

COMMISSIONED Prt 1

Matthew 28:16 And the eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had appointed them. 17 And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him. But some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority is given to Me in Heaven and in earth. 19 Therefore go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you. And, behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the world. Amen.

For the past 6 weeks, we were dealing with the subject matter of the Breakthrough Mindset and today, I am excited to be introducing our brand-new series titled **COMMISSIONED**.

To be commissioned means to be formally chosen to do a special piece of work.

If there is one thing that the enemy has perfected amongst believers, it is to make them minimize the greatest command that Jesus left us, which is the great commission.

Now, more than ever you and I need to revisit the great commission.

- The enemy has created in our minds a lie that says the great commission is for certain people and not for me.
- Our churches have lost the drive and the passion for the very thing that brought Jesus to earth and ultimately to the terrible cross.
- As a reminder to this issue of the great commission, the Lord laid upon my heart to take you through a series based on the life story of Jonah.

Jonah 1:1 And the Word of Jehovah came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their evil has come up before Me.

- The Bible says the word of Jehovah came to Jonah and nothing much is said about this man Jonah.
- It was God who had a great concern for the city of Nineveh and He proceeded to look for someone to go and do something about the situation.

1. The commission is God's idea

- The Bible says, *the word of Jehovah came to Jonah*, not a pastor's idea, or your friend's idea.
- Man, always finds a way of confusing the things of God with the things of man. The great commission was decided in heaven, way before you and I were enlisted.

COMMISSIONED Prt 1

- If you want to get a proper understanding of an idea, you must consult the originator of the idea.
- The word came to Jonah in an unexpected manner – the word of God is the power behind those who are commissioned.
- God is the initiator of this great work – no man, out of his own initiative can start the work, unless prompted by the Holy Spirit.
- The word of God is real, the word of God is powerful and active and cannot be resisted.
- The great commission is only as strong as the word that goes with it.
- The less you have of the word in you, the less you will be inspired to run with the commission.
- When God commissions you, He will give you a specific word and will instruct you on how to deliver the message.

2. Every Bible believer has been commissioned

Jonah 1:1 And the Word of Jehovah came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their evil has come up before Me.

- Just like Jonah, when it comes to the great commission, every true believer was commissioned.
- God called you with a message and that message is for the salvation of those who are still lost in their sins.
- The commission has your name on it – Jonah was known and identified by name. In other words, you matter to the cause of the commission.
- The commission requires your attention – something happens when your named is called out when you are in a crowd. Can you hear you name being called regarding the great commission?
- Many people hear the voice of God regarding many things except when it comes to the great commission.
- God came to Jeremiah and told him that he had been commissioned way before he was born.

Jeremiah 1:4 And it happened, the Word of Jehovah came to me, saying, 5 Before I formed you in the belly I knew you; and before you came forth out of the womb I consecrated you, and I ordained you a prophet to the nations. 10 Behold! I have this day set you over the nations

COMMISSIONED Prt 1

and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

- God can do everything without your assistance but whenever He wants to do something on earth, He chooses to partner with frail human beings.
- It is therefore an honour to be commissioned by God. Of all the people in their day, Jonah and Jeremiah were greatly honored to be commissioned by the God of heaven.

3. The commission is urgent

Jonah 1:1 And the Word of Jehovah came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their evil has come up before Me.

- The word that came to Jonah, came with a sense of urgency – he was commanded to arise and go.
- When you get a phone call that your loved one has been in an accident and they are in need of your assistance, you have no time to consult your friend, you simply rise up and go.
- This is the reaction that is required for those whom God is commissioning.
- The salvation of people is a life and death issue, that requires an urgent response.
- Many believers have been toying around with the life of their loved ones by compromising when it comes to the great commission.
- Everytime you hear God's call, you need to respond promptly – whenever you delay your response, your doubt is strengthened and the task appears to be more difficult to achieve.
- Don't waste time in the face of the commission – carnal reasoning and reluctance has robbed us of the great commission.
- How many times do you reason your way out of sharing the good news of Jesus our Lord?
- Paul did not waste time the moment he had the heavenly of His Lord. He immediately responded to the call of God

4. The commission has a destination

Jonah 1:1 And the Word of Jehovah came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their evil has come up before Me.

- Jonah was not left wondering where he was supposed to go – the destination was the great city of Nineveh.
- I want to ask you this morning, where is your commission taking you, to which people has God commissioned you.

COMMISSIONED Prt 1

- The commission always has to do with people and not things – the motivation is always people.
- Jonah was told to go to Nineveh and that was his destination.
- Paul was commissioned to go and minister to the gentiles; Peter was commissioned to minister to the Jews.
- Each one of us has a sphere of influence, which is within our reach. You have a capacity to reach certain people, which other people do not have.
- God will not ask you to account for the capacity He did not give you but rather the capacity and influence he gave you.
- The kind of job, your tradition, your upbringing, your passions and aspirations speak of the sphere of influence that God has called you to.
- Jonah's destination was not an easy destination because of the nature and caliber of the city of Nineveh.
- Nineveh was great in pride and splendour, wealth and population and the message that Jonah was about to bring was unheard of.

5. The commission is about life and death

Jonah 1:2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their evil has come up before Me.

- There is a dying world around us – lets make it more personal, your friend you talk to on the water fountain at work will not have peace if they die without knowing Jesus.
- Everyone who does not believe in Jesus is a sinner and they are destined to face the wrath of God on the last die.
- Do not believe the lie of the devil, heaven is for believers and not for good people.
- Nineveh was a city in confrontation with God, it was a city whose wickedness had reached the ears of God and judgement had been reserved for it.
- Humanity has been on a collision course with God since the fall of Adam. But God, in His love and mercy made a way through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- You and I were saved by grace through faith, through someone who obeyed the great commission. What are you going to do about those whom God has brought into your path?

Romans 10:11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone believing on Him shall not be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference both of Jew and of Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call on Him. 13 For everyone, "whoever shall call on the name of the Lord will

COMMISSIONED Prt 1

be saved." 14 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 preaching? 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 and bring glad tidings of good things!"