

And the Lord's command still stands there in His Word, "Go and teach all nations."

The map of the world before us leaves out nothing. Think of the change that has taken place even in the last fifty years in our knowledge of the great Continent of Africa, which once in every map was a great blank, and now we possess full knowledge of the tribes that inhabit it. Think of this great change, and the constant intercourse going on. What mostly reaches such parts of the world now? The trade of this island. The trade created by God for the comfort of mankind. All of which points to the fact that we, the people of England, are specially required for this glorious work, which we can best do.

The knowledge we possess which others have not; the knowledge we value which others cannot value, because they know it not; the gifts of God, the grace of God given to mankind through the knowledge that is preached,—all these have come upon us; and it is the duty of the Church, of our own Church, to spread them from shore to shore and from land to land. The other day the Bishops of our Church assembled at Lambeth, as you know. About 200 of them met at Lambeth to consider what was best for the Church at large to do.

What does all this portend, if it is not that God is speaking to us as plainly as possible, that the Lord is calling unto the Church to awake, that He will not have us, in fact, confine ourselves to the work we are doing? It is the duty of many of us to go in person to preach the Gospel in distant parts, which have not yet received it. It is the duty of all to take a deep interest in this work that some have to do in person—not only all our ministers, but laymen as well. It is the duty of ministers to perpetually remind their people of the missionary organizations at work in their parishes.

How may you prepare yourselves for such work? It is clear what the preparation must be. You must study the New Testament with that in your mind. Look and see how the great work began, and how it has since gone on. At first it was guided by the direct inspiration of God, which He no longer gives in the same way, because He does not think such guidance to be now needed. It is true that the work was then attended by signs following. That power has also been withdrawn, because the Lord does not deem it necessary any longer. But the main principles still remain. The Holy Ghost must be the inspirer of all that we do, and with constant prayer must God's guidance be sought. Still, also, have we to make the necessary preparations for sending forth ministers as in apostolic days. Although the Apostles possessed the power of working miracles, we do not find that they wrought them for their own maintenance, or to escape

dangers, or in order to accomplish what could be done by their own resources. They were to do the ordinary work of preaching the Gospel after the fashion in which men did all other work; and so all through the history of the Church the same rule has been laid down. The Lord sent forth His disciples two and two, and bade them take neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes; but before He left them He said all that was passed—that, in addition, the work was to be done by human methods in the ordinary way of human work. Likewise we see that the Lord's directions were followed. St. Paul, when writing to the Corinthians, said that he would come specially to Corinth; and in accordance with the rule laid down by Christ, the Apostle tells them that he expects *them* to supply the means for going forward. He looked to them to take their share in the preaching of the Gospel. Those who had the gift of preaching and whom he chose, he took with him; and those left behind had to supply all that was needed to equip these new men. So it is in the Church of England. If we study the question, we shall see the spirit of the New Testament in our missionary enterprises. We shall be inspired with the thought, when we remember that we are doing just what the Apostles did in the old days. Our progress may be slow, but it is not slower than that of St. Paul, who dotted the shores of the Mediterranean with small congregations and left the rest of the work for others. Within 300 years Christianity had captured the whole of the Roman Empire of the time. We must study the entire history of the Gospel, the lives of those who preached it subsequent to the period mentioned; the lives of those who converted Spain, Gaul, and Great Britain, likewise our Saxon forefathers. Read, in addition, the records of the work now going on. Read carefully, read thoughtfully, and see with your own eyes the picture put before you by the missionaries, who have gone forth in the name of the Lord to preach everywhere His name, His work, and, above all, His love. This is the kind of preparation that Christians must make for this great task.

But, I pray you, write it upon your hearts, that the preaching of the Gospel to the whole world is the duty of the Church; and if we are only to preach to the Church at home, let us never cease to urge upon our hearers the plain duty of all, and to remind them that every time the Lord is pleased to remove some hindrance, to afford us a new opportunity, every such time is a call, and a call from God Himself. Refer to the New Testament, and see how Paul regards the opening of a door to be a call from God:—"For a great door and effectual is opened unto me." God is calling us by the world's ever-opening doors, and we