

**“...say to
them, ‘The
kingdom of God
has come near
to you.’ ”**

Luke 10:9



The Clear Goal and
the Success of the
Mission of our
Fathers
The Apostles



The Clear Goal of the mission (1)

- Our fathers the apostles understood their only goal for their mission: the glory of the Lord Christ.
- They learned that God's will in the salvation of others is the way to glorify the Lord Christ



The Clear Goal of the mission (2)

- Their success depended on their focus on the mission and avoiding the grievous seven distractions:



I. Double Life ⁽¹⁾

- This lifestyle embraced by those preaching the word of God could become the biggest stumbling block for the salvation of others.
- “Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men”

2 Cor. 5:11



I. Double Life (2)

- “Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women”

Acts 5:13-14



II. Life security ⁽¹⁾

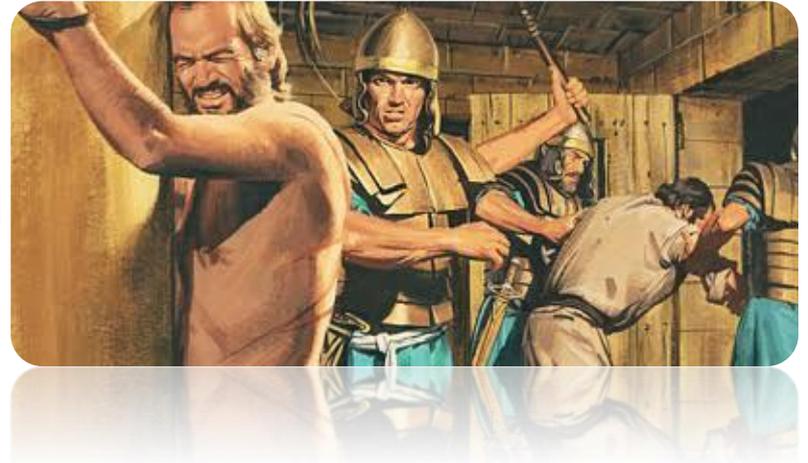
- “... the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself”

Acts 4:18-19



II. Life security (2)

- “And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name”



Acts 5:40-41



III. Self-glorification (1)

- “Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon’s, greatly amazed. So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: ‘Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus’”

Acts 3:11-13



III. Self-glorification (2)

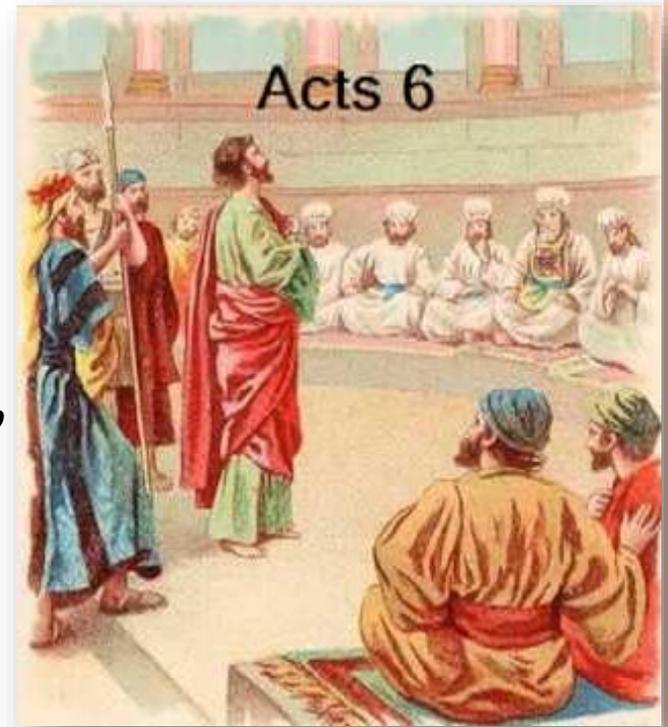
- “But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out and saying, ‘Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God’” *Acts 14:14-15*



IV. Administration

- “Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, ‘It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business’”

Acts 6:2-3



V. Political Correctness (1)



- “This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’

Nor is there salvation in any other,
for there is no other name under
heaven given among men by which
we must be saved” *Acts 4:11-12*



V. Political Correctness (2)

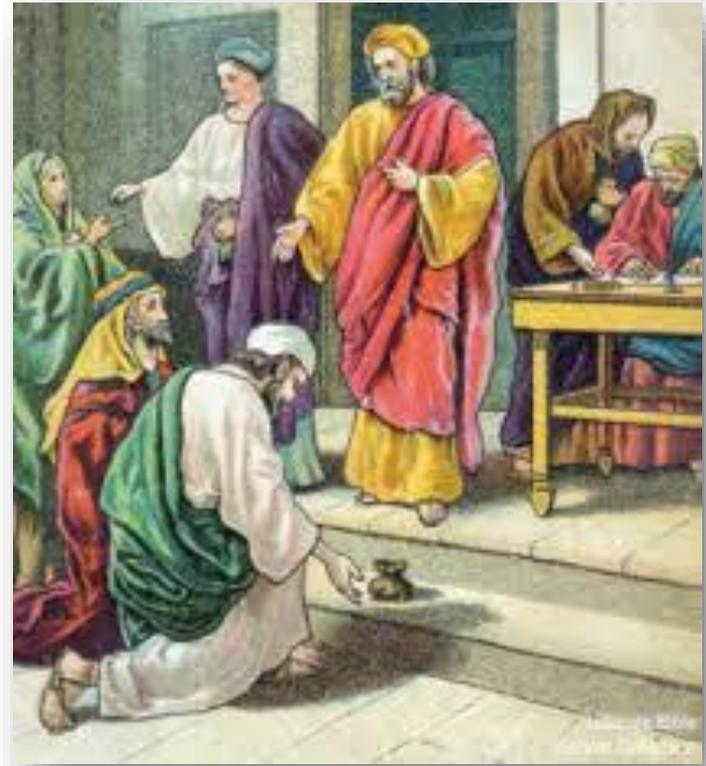
- “So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge’” *Acts 4:18-19*

WE
CANNOT
BE
SILENT



VI. Relying on materialistic resources (1)

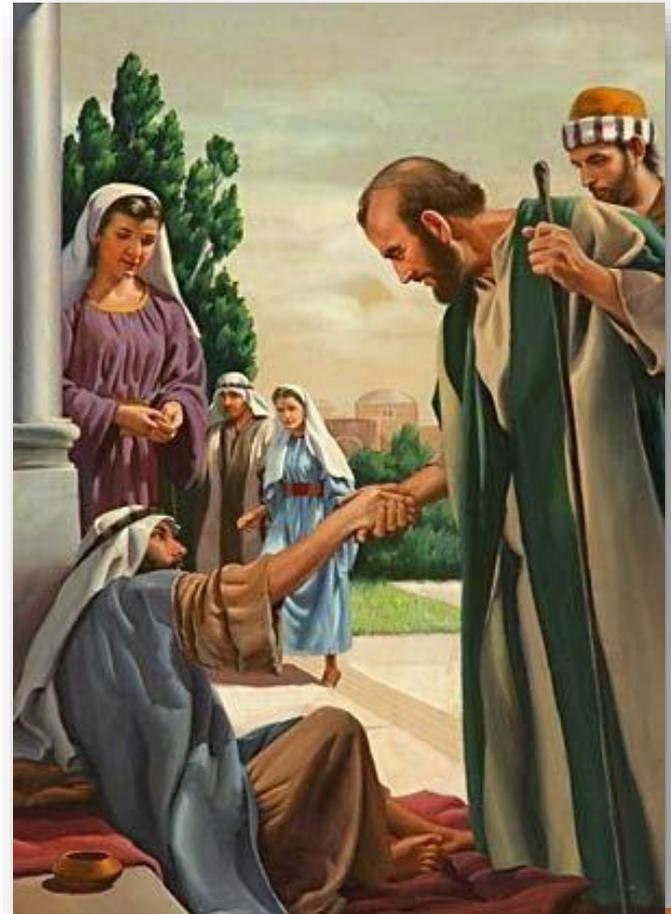
- “Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles’ feet” *Acts 4:34-35*



VI. Relying on materialistic resources (2)

- “Peter said, ‘Look at us.’ So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, ‘Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk’”

Acts 3:4-6



VII. Divisions

- “Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart” *Acts 2:44-46*

