



October 2019

Matthew 28:19

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey every thing I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

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THE VIEW FROM THE CROSS IS A VISION BEYOND BORDERS

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“I want to encourage you to read the following article by Keith with an open heart. It was completed only a few days before Keith and two of our children, Josiah and Bethany, went home to be with Jesus in a fatal plane crash [In 1982]. The following message was a real expression of the fresh burden the Lord had put on his heart. As Keith explains, this is so much more than “just another article.” It was something that the Lord had put burning in Keith’s heart and was to be his new emphasis of message to Christians- especially those Christians in America. I believe the vision for missions is a completion of Keith’s message for Christians to really be right with God. The question is this- once you are right...then what? do you just sit around in your “rightness”, or do you seek God’s direction to see how and where you can be used most effectively for the Kingdom of God? What the world is dying for is hundreds and thousands of believers who are determined to see the lost find out who their Creator is before they stand before Him on that great and awesome day.”

-Melody Green





The Most Commonly Heard Excuses

1) "But I'm not called." God has already told you to go in His Word. In fact, He commands you to go... "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15) That's right... YOU ARE CALLED!

2) "But God needs people to stay here to be a witness to those lost in America. There's enough need right here!" It is true that God has called some people to stay right where they are to be witnesses for Jesus in their daily lives and professions. But again, God is merciful and just. Since America has only about 5% of the world's population, then only about 5% of the believers would really be called to stay in this country as a witness (that's only about 1 out of 20) while the rest of us should go into the parts of the world where there are almost 0% believers

3) "But God needs people to stay home and financially support those ministries and missionaries who are already all over the world." You should never have to worry about there not being enough Christians staying home to support missionaries! There will always be enough people around who will not answer the call to go. This does not mean that everyone who stays home is selfish and disobedient. As I've already said, there are some who know they are definitely called to stay, and they are doing exactly what God would have them do here, while they greatly support other ministries. I'm just saying that there will always be plenty of people around to financially support the pitifully few who answer the call and obey God.

4) "But my family and friends would frown upon me going." "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me..." (Matt. 10:37). God is very clear about whose approval we should seek.

5) "But I need to stay here and lead my relatives to the Lord first. If I go somewhere else, how can they get saved?" There was once a man who wanted to follow and obey Jesus, but he said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." Jesus' answer to him was, "Follow me; and allow the dead to bury their own dead" (Matt. 8:21-22). This may sound cruel of Jesus not to allow the man to have a funeral for his dead father- but most likely, the man's father had not died yet. The phrase "wait until I bury my father" was sometimes used to say "wait until my father has died." What he was really saying was, "I'd like to follow You now, but You see, my parents wouldn't understand. Please wait until after they've died, and then I'll be more than glad to follow You!"

6) "But I need to get an education first." I don't believe that God wants every Christian to go to college just because, "Well, everyone goes to college now, unless they're too dumb!" You shouldn't go to college unless God has definitely called you to go.

7) "But I need to get married first, and then maybe my mate will want to serve God full-time on the field, rather than me going alone." Nothing could be a more foolish reason for putting off obeying God now. God does not want you to look for a husband or wife, He wants you to be married to Him, and trust Him for any mate He may bring into your life. I know of many single Christians serving Jesus overseas who are trusting Him for everything. And some of the most beautiful stories of God's grace I've ever heard are told by couples who went to the mission field single, and then God led them to marry another whose heart was also fully devoted to serving Him there. Remember, "Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." (Matt. 6:8) Trust Him!

8) "But I have a family to support. God doesn't want me to neglect them, does He?" The Word of God says, "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you." (Matt. 6:33) If you can trust God for your needs, you can certainly trust Him for your family's

needs.

9) "But the mission field is dangerous. God would not have me put myself or my family in danger of disease or native hostilities, would he?" It is all a matter of our priorities- do we look at the temporary or the eternal in making our choices? It's true that you will probably be in more physical danger on the mission field than you would be in the suburbs of America, but that is part of the cost that we need to count when it comes to serving God. If Jesus decided to go the way of least pain, He would have never gone to the cross. There is no place of greater blessing for you than in the center of God's will. You must stop to count the cost, but remember one thing- the privilege of serving God always outweighs the price! "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's shall save it." (Mark 8:34-35)

10) "Why should I go where I'm not welcomed?" Did you welcome the Gospel before you were saved? The Word says that we should save some, "snatching them out of the fire," (Jude 23). The more unwelcome, the better. If they resent Americans, then you have an opportunity to show them that Christian Americans can be humble with the love of Jesus in their hearts. For the Word says, "He who is wise wins souls." (Proverbs 11:30)

11) "But I could not afford to get the training, and raise the necessary finances to place myself (or my family) on the field." Don't worry, God'll help raise the money you need. Wherever God guides, He supplies- even if it means helping you get a job! Problems and worries about finances are usually only a surface excuse when it comes to obeying God to go. In your heart you know He'll make a way for you!

12) "But I don't have any special talents or abilities that would qualify me to be a missionary." Then you're just the person God is looking for! Sure God can use nurses, teachers, accountants, and mechanics on the field, but it always blesses God to greatly use the one who seemingly has nothing to offer. "When I am weak, then I am strong." (II Cor. 12:10; also see I Cor. 1:26-31)

13) "But how could I commit myself for years and years to go to the field without having a chance to see what it would be like?" Today there are missionary organizations that have short-term programs for people who want to receive training and find out what serving God in other countries is like. These programs last from a few weeks to a few years in length. So now there is an opportunity to "take a look" before making a much longer commitment.

14) "But God wants me to stay in this country and prosper. The reason the rest of the world is so poor and unconverted is because their heathen religions and idolatry have caused them to live in ignorance and poverty, without God's blessing." This has to be THE most selfish reasoning I've ever heard for not going- and I've heard it! Of course they live in ignorance and poverty, that's just the reason you should go- to bring the enlightenment that comes from knowing the truth about Jesus.

15) "I'm just not ready to make that kind of a sacrifice and commitment." You might just as well have said, "I'm not willing." You need to decide whether or not you are a disciple of Jesus- that is the question. If you are His disciple, then "you are not your own...you have been bought with a price." (I Cor. 6:19-20) And if you truly love Him, then you will not feel bondage, you will feel incredible excitement at being chosen to represent Him in the world!

Now what are you waiting for??



Keith Green has influenced many people in their walks with Christ to strengthen God's kingdom and spread the gospel to unreached souls. He had a significant impact on Patrick's life through his mission journey, for carrying out Christ's great commission. Pat's vision began in 1984 when he began missions to Israel, with Keith as a role model every step of the way. This vision has led to Vision Beyond Borders working with refugee containers, women, children and pastor ministries as well as carrying Bibles into closed countries. We should all strive to have a heart like Keith influencing the visions of those around us.