

On Mission 2020

Topic Focus: Mobilization

Ferdinand Nweke - Eternity Ministries

Mobilizing the Marketplace

Hi! My name is Ferdinand Nweke and I serve as a Coordinator for Eternity Ministries. And I'd like to share with you about Mobilizing the Marketplace.

Mobilizing the Marketplace. In Matthew Chapter 9 verses 37 and 38, the Lord Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few." Then Jesus now give them the prescription in verse 38. He says, "Pray to the Lord of the harvest that He might send forth laborers into His harvest field." So in that scripture, we had the Lord Jesus Christ summarized the real challenge with the global harvest. I normally say to people, "A harvest is not a burden except you are not the owner." A harvest is only a burden to someone who does not own the harvest. So, and I believe that one of the keys to the global harvest - finishing the task that yet remains- is for every believer to own the harvest. To own the harvest. To see the harvest that was purchased by the finished work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as our personal responsibility. Now that doesn't mean that we are the savior or we are the ones who are going to do anything because if God does not work, of course, the harvest is not going to come in. But we must take responsibility for the harvest and when we do, then the grace of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit will enable us as we serve as ambassadors of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring the love of Jesus to the lost, the last, and the least in the outermost ends of the earth.

Mobilizing the Marketplace.

Now, it is my conviction from our experience, that most of people in the church have been held down from taking their place in the global harvest by what I call unbiblical paradigms. Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few." Now, here's the question -very interesting question, how come the laborers are few but the churches are full? The churches are full! I mean, Christianity right now, it's about 33%. That percentage has not changed over the years as world population has ballooned. In other words, percentages has kind of remained the same. That's -you're dealing with like 2.3 - 2.4 billion people in the world that profess Jesus Christ as Savior. So how come the laborers are few when the churches are full? The major reason, I believe, is that the majority, the vast majority, what I call the "Christian Proletariat," the masses of the church have been held down by unbiblical paradigms.

And there are several of these paradigms, one of them is the "Departmental Lordship of Jesus Christ." A departmental lordship, in other words, Jesus is Lord of Church Street, but well, Main Street and High Street and Wall Street, we're not so sure about that. This mindset makes believers to think that as long as we're doing religion, we're doing church, that is fine. Jesus is

Lord of the spiritual. Jesus is Lord of the church and the issues that relate to the church. But they cannot see the bigger Kingdom picture that Jesus is not a departmental Savior. He is Lord of all! He is Lord of Church Street, Main Street. He is Lord of you know, the political sphere. He is Lord of the entertainment industry. He is Lord of the universe. And this Lordship, the intention of Heaven is that this Lordship would be manifest in both in the church and in every sphere of society. Which is what we call the marketplace.

Now, many thinkers, people like you know, Lauren Cunningham of Youth With A Mission and Francis Schaeffer, Bill Bright. Doctor Bill Bright and many of these leaders have explained the marketplace and the importance of the marketplace in reaching the world with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, some people have divided the church, the world, into like, seven spheres of society. Many of us will probably be aware of this, you know, speaking about the family, religion, business, media and entertainment, education, government and you know, the other aspects. Now, there have been different classifications. I don't want to get into all those details. But the point is when you take away the family and religion, the rest of society is what you call "the marketplace." And the fact is that even the family resides in the marketplace. I mean, we live in homes, in society. The church is located in homes in a society. So if believers get the idea that we can stay cocooned in our churches, and that Jesus is Lord of only our churches under the spiritual, then they are not likely going to engage the marketplace.

Another unbiblical paradigm is the "Division of Believers into part time and full time." I don't find verses for that in Scripture. A full-time Savior cannot have part-time followers. Jesus died a full-time death, 100% on the cross. He cannot have halftime disciples. A part-time Christian is a full-time sinner. You see, the idea that people have that you have to resign and pack-up everything before you can serve God full time, that idea is one of those unbiblical paradigms, helping to keep the Christian masses away from taking their place in the global harvest. And we need to dismantle that if we are going to mobilize the marketplace.

And then you have the "Division of Believers into a Clergy and Laity." People are thinking secular and spiritual. All those things don't exist in scripture. The Church of Jesus Christ is made up of disciples. People that are ransomed by the blood of Jesus. And if we are going to mobilize the marketplace, we will have to get every believer to take their place in wherever God has located them to bring the gospel to the outermost ends of the earth. And the result would be what I call an inescapable gospel. Those who don't come to church, we still mix that gospel. Maybe at the doctor's office, or in their lawyer's office, or out in the marketplace somewhere in business or in schools. And believers would be witnessing for Christ from all of these platforms. When we mobilize the marketplace, we are going to have the gospel by every believer from every platform to every nation. Every believer, every platform, every nation. I believe that we seriously need that if we're going to reach the world with the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Now the marketplace is also present in the mission field and many times, actually, the best way to engage the mission field is to engage the marketplaces in those mission fields.

inaudible in Ephesus and other places like that and engaging. So those things sound as access ministries and you could make contact with the people by engaging society and not staying in a corner called church or spirituality trying to get the gospel to everyone.

So for us to mobilize the marketplace, what do we need to do? We need number one, to dismantle these unbiblical paradigms. Because the marketplace is where the harvest is and the laborers need to engage those fields. So what must we do? We must disciple believers that have deep roots that would be able to stand in the marketplace. Then we have Kingdom priority in mentality. A kingdom mentality that makes them to see everywhere as an important component of the Kingdom. There will be people that have stewardship mentality. And then we're going to have to establish the fact that there are diverse ministry platforms. We see that in the Old Testament, in the New Testament, in contemporary times. God raises people to serve Him not just from the church pulpit but from everywhere else. There were priests, there were prophets. There were kings. There were musicians and then we have writers and all kinds of people that serve God. And then we encourage believers to develop marketplace influence to thrive in the marketplace and thereby bring the gospel there. We envision them. We help them to see that you don't just collect money in the marketplace. You can collect souls not just salaries. You can also collect souls and then we equip them. We teach them how to do discovery Bible Studies, which they can do in small groups out in the marketplace and then finally we trust God to ignite their hearts with fire.

So briefly, we have to understand that except we mobilize every believer to take their place, the gospel will not reach every nation. And a major way to do that is to mobilize the marketplace. God bless you.