

Second speech for Delaware

Topic:

General Purpose: Devotional

Specific Purpose: Through this sermon I hope to share what the Lord has been doing through me and ministry, as well sharing my future plans for missions, so that they will get involved in it.

Proposition: Let Yourself Be used by the Lord

Introduction

The Lord has always been interested in using His creation to fulfill His divine purposes. He used Adam to name the earth and to cultivate it, as well as to spend time with Him. He used Abraham as a tool to carry His plan of bringing forth the Messiah to solve the problems of sin and pain. Yet, God has always shown His impartiality by choosing ordinary people to serve Him. Jesus said it well when He said: in Matthew 11:25 "At that time Jesus said, 'I praise You Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.'" God loves to use not only the wise, not only the distinguished classes, but the poor and marginal people for His purposes. It is not that He had always done so, or that there is something wrong with the distinguished classes, but the Lord makes the point that everyone regardless of their class are able to serve the Lord.

A good example of this is Amos who was chosen to be a very powerful prophet and by doing so, immortalized his name in the pages of the scriptures. Commenting on his position as prophet Amos said: "Then Amos replied to Amaziah, 'I am not a prophet, nor am I the son of a prophet; for I am a herdsman and a grower of sycamore figs. But the Lord took me from following the flock and the Lord said to me, 'Go prophesy to My people Israel.'"

The Lord chose a farmer and a shepherd to be a great prophet, a man who filled his mission.

He did not only use a farmer to be a prophet, He used Peter and John, to be a part of the apostolic body; and by doing so, be part of the foundation of the church, the judges of the world, and the example to follow in the Christian life. Paul referring to Peter said in Gal. 2:9: "And recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised."

So mere fishermen became incredible figures of the Christian faith.

Transitional Sentence: God used a farmer and made him into a prophet, God used fishermen and made them into apostles and icons of the Christian faith. Jesus called to ministry a young Dominican boy and turned Him into a servant.

My Story: The Beginning.

I had the privilege of being born into a Christian Family. My dad became Christian at the age of 22 and affiliated with the Christian Churches few years later. He is the best example of integrity and holiness that I have. Because of His example in my life, I wanted to be like Him. He was a preacher, so I wanted to be a preacher. One time, I heard

someone preaching about hell and I did not want to go there, so I told my dad that I wanted to get baptized. So, he told me what I was to do and I did it. When I was 10, I was baptized. I remember that I would read the Bible until very late at night. The electrical service in the D.R. is very irregular, and by that I mean, there is not always electricity available to the people. So I remember seeing my dad reading his Bible with a candle until 2, 3 or even 4 a.m., and then, get up to go to work next day. Because of his example, once I was baptized I started to read the Bible and read until my neck hurt and I could not read anymore. I remember reading a few of the gospels the first week I was baptized. My dad was a preacher, so I wanted to be a preacher as well. I told him to teach me what I need to know in order to be a preacher. So he taught me how to preach. I preached my first sermon when I was 11 years old. When I turned twelve, the Lord started to use me in Church planting.

Church Planting in The D.R.

My dad and my mom were divorce when I was about 2 years old. So when I was 12, I moved to live with my mom. The place where she lives is called Tinajita. It is in the country side of the province of Santiago. Which is the second largest province in the country. I immediately noticed that there was no Christian Church in the area, so I asked my mother to give me permission to have a service. I went through the neighborhood and invited them to come to the service, and over 50 people showed up. After that day, I started to evangelize the community and 3 months later, I baptized 25 people. In March my wife and I led a group from CCCB to Tinajita and we worked on the construction of a church building for that church.

One year after I moved to Tinajita, I moved back in with my dad, and started another church.

Transitional Sentence: The Lord used me to start two churches in the D.R.; and He also used me to start churches in Costa Rica.

When I was 15 I moved to Costa Rica and worked among Indians establishing churches. I can somewhat identify with Paul when describes the situations in which he had lived in 2. Cor. 11: 23-28. In the jungle I had to walk very long distances, hours, and hours, and sometimes even sleeping on the road, just so that I could preach to people in a village. I was hungry, and thirsty, tired and in danger many times while I was preaching. But praise God because I was able to preach the word of God to people in Costa Rica, and was able to be part of the establishment of about 10 churches in Costa Rica; Praise God.

I always wanted to go to a Bible College, so in 2002 I started the process to come to the united states, and in 2003 I was able to come to the U.S.A. and go to a Bible College in Moberly Missouri called CCCB. While I was there, contacted a church in Milan Missouri and with their help I was able to start a Hispanic church. I have been working there for about 5 years.

Transitional Sentence: The Lord has used me in many different areas preaching, establishing churches, and now I believe that the Lord is guiding me to a new direction; that is: the establishment of a Bible College in the D.R.

The Dominican Republic is a very small place yet, it has over 9 million inhabitants. The Christian churches have been evangelizing the country for about 40 years. We have been sending missionaries, yet, only 3% of the population is Christian according to the world fact book of the CIA. Where is the deficiency? We don't have enough preachers.

The American missionaries that I know that are in the D.R. have been using the wrong method of work. They try to maintain the same standard of living they had in the United States while they are in a very poor country. People do not see them as preachers, but as a source of money, because the common person believes that every American is rich. I have never seen an American missionary baptizing anyone in the Dominican. What they do is to raise support in the U.S.A for people who they consider to be ready to preach, and ask them to be full-time preachers. The Dominican preachers, for the most part are not educated, they have not finished high school, and can hardly prove what they believe. It is for this reason that I was trying to find a new way in which we could tackle the need for evangelism, the need to recruit new preachers and a way to prepare those preachers. I decided that the best way to solve the issue is by starting a Bible college.

The Bible College Project

The project consists of starting a Bible College that would prepare locals for the local harvest. Besides the fact that it is very expensive to keep American missionaries in the D.R. They are not locals, which means, it takes time for them to become acquainted with the culture, and most of them never get to become one with the locals, yet, if the locals are the ones who do the evangelistic work, you can avoid this problem, that is why a Bible college makes so much sense. The project consists of recruiting Americans who have a master's degree, and bring them down to the D.R. They will be spending about one year studying Spanish. It takes about 8 months for a person to learn Spanish if they live in a Spanish-speaking country. While the American missionaries are studying Spanish, I will be recruiting students for the college.

After the year is over, the Americans will start teaching classes in their area of expertise. All the students will have a full scholarship to study. That includes room and board. I hope that the American churches will be able to cover the expenses for that. The students are to be in the classrooms for only part of the day. Every day, late afternoon, the students will be taken to a particular location where there is no church and they will be evangelizing. In other words, the students don't pay with money to study in the college, they will pay with work; and that work consists of evangelism.

By doing that the ministry is benefited and the students are as well:

Benefits:

STUDENTS:

1. The students learn by being in the field.
2. The students will have first-hand experience in the area that they will be majoring in.

MINISTRY

1. There will be no need for foreign missionaries, because the locals will be doing the work
2. It is cheaper
3. The churches that are established by the college, will be pastored by the students.

4. The churches that are established will in turn support the school, making the college independent from American financial support.

Conclusion

Amos was used by the Lord. Peter and John were used by the Lord. The Lord has been using me for His kingdom and for His glory. Will you let yourself be used by the Lord? There is so much that can be done, and God mightily wants to use you. Will you let yourself? Let your self be used by becoming part of this ministry. There are many ways in which you can be a part of this ministry.

1. You could come with us and be a missionary teacher
2. You could pray for this ministry so that the Lord will open many doors for it to be successful.
3. You could become part of the missionary group behind the project
4. You could support us financially so that this project can become a reality.

The Lord needs you. Let yourself be used by the Lord in this ministry.

OUTLINE

- I. The Lord is willing to use anyone to be a toll for sharing the love of God.
 - A. He used Amos, a farmer; Amos 7:14
 - B. He used Peter and John, fishermen
 - C. He used me, a child
- II. The way the Lord is using me
 - A. Starting Churches
 1. While in the D.R. when I was 12
 2. While in Costa Rica
 3. While in Bible College in Moberly, Mo
 - B. Bible College Project**
 1. Provisional beginning Next Year
 2. Permanent Establishment in 5 years
- III. The Lord Wants to Use you
 - A. He Can Use you by Praying for this Ministry
 - B. He Can use you by Supporting financially
 - C. He Can use you by Dedicating time to this ministry
- IV. Let Your Self be Used by the Lord