

Intro

~ Magna Carta, meaning 'The Great Charter', is one of the most famous documents in the world. Originally issued by King John of England (r. 1199–1216) as a practical solution to the political crisis he faced in 1215, Magna Carta established for the first time the principle that everybody, including the king, was subject to the law. Although nearly a third of the text was deleted or substantially rewritten within ten years, and almost all the clauses have been repealed in modern times, Magna Carta remains a cornerstone of the British constitution.

Most of the 63 clauses granted by King John dealt with specific grievances relating to his rule. However, buried within them were a number of fundamental values that both challenged the autocracy of the king and proved highly adaptable in future centuries. Most famously, the 39th clause gave all 'free men' the right to justice and a fair trial. Some of Magna Carta's core principles are echoed in the United States Bill of Rights (1791) and in many other constitutional documents around the world, as well as in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the European Convention on Human Rights (1950).

~ "The old observation is correct that we here have the great missionary Magna Charta" Lenski N T Commentary

~ Prior to this commission they had been forbidden even to tell any man that Jesus was the Christ. (Matt. 16:20; 17:9.)

The Six Aspects of the Great Commission

Mark 16:15 (NKJV) "And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. "

Six Aspects to the Great Commission:

1 Them – A commission for every individual

~ He said this to the disciples (learners) who would become apostles (ones sent forth)

~ This was their priority and command but is also ours

~ This is a command for every believer

~ *Prov 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.*

~ *Daniel 12:3 - Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.*

~ *Romans 10:14,15 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

~ Jesus said this to the disciples but this is also for us today

2 Go – A commission of Action

~ Earlier in v7,8 Mary was to go and tell the disciples that Christ is going before them into Galilee and now in Galilee Christ is telling them to go and preach the gospel of good news

~ The word go means a journey, traveling or pursuit. "To lead or order one's life" says Thayer

~ This was a command, not a suggestion. "Interest in missions is not an elective in God's university of grace. It is something in which every disciple is expected to major." (Ironsides)

~ The gospel is an action word

~ P Robinson said drove by and said the first two letters in the word gospel is GO

~ This means we purpose to do it. If we don't, we won't

~ Go could be translated "as you are going," but the aorist participle (poreuthentes) carries an imperatival force from the main verb preach (kērusō), thus the command is "Go!" They are sent into all the world. Grace NT Commentary

3 All the World – A commission without geographic limitation

~ The idea of a faith that should go into all the world wasn't a part of the Jewish thinking in the days of Jesus

~ We remember that Jesus told his disciples when he sent them out not to go to the gentiles but only Israel but now he's telling them the whole world needs the good news

~ This command was not obeyed immediately by the disciples for many years because they stayed at Jerusalem until the church was persecuted and that's when the gospel spread to Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth

~ Since all of creation is lost the gospel is to go to all of creation

~ While we are here and not in Guatemala with P Karel or P Jospheus in Ghana we can pray for and support him but we can also be responsible for our Jerusalem just as he is his

~ In this idea of all the world is people who are different than us

4 Preach – A commission of a herald

~ The word preach means a herald. It's used 61 times in the NT and 19 times by Paul

~ Mounce - to publish means to proclaim, as a herald (1Co 9:27); to announce openly and publicly (Mar 1:4; Lk4:18);

to noise abroad (Mk 1:45; Mk 7:36); to announce as a matter of doctrine, inculcate, preach (Mat 24:14; Mk 1:38, 13:10

~ Webster's - An officer whose business was to denounce or proclaim war, to challenge to battle, to proclaim peace, and to bear messages from the commander of an army. He was invested with a sacred and inviolable character.

5 Gospel – A commission of Good News

~ Barnes says the good news is The good news. The tidings of salvation. The assurance that the Messiah has come, and that sin may be forgiven and the soul saved.

~ The Christians in the book of Acts were witnesses to the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ

~ Paul affirmed this in 1 Cor 15:3,4 *"3 I delivered unto you the gospel first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures"*

~ The Good News of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ

Bible Exposition Commentary - Bible Exposition Commentary – Be Diligent (Mark).

~ The gospel is good news to the person who knows their lost

~ We can't be gimmicky with the gospel and make it about

- Having plan or purpose. We might say God has a plan & purpose for your life. An unsaved person may have their own purposes their pursuing
- Being fulfilled - an unsaved person may feel fulfilled in sins, riches, lust and worldly pleasures
- Having true peace – an unsaved person may feel at peace in their sin
- Being joyful – An unsaved person may feel tremendous happiness if things are going their way in life. They may have success and stuff that gives them happiness.
- While it's true the unbeliever truly doesn't have God's blessing on their life in these areas, until they see their need for Christ they won't realize these temporary joys of this life are as good as it gets for them
- We preach the gospel – that man needs a savior

~ It's the gospel that changes lives – not programs, gimmicks, or making them feel comfortable in their sin

~ They need the gospel – that they are lost and need Christ

~ Jesus said to Nicodemus, "you need to be born again." A spiritual birth from above

~ While the gospel may be rejected it's our job to herald it nonetheless

~ I think of sharing the gospel as planting seeds. It takes the pressure off of me from thinking I have to produce the fruit

~ Plant the gospel seeds

~ The gospel is an unpopular, offensive and politically incorrect message but it's good news to the lost soul who realized they need a savior

6 Every Creature – A commission for every person to receive

~ Who is every creature? Everyone around us

~ The strangers at the gas station, our neighbors and our co-workers

~ While we do cold evangelism (strangers) our best opportunity is with those we know with whom we have credibility

~ Every lost person we encounter is a candidate for Jesus Christ

~ When I'm on my game I try to think of every person who's a difficult person who swears and carries on as someone who needs Christ

~ Can we put a filter over our eyes that see every person as someone who needs a savior?

V16 – Why do we preach the gospel to all the world?

~ Because condemnation is the result of not believing on Christ

~ He that believes is saved but he who doesn't is damned to the lake of fire forever (Rev 20:11-15)

Conclusion

~ I have sometimes seen, in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been. –

Robert Moffatt, Giants of the Missionary Trail. note: Those twenty words were used by God to inspire David Livingstone to give his life to Africa.