o fear – bec we know: God w/us. **Vs. 29**. IOW: if God cares for these inexpnsv, insgnfent little birds, then certly cares for you! In fact, **vs. 30** (even if like me, number getting less/less all time). J knows evrythng re you; knows what's in hrt; knows you love him; wants you know that he cares for you; going take care you, help you. So don't be afraid!
- What is it, really, makes us afraid/nervous re sharing J w/others? Might be afraid: ppl be upset (don't want hear re religion), or outright reject (after all, lot anger/division among ppl today over words); say smthng wrong (this is GW, don't want mess up), or meet someone knows more than us, refute us, make us feel this big; or get embarsed, ppl make fun us, think less of us. It's true – can happen. But there's much worse things that can happen, too; today J talks re being killed for faith. **Vs. 28a**. I doubt you'll ever lose life for sharing faith in J; but there are ppl who have, and still do – martyrs, msnrys in dangerous places – that's great tragedy. But here's greater tragedy: **vs. 28b**. That's not Satan; that's God. On Last Day, God is one who'll not only welcome bels hvn, also condmn unbels hell. And if I, in my lifetime, miss/dismiss opps share Gos w/unbels, and they never come faith, forfeit hvn (ppl I could've reached out to, talked to, but didn't bec nervous or whatever), then that's much greater tragedy than any kind of persecution I may face for sharing faith.
- Bro/sis in Xp, be msnry! There's urgency to our msn wrk! Didn't just sing, *"While the multitudes are dying, and the Master calls for you, take the task he gives you gladly; let his work your pleasure be"* (CW 573:4). If true, every moment souls going hell; and if true, HS decides use my msn wrk, my sharing of Gos, to bring ppl to faith, then being msnry, w/o fear, is what I want do. I want tell ppl that **"the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell"** wants every soul/body in hvn. That's why sent Son JC: to suffer hell in our place, to suff/die cross for all of our sins, that rightly do condemn us to hell. But J endured that punishment for us, in our place; paid for all our sins on cross, and rose from dead so that someday we would rise w/him to eternal life. And he did all this not only for us, but also for whole world – so that whoever bels in J as Sav (even those of us who get nervous re sharing Gos) will never perish but have eternal life. This is Gos of God's grace, that we bel/treasure in hrts; this is what takes our fears away – why 3x today J says don't be afraid; and it's this msg of Xp, that we want to carry forth into the world, w/words, w/o fear, as God's msnrys.
- Let's stop there for now, and let's continue this same sermon next wk w/next set of vss from Mt 10, as J continues the Msnry Discrs. Next wk we'll see how J wants us be a msnry that is committed, and confident. Until then, prayerfully ponder how you can be, and how you are, a msnry.

Matthew 10:24-33

²⁴ "The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

²⁶ "So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

³² "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.