

The Radical Teachings of Jesus to Follow Him.

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Nov. 8th

You can't follow Christ and stay where/what you are! Since God's ways are not our ways (Is. 55:8),
Adjustments are Necessary! (Mt. 16:24,25; 28:18-20)

The word Missionary literally means: "One Sent" (See John 20:21) God calls all of His people to
"follow Him" and to be willing to make any adjustments that may be necessary in order to do so.
(Ro. 12:1,2; Heb. 12:1,2) I'd like to introduce some men that demonstrated this and changed the
course of eternity for countless others as a result. Their willingness to make some adjustments set in
motion events that rippled through time and eternity.

1) William Carey: 1761-1834

In 1785, Carey was the schoolmaster for the village of Moulton. He also became the pastor to the local Baptist church. During this time he read Jonathan Edwards' Account of the Life of the Late Rev. David Brainerd and became deeply concerned with propagating the Christian Gospel throughout the world. He addressed a preacher's convention about the need to take the Great Commission seriously when an older and more respected preacher said: *"Young man, sit down! When God pleases to convert the heathen, he'll do it without consulting you or me."*

He argued that the Great Commission applied to all Christians, and he rebuked fellow believers of his day for ignoring it. In 1792 he organized a missionary society, and at its inaugural meeting preached a sermon with the call, *"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God!"*

Pastor Andrew Fuller had said: *"There is a gold mine in India; but it seems as deep as the center of the earth; who will venture to explore it?"* Carey responded: *"I will go down, but you must hold the rope."*

In addition to translating the scriptures into Bengali, he formed a school and saw the formation of many Churches and affected the Indian culture by seeing Sati outlawed in 1829.

2. David Livingstone: 19 March 1813 – 1 May 1873

Born in Blantyre, Scotland in 1813. His father would read Missionary Stories to Him. One of his favorites was that of Karl Gützlaff, the Dutch missionary who was a medical missionary. One day African Missionary Robert Moffit visited David's boyhood church and preached: *"Many a morning have I stood on the porch of my house, and have seen the smoke arise from thousand villages—villages whose people are without Christ, without God, and without hope in the world ... "*

David surrendered to serve the Lord, writing: *"God, send me anywhere, only go with me. Lay any burden on me, only sustain me. And sever any tie in my heart save the tie that binds my heart to Yours. Lord Jesus, my King, I dedicate my life to thee."*

He began studying Latin, Greek, Bible, and Medicine to prepare for a future ministry. God eventually led him to Africa where he met and married Mary Moffit. David kept pushing deeper into Africa to share the gospel despite dangers from beasts, sickness, natives and slave traders. Because of these mounting dangers, he sent his family home as he pushed forward. This meant long periods (up to 5 years) of separation! In addition to planting many churches, David's books, maps, reports of Africa made him famous. He wrote of this fame: *"Forbid that we should ever consider the holding of a commission from the King of Kings a sacrifice, so long as other men esteem the service of an earthly government as an honor. I am a missionary, heart and soul. God Himself only had one son, and He was a missionary and a physician. A poor, poor imitation I am, but in this service I hope to live. In it I wish to die. I still prefer poverty and missions service to riches and ease. This is my Choice."* David Livingstone

After decades of missionary service, "discovery", and suffering a variety of tropical illness, Livingstone died of dysentery in 1872, aged 59. He passed away while kneeling in prayer.

3. J. Hudson Taylor: 1832-1905

Left a widowed mother and fiancé in England to go to the inland of China as a missionary. Here's an excerpt from his reflections on the day he left. *"With a mother's hand she smoothed my bed and sat by my side as we sang the last hymn we would ever sing together. We knelt down, and she prayed- the last mother's prayer I was to hear. When notice was given for guests to leave and we had to say goodbye, never expecting to meet on earth again. For my sake she restrained her feelings ... She went on shore, giving me her blessing. I stood alone on the deck and she followed as we moved toward the dock gates. I shall never forget the cry of anguish wrung from her heart as we passed the gates. It went through me like a knife. I never knew so fully, until then, what "God so loved the world" really meant.*

God used him to found the China Inland Mission, financing by faith 205 missions, 849 missionaries and the conversion of 125,000 Chinese Christians. He wrote: *"All God's giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on God being with them.... It doesn't matter how great the pressure is. What really matters is where the pressure lies; whether it comes between you and God, or whether it presses you nearer His heart."*

4. CT Studd (1860-1931) left all to serve as a Missionary to China, India and Africa.

While serving in China, he received his inheritance at the age of 25. He gave it all away to other Ministries! When he learned that he still had 3,400 pounds left after his gifts to others; He decided to give it to his new wife as a wedding present. Priscilla Livingstone Stewart was as sure of God as her husband. Determining to "start clear" at her wedding she gave that away, too!

He wrote the following: "Two little lines I heard one day, Traveling along life's busy way;

Bringing conviction to my heart, And from my mind would not depart;

Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one, Soon will its fleeting hours be done;

Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet, And stand before His Judgement seat;

Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, the still small voice, Gently pleads for a better choice.

Bidding me selfish aims to leave, And to God's holy will to cleave;

Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, a few brief years, Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;

Each with its claims I must fulfill, living for self or in His will;

Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last." C.T. Studd

Heb.12:1-3 *"Wherefore seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, (onkos: hindrance) and the sin which doth so easily beset us (Euperis'tatos: to stand against, compete) and run with patience the race set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author (archēgos': Captain) and finisher (from teleios: to complete, perfect) of our faith..."*

What weights are "standing against" your really following Jesus?

vs 2,3 *"...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him (Analogiz'omai: accurately estimate, proportion) that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."*

What "adjustments" is God calling us to make in our:

Priorities? Relationships? Thinking? Commitments? Actions?

Only one life will soon be past, and only what's done for Christ will last.

What are you investing in that will truly last?

