

# Attempting Great Things for God

Isaiah 54:2 **Enlarge** the place of thy tent, And let them **stretch forth** the curtains of thine habitations: **Spare not, lengthen** thy cords, and **strengthen** thy stakes; **3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left;** And thy seed **shall inherit** the Gentiles, And make the **desolate cities to be inhabited.**

1. William Carey preached a message from this passage
  - a. Expect great things from God
    - i. We believe that God loves everyone and wants all to be saved
    - ii. We believe that God can save
    - iii. We believe that God can do a great work in India
    - iv. We believe that if Jesus is preached that those who have never believed can and will be converted

- v. We believe that God can and will build His church in India
- b. Attempt great things for God
    - i. Raising your support was a great attempt to do something for God
    - ii. Getting together all you need to go to the other side of the world and taking your family is another great attempt
    - iii. Learning a culture so foreign to ours will be a great attempt
    - iv. Witnessing in a place that it is illegal will be a great attempt
    - v. Stepping out by faith and trusting God as you go is showing great faith and a great attempt
  - c. Paul and Amber I am excited about how you are doing just what Carey did before you
    - i. You are believing God and that has shown in your lives
    - ii. I have seen you grow, learn, give, serve, live for others
    - iii. I know that you know that it is all God
    - iv. I also know that you will work like a crazy man to make things happen

- v. So I challenge you to expect great things from God while you attempt great things for Him

- 2. There was great resistance when William Carey wanted to go to India as a missionary
  - a. There was the famous statement made "Sit down, young man. When God pleases to convert the heathen, he will do it without your aid or mine."
  - b. Others said that it would be impossible to make a difference in India if God didn't give the gift of tongues
  - c. Others said God would save His elect with or without preaching
  - d. Leading christians mocked Carey and made fun of his plan
  - e. There was no money to speak of
  - f. No one expected that God could or would do anything
  - g. People will say you are only going to India because of your desire for adventure
  - h. They will say that you only want money and the good life that being a missionary can give you with such good support
  - i. People will say that they have their own religion and you shouldn't disturb them

- j. Today many do not understand your heart for carrying the gospel to far away lands
  - i. They will think that you only go because of a desire for adventure
  - ii. They will think that you hunger to live in another country
  - iii. They will not understand how you could love another people with a totally different culture but God has put this in your heart
  - iv. We know that God is able to do great things. Do not let all that God has done in your life go to waste. Work harder than them all
  - v. Go expecting God to prove that He has called you and sent you there

3. There were great heartbreaks for Carey and his team

- a. One of his coworkers, Dr. Thomas, couldn't handle his finances and brought embarrassment to the work
- b. Tragedies happened that caused Carey to have to start over
- c. Carey lost 2 wives and one son
- d. Carey made big mistakes in his family life

- i. He didn't take into account what his wife wanted
- ii. Their marriage lasted 26 years but wasn't marked by love
- iii. She was illiterate but had been submissive as a pastor's wife even getting rebaptized from being a Puritan
- iv. He apparently didn't tell his wife about his decision until after he had announced it at the Baptist meeting
  1. Dorothy said she wouldn't go
  2. But changed her mind when he insisted that he would take their oldest child, Felix, with him
  3. Dorothy finally agreed to go if her sister could go with her
  4. While William Carey lived in near poverty the Thomas family lived in affluence
- v. Carey took little interest in disciplining his children and had it not been for William Ward his son would have turned out completely different
- vi. Carey married very soon after the death of Dorothy and it caused many to be very concerned
- vii. Carey is considered a hero but at great cost to his family

- e. I want to remind you that you will have many heartbreaks coming
  - i. There will be disappointments with your surroundings
  - ii. Culture shock will affect you more than you think
  - iii. There will be differences with other missionaries and people
  - iv. There will be issues in your family
  - v. Take time to take care of your children
  - vi. Do not be so consumed with work that you do not meet the needs of your family
  - vii. Remember that you are in a spiritual war and will be under constant attack

#### 4. Special words to you both

- a. Paul, stay focused on the Lord Jesus
  - i. That means do not neglect your time of prayer and Bible reading
  - ii. Read the Bible through constantly
  - iii. Do not get caught up in books about the Bible like you are in the Bible
- b. Be honest with yourself, your wife, and your coworkers.
  - i. Do not pretend

- ii. Be who you are
- iii. Be willing to learn
- c. Be teachable.
  - i. Be careful not to think you know
  - ii. Be careful not to try and prove that you are the smart one, the good one, the capable one
  - iii. Be a servant
- d. Die to yourself and live for others
- e. Amber, know that Paul needs your love and admiration
- f. Be careful to be focused on the Lord, not your husband or children
- g. Remember you were sent to be a helper to your husband in all that God has for him
- h. Be teachable also
- i. Be a servant
- j. I love you all more than I could ever tell you. I believe in you. I am fully expecting God to do great things with you.
- k. I am here for you if I can ever help in any way