

ALL NATIONS!

ALL MEN!

EVERY CREATURE!

By Andrew Murray

"Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations," (Matt. 28:19).

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," (Mark 16:15).

"As thou didst send me into the world even so send I them into the world," (John 17:18; 20:21).

"Ye shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be my witness unto the uttermost parts of the earth," (Acts 1:8).

All these commands breathe nothing less than the spirit of world conquest. "All nations," "to all the world," "to the uttermost parts of the earth"—each expression indicates that the heart of Christ was set on claiming His rightful dominion over the world which He redeemed and won for Himself. He counts on His disciples to undertake and carry out the work.

As He stands at the foot of the throne, ready to ascend and reign, He tells them, "All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth," as the object of His and their desire and efforts.

As the King on the throne, He will be their helper: "I am with you always." They are to be the advance guard of His conquering hosts. He Himself will carry on the war. He seeks to inspire them with His own assurance of victory, with His own purpose to make this the only thing to be thought of as worthy of living or dying for—the winning back of the world to its God!

Christ does not teach nor argue; He does not ask nor plead: He commands! He has trained His disciples to obedience. He has attached them to Himself in a love that can obey. He has already breathed His own resurrection Spirit into them, and He can count on them. He dares say to them, "Go ye into all the world." Formerly, during His life on earth, they had more than once expressed their doubts about the possibility of fulfilling His commands; but here, as quietly and simply as He speaks these divine words, they accept them.

And no sooner has He ascended than they go to the appointed place, to wait for the equipment of a heavenly power from their Lord in heaven, for the heavenly work of making all the nations His disciples. They accepted the command, and passed it on to those who, through them, believed on His name. And within a generation, simple men, whose names we do not even know, had preached the Gospel in the whole known world. The command was passed on, and taken up into the heart and life, as meant for all ages, and as

#### Meant for Every Disciple.

The command is for us, too—for each one of us. There is in the Church no privileged group to which alone belongs the honor, nor any servile clan on which alone rests the duty of carrying the Gospel to every creature. The life which Christ imparts in His own; the spirit He breathes is His very own Spirit; the one disposition He works is His own self-sacrificing love. It lies in the very nature of His salvation that every member of His body, in full and healthy union with Him, feels himself urged to impart what he feels he has received.

The command is no arbitrary law from with-

out. It is simply the revelation, for our intelligent and voluntary consent, of the wonderful truth that we are His body, that we now occupy His place on earth, and that His will and His love now carry out through us the work He began; and that now, in His stead we live to seek the Father's glory, in

#### Winning a Lost World Back to Him

Let me give you what I have to say under three simple headings: Accept His command; place yourself at His disposal; and begin at once to live for His kingdom.

#### Accept His Command

There are various things that weaken the force of this command. There is the impression that a command given to all is not as binding as one that is entirely personal and specific; that if others do not do their part, our share of the blame is comparatively small; that where the difficulties are very great, obedience cannot be an absolute demand; that if we are all willing to do our best, this is all that can be asked of us.

Brethren, this is not obedience; It is not the spirit in which the first disciples accepted it. This is not the spirit in which we wish to live with our beloved Lord. We want to say, each one of us: If there be no one else, I, by His grace, will give myself and my life to live for His Kingdom. Let me for a moment separate myself from all others, and think of my personal relation to Jesus.

I am a member of Christ's body, of which He is the Head. He expects every member to be at His disposal, to be animated by His Spirit, to live for what He is and does. It is so with my body. I carry every healthy member with me day by day, in the assurance that I can count upon it to do its part. Our Lord has taken me so truly up into His body that He can ask and expect nothing less from me. And I have so truly yielded myself to Him that there can be no idea of my wanting anything but just to know and do His will.

#### A Bond Slave of Jesus

Take another illustration. Christ has bought me with His blood. No slave conquered by force or purchased by money was ever so entirely the property of his master, as my soul, redeemed and bought by Christ's precious blood. It is given up and bound to Him by love; it is His property, for Him to do with it what He pleases. He claims it by divine right, working through the Holy Spirit in an infinite power, and I have given a full assent that I live wholly for His kingdom and service. This is my joy and my glory.

#### Place Yourself at His Disposal

The last great command has been so prominently urged in connection with foreign missions that many are inclined to confine it to them. This is a great mistake. Our Lord's words, "Make disciples of all nations \* \* \* teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" tell us what our aim is to be—nothing less than to make every man a true disciple, living in holy obedience to all of Christ's will.

What a work there is to be done in the churches and our so-called Christian communities, ere it can be said that the command has been carried out! And what a need that the whole Church, with every believer in it, realize that to do this work is the sole object of its existence! The Gospel, brought fully, perseveringly, savingly to every creature: this is the mission, this ought to be the mission, of every redeemed soul; for this alone is the Spirit and likeness of Christ formed in you.

If there is one thing the Church needs to preach, in the power of the Holy Ghost, it is the absolute and immediate duty of every child of God, not only to take some part in this work, as he may think it fit or possible, but to give himself to Christ, to be guided and used as He would have him do.

Therefore, I say to every reader who has taken the vow of full obedience (and dare we count ourselves true Christians, if we have not done so?)—place yourself at once and entirely at Christ's disposal. As binding as is the first great command upon all of God's people, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart," is this the last great command, too — "the gospel to every creature."

Ere you know what your work may be, ere you feel any special desire or call or fitness for any work, if you are willing to accept the command, place yourself at His disposal. It is His, as Master, to train and fit and guide and use you. Fear not; come at once and forever out of the selfish religion that puts your own will and comfort first and gives to Christ when you see fit. Let the Master know that He can have you wholly. Study the last and great commandment well. Accept it with your whole heart. Place yourself now entirely at His disposal.

#### Begin At Once to Act Your Obedience

In whatever circumstances you are, it is your privilege to have within reach souls that can be won for God. Cherish carefully the consciousness of being a soldier who is serving under orders and simply carrying them out. Your work will then not come between you and the fellowship with Christ, but will link you inseparably to Him, to His strength, and to His approval.

It is so easy to get so engrossed in the human interest there is in our work, that its spiritual character, the supernatural power needed for it, the direct working of God in us and through us — all that can fill us with heavenly joy and hope—is lost out of sight. Keep your eye on your Master, on your King, on His throne.

Ere He gave the command, and pointed His servants to the great field of the world, He first drew their eyes to Himself on the throne: "All power is given me in heaven and on earth." It is the vision, the faith, of Christ on the throne that reminds of the need, that assures us of the sufficiency of His power. Obey, not a command, but the living, loving, Almighty Lord of Glory; faith in Him will give you heavenly strength.

#### Live to Do His Will

These words preceded the command, and then there followed, "Lo I am with you always." It is not only Christ on the throne—glorious vision! — that we need, but Christ with us here below, in His abiding presence, Himself working for us and through us. Christ's power in heaven, Christ's presence on earth—between these two pillar promises lies the gate through which the Church enters to the conquest of the world. Let each of us follow our Leader, receive from Himself our orders as to our share in the work, and never falter in the vow of obedience that has given itself to live wholly for His will and His work alone.

Such a beginning will be a training time, preparing us to know and follow His leading. If His pleading call for the millions of dying heathen comes to us, we shall be ready to go. If His providence does not permit our going,

(Continued on Page 6)