



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“UNDERSTANDING OUR MISSION”

John Galbreath
Bible Study Series

Part of the Sermon Series: Why Men Break
Date: January 21

About Westminster's Galbreath Bible Study Series:

This lesson is one taken from a sermon preached by John Galbreath at Westminster Presbyterian Church on January 21 of an unknown year. Based on the content, however, it is clearly from the early 1950's.

There is no Bible reading associated with this sermon but it is noted as being part of a sermon series on "Why Men Break."

In this case, we suggest reviewing the outline of the sermon and how you would "fill in" the remainder of the message. Then, review the study questions posed about the lesson — whether by yourself or in your small group.

Finally, share your thoughts on the Galbreath Bible Study blog on the Westminster Intranet.

I. Introduction

A. Story of Second Lt. during battle of Bulge who after many days of patrol turned and ran.

1. Remorse in field hospital – never again face his fellow soldiers, his friends at home or himself.

B. Chaplain tells of Peter who betrayed Christ, yet lived to become one of the great apostles.

C. Study of causes of combat fatigue – those who break under tension.

1. Lack of understanding the nature and objectives of the mission – inadequate briefing.

2. Loss of leadership.

3. Separation from the main body of troops.

D. Today's combat fatigue.

1. Our generation has lived under tension.

2. Men are running away.

a) *Those who try to shut their eyes to it.*

b) *Those who become depressives – who resign all hope of a solution.*

c) *Those who resort to self indulgence.*

II. As a Nation—What Are We Fighting For?

A. What are we in Korea for?

1. Militarily – perhaps to draw off troops from Indo-China and the mainland.

a) *I am not one to appraise the military issue.*

2. The moral issue is quite simple.

a) A helpless nation was being ravaged, and we could not stand by without lifting a hand.

b) Communist conquest is not an academic issue – it involves the enslavement of 20,000,000 people.

(1) Minsoo Pai's letters.

c) But they are only a bunch of illiterate orientals.

(1) If we were walking along the street and saw a person attacked and were in a position to stop it, we would not stop to trace his family tree, but would be obliged to go to his defense.

3. The issue of whether we are strong enough.

B. The issue in Korea – of freedom from those who would enslave – is the moral issue in the entire conflict.

1. If isolationism were militarily possible (and it is not), it would be immoral.

C. Christ never raised his hand in self defense, but used the lash against those who exploited the poor and used the temple as their pretext for extortion.

III. As a Church – What is Our Mission

A. Confused purposes

1. To build a building
2. To build a large enrollment
3. To establish a big program
4. To baptize, marry and bury people?

B. Christ's commission

1. Go ye into all the world

a) A giving church – come not to be ministered unto, but to minister.

(1) We're not here to use the community, but to be used.

2. Teach all nations – teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.

a) *A teaching church – a learning church*

b) *Not only in the church school, but in our worship and fellowship.*

IV. As Persons We Have Lost Our Sense of Mission

A. Confused purposes

1. One's self indulgence

2. One's job

3. One's family

B. All of the above can lead to frustration and hopelessness.

C. Catechism

1. "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him – forever."

a) *A fairly broad-minded group that suggested we should enjoy him.*

2. How to interpret it?

a) *No simple set of rules.*

b) *An abiding sense of the presence of God.*

Study Questions -- Part I

Bible Reading:

There was no reading listed with this sermon.

Study Questions -- Part II

Sermon :

I.B. Has there ever been a moment when you feel that you have betrayed Jesus? How did you deal with it?

I.D. This sermon is undated, although we know it was written during the Korean war. If it was being preached today, what kind of “combat fatigue” might it mention?

II. What would you say the United States is fighting for in today’s world?

II.A.1.a. Do you think we still feel the need to assist helpless nations? When should our faith call on us to defend the helpless?

NOTE: Minsoo Pai was known for his pioneering work in rural development ministry in Korea.

II.A.1.c.(1) Do you think most people today would still behave this way or might we try to get help without getting personally involved? What circumstances would lead you to step in? What circumstances might lead you to hold back?

II.B. Where in today’s world do you think people are being enslaved? How can Christians help to fight that enslavement?

II.C. – Originally Dr. Galbreath’s notes said “location for extortion.” Why do you think he changed it to pretext?

III. If someone who didn’t know about Christ asked you to define the mission of the church, how would you define it? What is the mission of our congregation?

III.B.1. How can you “go into the world” to do Christ’s work?

III.B.1.a.(1) How can we be used for the community?

III.B.2. How can we be a teaching church to our members? To our community? How can we be a learning church

IV. How do you regain your personal sense of mission?

IV.C.1. What can you be doing each day to enjoy God forever?

There were additional handwritten notes in the packet that said the following. Consider in the context of the sermon what they might mean.

- Christ II
- No escape – drink, marital infidelity, “How to books,” astrology
- The Church behind the Iron Curtin has lost its fluff.
- The Whole Christ
- Relate Him to Life Reality
- Preach for Decision
- Preach with authority
- Preach Christ ??? (illegible word) – What word might you include based on this sermon?