



THE CHALLENGE FOR MISSIONS

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Harry Golden, Jewish author of the book Only in America tells the story of a Jewish Rabbi who was told by a Christian believer that the Messiah had come. The Rabbi, slowly but deliberately, walked to a window, looked out and said, "Well, I don't see anything that has changed."

Whether the story is true or not we will not debate. But we must say that if the world sees nothing changed in the lives of those who proclaim that the Messiah has come, that is pathetic. What a sad commentary upon our faith.

Each year at Easter we celebrate the new life and the new meaning of life that results from the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. He not only came into this corrupt world, but He came to die for the forgiveness of our sins. He rose from the dead for our justification and to prove that He truly was the Son of God sent by the Father to bring all who believe home to the Father again.

But after Easter, the question is this: how has your life and mine changed? What is different? Is our life and our lookout upon it the same as those who have not celebrated His Resurrection? Are our lives still as self-centered as those who do not believe? Is there a qualitative, noticeable difference?

Among the many thrilling and stirring parts of the Easter story, as told in the Scriptures, is the experience of Mary Magdalene. You remember that after Jesus was crucified and buried, she stood in the Garden of Gethsemane alone until Jesus called her by name. And how amazed she must have been when that happened. He then told her to go tell the others that He was alive. The Scriptures then say that she went to the others announcing, "I have seen the Lord." "I have seen Jesus."

A song writer put it like this: "I have seen Jesus, and I'll never be the same again." That was probably what was happening to her.

Right there, my friends, is the challenge for mission. God has called us to himself. And the divine call to service is simply this: "you have not chosen me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit." John 15:16. The message was not simply for Mary Magdalene; nor is it simply for us. It must be shared with others.

Do you remember those childhood days in school when everybody at recess would gather around to play ball? It seems that there were always two self-appointed Captains who were going to determine which of us was good enough to play with them. The others would simply stand by and watch. To me, those two guys always looked like Goliath - mean, giants, bullies. And we little boys would wait to see if the giants would choose us. "I'll take him and him and them and her." That was the worst part for us boys - when a girl was a better player and would be chosen instead of us. More often than we liked, we would be left out!

But my friends - cheer up. In the plan of God, no one is left out. "I have chosen you" is the word of God to each and every Christian. He chose us in redemption and He commissions us in service - to talk and walk the message of his love and share it with everyone else.



It is my belief that when each and every man and woman who call themselves Christian, come to this realization, then, and only then, will the church move forward in Pentecostal Power. It will then be like the power seen in those years that immediately followed the Resurrection.

It is not sufficient for us to sing the song “He Lives, He Lives, He lives within my heart” We must do more! We must demonstrate His presence in our lives by the way we live day by day - In Peace, in Forgiveness, in Joy, In Sharing, in Thankfulness, and in Praise. Then will our mission be fulfilled.