

The “Ins and Outs” of the Christian Life

Text: Matthew 8: 5-13

Thirteen years ago today I felt strongly impressed to use a title for this message as a slogan for the New Year. (Divinely Drawn and Divinely Driven in 97) Two major events faced our congregation. A massive \$750, 000.00 remodeling of the nearly 90 year old worship facility that had been damaged by the 1989 earthquake and the coming of Dr. Billy Graham to the Cow Palace in October. Now after a number of years I still resonate with that slogan Divinely Drawn and Divinely Driven.

I am aware that driven ness can be risky; it can result in burnout, a workaholic mindset, and an unbalanced lifestyle. There is not much good is said for sloth, laziness, underachievers, and unproductiveness. I believe that an event in the earthly ministry of Jesus gives us the recipe for a dynamic life without damaging side effects. Matthew 8: 5-13

This is one of the most dramatic miracles Jesus performed. It was done long distance. It was unique in that it went beyond the mission statement of Jesus.

IN ESSENCE THE CENTURION REGARDED JESUS AS THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

When you allow Jesus to be the CEO in your life you will listen to his voice when He says, “Come or Go!” To come is to be drawn, called. To go is to serve, sent, driven. Look at John 10:9. Read it together.

1. The goodness of God draws us to RELATIONSHIP

John 6:44 the word is used in John 21:6, 11 to haul in the net to an appointed place. The preaching of the cross has a heavenly magnetism. John 12:32, the fragrance of life (See I Cor. 2) C.S Lewis has probably instructed more people about the reasonableness of faith than the combined faculties of the seminaries of the world simply through his writings. He could not resist the pull of God’s Spirit. Read about his conversion experience, i.e., being dragged, kicking and screaming into the Kingdom.

But having been irresistibly drawn **THE CAUSE OF GOD DRIVES US SERVICE**. Driven is an appropriate word. It is shown in the ministry of Jesus. Mark 1:12 KJV draveek ballo to cast out, drive out. It answers to the word in John 17:18, as you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. Let’s look at it in Acts 8:1, 4

In the modern missionary movement the name Jim Elliot comes to mind. Research his decision to meet the natives. It was based on Numbers 32: 25-27. The sermon shows you the concern of Amy Carmichael. John Wesley explain the crowds that came to hear him, "I set myself on fire and people come to see me burn."

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A SWEET BLEND OF COMING AND GOING.

Our going will not count for much unless we experience the coming for cleansing, rest, renewal, and reveling in His mercy and grace. Our Savior set the example. Come apart, unless we come apart we will come apart. As you read the Diary of David Brainerd you find this balanced life. Father died when he was 8, his mother died when he was 14, he inherited a sizeable estate but he poured all of that and his own life into the kingdom of God. He was so bothered by the gap between the words of the Christians and their obedience to it that he was expelled from Yale. He was an unlikely candidate for missions, poor health, unstable emotions, spiritual uncertainties, no facility for learning languages, no experience in primitive living and too independent to be mentored by an experienced missionary who could train him and protect him from his ignorance. Yet his fierce determination to evangelize the American Indian kept him from accepting calls to pastor a white congregation for which he was ideally fitted by his education and background. Intense worship, deep affection for God matched with a driven-ness to reach the American Indian. He lived only 29 years but it was like a seed that was crushed. His diary and papers became the 1st full length missionary biography. Readers were moved to prayer and service of a caliber that changed the world for God.

William Carey of England read it and served the Lord in India for 40 years. The Father of Modern Missions. Henry Marty, translator of the Bible to India. 1805 Samuel Miles along with other American students helped birth the 1st foreign missionary board in America.

Conclusion: My heart is drawn to you who have yet to come to Jesus, whoever comes to me I will never drive away. John 6:37