

The Lakeview Lamp

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” - Psalm 119:105

January 15, 2006

Who Sets Our Agenda?

Charles Hodge

You must read **Mark 1:32-39** carefully (inserted for your convenience - TN). The doctrine revealed is foundational and profound but not obvious. The subject is “agenda.” Only God sets our agenda. We must know it; we must live it.

³²That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. [qvb://0/anchor/34](#)³³The whole town gathered at the door, [qvb://0/anchor/35](#)³⁴and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. [qvb://0/anchor/36](#)³⁵Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. [qvb://0/anchor/37](#)³⁶Simon and his companions went to look for him, [qvb://0/anchor/38](#)³⁷and when they found him, they exclaimed: Everyone is looking for you!” [qvb://0/anchor/39](#)³⁸Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” [qvb://0/anchor/40](#)³⁹So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Jesus had begun His ministry. He was a no-name from a bad town (**John 1:46**). He called 12 to be His apostles. They were a rag-tag bunch of nobodies. But they had left all. Could they be having second thoughts? Peter bluntly asked, “What do we get?” (**Mark 10:28**). To confirm His reality, Jesus performed miracles. The crowds came. The apostles became giddy. They thought they had hit the big time. Abruptly, Jesus left. The apostles had to be devastated! He got the crowd! How could He up and leave?

This appears rue. But Jesus had not invited the people. To politely go to them saying, “I can heal but will not” would be heartless, cruel. So Jesus simply left. Why? AGENDA! He could heal the world, but the world would still die and go to hell. Jesus did not come to heal the sick, feed the poor. He must not be reduced to a “Bread King,” a political activist. Jesus came to seek and save the lost (**Luke 19:10**). His war was not on crime, poverty, disease. His war was against sin, death, hell. Agenda is not between good and evil but between good and less-good.

Crowds excite. Crowds have the appearance of success. The modern church is into crowds. Get crowds! Jesus feared crowds. Jesus ran from crowds (**John 6**). Jesus came to preach. Jesus left crowds to go preach! Baffling! But the crowds wanted a menu not a doctrine. They came to get, not hear. They were interested in their bodies, not their souls. The excitement of crowds is subtle, deceptive, deceiving, intoxicating. No wonder Jesus headed for the hills - to pray! He had a “God-agenda.” God is needed, vital. You cannot keep God’s agenda without prayer. Do we praise God or give in to men (**John 12:42-43**)? Fallen man always thinks he can do both. Jesus could turn stone to bread. He did not. He could keep His divine agenda and save us. He did!

Jesus was not Dale Carnegie. He told those He healed not to tell. Why? He was their Savior, not just another “do-gooder.” To keep His agenda, Jesus left.

The Battle Jesus Fought

Life is one long battle to keep our agenda. Everyone tried to get Jesus to change His. “*He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him*” (**John 1:11**). Satan used three temptations to try to change His agenda. The parents of 12-year-old Jesus could not grasp His being about His Father’s business (**Luke 2:49**). His mother tried to orchestrate His first miracle (**John 2:1-12**). His brothers tried to tell Him when to go to a feast (**7:1-10**). His own disciples (Peter the worst) tried to alter His agenda. His preaching was too hard (**6:60-66**). Jesus called Peter “Satan” (**Matthew 16:21-23**) when Peter tried to abort the cross. Jesus repeatedly told demons to “shut up.”

Crowds - Jesus always had trouble with crowds. They would make Him king by force (**John 6:15**). Even the enemies of Jesus tried to set His agenda. Herod, Pilate, Judas all tried to change His agenda. Jesus, sweating blood in the garden, asked God to remove the cup (**Luke 22:39-44**). God refused. Even Jesus could not set His own agenda.

The Battle We Fight

Moderns have turned theology into psychology, the cross into a couch, the church into rehab, worship into therapy, damnation into dysfunction. We must not lose our agenda! Money, politics, issues must not set our agenda. Youth, the world, circumstances must not set our agenda. Only God has this privilege. We can become bogged down in good works but not the main work. The main thing is the main thing.

Our Agenda Is Different

A century past we divided. Tragic! We are making the same mistake today. The issue is not issues! The issue is agenda. We are not on the same page, yea the same planet. Our agenda is Scripture and sense; theirs is opinion and feelings. Ours is absolute truth; theirs is personal, subjective preference.

Do we seek the praise of God or men? Paul said he could not please men and be a servant of Christ (**Galatians 1:10**).

Who sets our agenda?

“There is no one like You among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like Yours.” – Psalm 86:8

Family News

Remember that **Mary Burnett’s** phone number is now 822-5717.

Elmo Ferrell continues to have some stomach problems.

Sandlyn Fultz had surgery four weeks ago. Three weeks ago she was readmitted to the hospital with all the symptoms of meningitis. They put her on antibiotics. This has gone well, but unlike I reported here she did not go home two Wednesday’s ago. Instead, she remained in the hospital on antibiotics until she went home this past Wednesday. She tires easily but is doing well.

Sandra Hunt is not doing very well. She was taking some new medicine for about a month. However, she has had a bad reaction to it. She has now been off of it for about a week but has not improved much.

John Jenkins, Robert's father, has lung cancer.

There is a new report (December) from **Fred Newman** (Slovakia) in the back of the auditorium.

Fran Pickens should be moving this coming weekend.

Laura Reed fell two weeks ago. She was sore but is improving.

Clara Russell, Geneva Copelin's 88 year old sister, passed away this past Wednesday. Her funeral was Friday afternoon.

Remember **Dustin Simpson** as he continues to serve in the Navy. You can write him at (please use four lines):

MM3 SIMPSON, DUSTIN
Box 44

USS Enterprise CVN-65
FPO AE 09543-2810

Georgia Taylor remains about the same.

Remember the Christians in **Vietnam** while Allen is here.

Remember **Ame White** who had surgery five weeks ago. It went well, but the recovery has been slow. As you can imagine, this slow recovery has been discouraging. She has a doctor's appointment on February 14th.

Robert Wray still suffers from many dizzy spells. Also, his vision continues to worsen.

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"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).