

“The Three Encounters”

- I. Introduction: One of the most helpful concepts I learned at Mission Institute was from Charles Kraft, a missionary anthropologist. He believes that true conversion in any culture requires three encounters. A truly converted person must have an encounter with truth, with power, and with allegiance.
- II. The Twelve Disciples
 - A. In **Mark 3:14**, the disciples are sent forth to preach and give people an opportunity to encounter *truth*.
 - B. In **Mark 3:15**, Jesus gives the disciples power to heal and cast out devils.
People are given an opportunity to encounter *power*.
- III. The Ministry of Jesus
 - A. **Matthew 4:23-25** Jesus provides an opportunity for people to encounter *truth* and *power*.
Great multitudes followed Him.
 - B. What truth did Jesus love to put before the people?
Matthew 6:6-8 The _____’s love.
 - C. In the middle of providing the people with an encounter with truth came a call for *allegiance*.
Matthew 6:19-34
 - D. Only when we have a proper understanding of God’s love for us can we in turn love Him and make Him first in our lives. (*Allegiance*)
- IV. The Great Commission Given to Us.
 - A. **Matthew 28:18-20** says that all power has been given to Jesus for our use. We are to give everyone an opportunity to encounter *truth* and *power* so that they can put God first in their life. (*Allegiance*).
 - B. We have all encountered *truth*. But have we personally experienced the *power* of Jesus in our lives? Since we know that He loves us and has the *power* to change us, we can safely put Him first in our lives. (*Allegiance*).
 - C. Elder Venden’s 3 legged stool is enhanced when we understand:
 - 1) The *Bible* is the source of *truth*,
 - 2) *Prayer* & the Holy Spirit are the source of *power*, and
 - 3) *Witnessing* effectively can only happen when we have personally surrendered our life to Jesus. (*Allegiance*).
 - D. **Matthew 7:21-23** speaks of those who have presented *truth*, and demonstrated wonderful *power*. Yet Jesus says that He does not know them. Why? **Verse 21** says it is because they are not doing His will but their own.
There is no submission, no allegiance to Him.