

History of Missions: New Testament & Beyond

SESSION 5
MISSION FOUNDATION CLASS

Looking Back to Learn, helps me to go forward in God's Mission

CHRIST'S INCARNATION

- Christ's Incarnation Brought Peace on Earth (Luke 2:14)
- The fulfillment of the Old Testament was Christ Coming to this earth to restore us to Paradise

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. -Matthew 5:14-16

MISSION OF THE APOSTLES

After the Holy Spirit came down on the apostles the Mission continued to move in the book of Acts

ST. PAUL

You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; -2 Corinthians 3:2

Be careful how you live; **you may be the only Bible** some people will ever read

MISSION IN CONTEXT

ST. MARK

- St. Mark was one of the 70 Apostles that took the faith from Christ directly and gave it to Egypt
- Take the Ancient Faith into the **Culture & Context** of the World we live in

ST. ATHANASIUS

- One of the great pillars of the faith who defended the faith and allowing it to spread was St. Athanasius
- We can't hold the faith to ourselves, but must allow it to flourish to reach all people

ST. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA

- A fifth century pope, Cyril of Alexandria, also used this early missionary spirit to appeal to the pagans of his time.
- Make the Ancient Faith **Relevant**

☞ *Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you. -Acts 17:22-23*

POPE GABRIEL II

- Mission to translate scripture & liturgical texts was critical in restoring people back to God

MISSION HISTORY: WITNESS

- Witness actually comes from the Greek word for Martyr
 - The first meaning of Martyr is **martyria**, meaning "I offer my testimony."
 - The second meaning of Martyr is **martyrion**, meaning "sealing that witness with blood."

St. Demiana

Being a Witness will have many challenges, but God will **carry us** through them all

St. Catherine

St. Catherine of Alexandria was a renowned missionary and converted hundreds, even her own persecutors, through her bold witness.

Missionaries to Sweden

- Missionary martyrs from Egypt were witnesses to Christ as far as Switzerland.
 - St. Maurice and the Theban legion. Felix, Regula, and Exuperantius
 - Their witness led to many in this region to be converted

21 Martyrs of Libya

Our **Strong Faith** can lead to many others to be encouraged

Little Simple Girl

Another example is a little girl, after her parents were killed in a bus by Islamic terrorists,

- She boldly proclaimed that she would never deny Jesus
- The terrorists tried to convince her but to their face she said I will never deny Jesus
- Trying to show you how having a strong faith can even start at a very young age.

We can find ways to **carry our cross daily**

MONASTIC MISSION

- Living a **Life of Holiness** Can Transform Many lives Around us
- Unless people see in us the **light and the love of Christ** they will not believe.

☞ *For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your **faith toward God has gone out**, so that we do not need to say anything.*

-1 Thessalonians 1:8

St. Anthony

- Fourth century Egyptian monk known to be a father of all monks
- His life sparked so many other monks to live in solitude. A light was spreading throughout the Egyptian desert and reached many more areas.
- Monasteries were later built near pagan temples which was instrumental in converting these pagan villages.

- Monks traveled far distances to preach the gospel, their holiness impacting hundreds of communities around them.
 - Recently, the discovery of the **Seven Egyptian Monks buried in Ireland** “puts forth the theory that the desert monks of Egypt greatly influenced the behavior and lifestyles of the Irish monks.”
- Because of their holiness, the monks exhibited hospitality and love.
- This love impacted and transformed numerous pagans.

St. Pachomius

- One example is St. Pachomius, a traveling Roman soldier,
 - who stopped in one monastery for food and drink and was impacted by the love and holiness of the monks.
- St. Pachomius later stayed in that monastery and eventually founded an order of monasticism.

St. Moses the Strong

- St. Moses the Strong was a murderer and thief who was impacted by the monks’ holiness and love that he changed his life and became a monk himself.
- The transformation of our own lives leads to the transformation of others.

☞ *“Acquire inner peace, and thousands around you will find their salvation.”* -St. Seraphim of Sarov

MISSION IN SOCIAL JUSTICE

Diakonia is a call to serve the poor and oppressed

☞ *“for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.”* -Matthew 25:35-36

St. Basil the Great

☞ *“Our soul suffers because it needs to connect with and give to one another.”* -St. Basil

St. John Chrysostom

☞ *“If you pray without giving to the poor, you gain nothing.”* -St John Chrysostom

St. Verena

- One who cared for the orphans and lepers

Bishop Abraam

- Known as the Friend of the Poor
- Through his ascetic life, he offered shelter, food, clothing and more to the poor that they may find rest and hope in the Church.

Pope Cyril VI

- Pope Cyril VI also known as Pope Kyrillos VI
- He lived a life of holiness that sanctified the entire Church
- He also felt a strong desire to care for the needs of sub-Saharan Africa.

Bishop Samuel

- In 1962, Pope Cyril VI ordained a bishop, Bishop Samuel, to care for the most vulnerable of society.
- Bishop Samuel had a “love for the poor, destitute, uneducated, and the illiterate”

Pope Shenouda III

- Pope Shenouda III expanded this missionary zeal for social justice by supporting bishops to care for the needs in areas around the world.
- Ordained Leaders in Africa, South America, Fiji, and other parts of the world

Bishops in Africa such as Bishop Antonious Markos and Bishop Paul

- Set up Churches, hospitals, Schools, and homes for orphans and street children.
- Social Justice projects were a big part of the mission in Africa to care for the poor.

☞ *Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, “I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.” -Matthew 15:32*

Fr. Samaan of the Mokattam Mountain

- Another hidden missionary was found serving secretly for some time in the mountain of Mokattam in Egypt
- He served in the slum area where people who were addicted to drugs, alcoholics, thieves, violent people, and even suicidal people.

We are also called to continue the work that was done throughout history.