

I AM SENT TO MY WORLD

After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Acts 1:3-11 (NIV)

❖ Our World Today

Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

Ephesians 2:12 (NIV)

1. There are 7.7 BILLION people in our world today.
2. There are 2.4 BILLION people that profess to be Christians.
3. There are 5.3 BILLION without Christ and 1.9 BILLION who have never heard.

❖ God Gave Us A Plan To Change The World.

And then (Jesus) told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere."

Mark 16:15 (NLT)

1. God is already AT WORK to CHANGE the world.
Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I, too, am working."
2. God is INVITING each of us to JOIN HIM in His work.
"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

John 5:17 (NIV)

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

3. God's INVITATION will always demand a change in our PRIORITIES.

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"
And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

❖ How Can We Respond To A World That Needs Christ?

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

Romans 10:14 (NLT)

1. We can CARE.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6 (NIV)

"I WILL CARE..."

2. We can CONTRIBUTE.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:38 (NIV)

"I WILL CONTRIBUTE..."

3. We can COMMUNICATE.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

"I WILL COMMUNICATE..."

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:1-3 (NIV)