MOTIVATION FOR MISSION

Posted on December 18, 2020 by Eddie

Getting biblical and realistic about mission.
Category: Observations

I thought that it would be good to share some Bible passages that should shape the life and attitudes of those who follow Jesus on mission. They all speak for themselves, so I won't comment on them individually.

> *Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.*
>
> *Luke 9:23-24*

> *Now if we are children, then we are heirsâ€"heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*
>
> *Romans 8:17*

> *Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers.*
>
> *2 Corinthians 11:24-26*

There are many other passages in a similar vein that I could add because suffering in Jesus' footsteps is a constant theme in the New Testament. However, despite the ubiquity of this teaching, you are unlikely to see verses like these on inspirational posters or tweets inviting people to consider a career in mission work. Yes, mission work can be incredibly fulfilling, it can be exciting, heart-warming and encouraging, I'd never deny that. But the "good stuff" is only part of the package, it comes wrapped in sacrifice and suffering. We are doing people a disservice if we don't tell them the whole story.

I'm reminded of this theme because we are approaching Christmas and Jesus perfectly modelled the attitudes that we need to adopt.

> *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*
>
> *Who, being in very nature God,*
> *did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*
> *rather, he made himself nothing*
> *by taking the very nature of a servant,*
> *being made in human likeness.*
> *And being found in appearance as a man,*
> *he humbled himself*
> *by becoming obedient to deathâ€"*
> *even death on a cross!*
>
> *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place*
> *and gave him the name that is above every name,*
> *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,*
> *in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*
> *and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,*
> *to the glory of God the Father.*
>
> *Philippians 2:5-11*