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100 PEOPLE, MORE OR LESS...

Noted historian Ed Harrell some years back in an article he had written made reference to a book written by a fellow historian, Leo Baudy. Baudy set forth the hypothesis that during the medieval period the average person only saw one hundred people in a lifetime. Harrell thought it astonishing and inquired of a couple other professors who taught courses dealing with medieval times that he knew, they concurred with Baudy's assessment. The reasoning behind such thinking is that the average person rarely ventured more than ten miles from home!



Imagine the problems that could arise from living in a limited society. Of all the people you would encounter, more likely than not, half would be relatives. Half of the remainder would be of the same sex as you, and no more than a quarter would be near your age. Kind of limits choices for selecting a spouse, doesn't it? Additional speculation puts a damper on the notion as a common occurrence where knights arrived on a white stallion, performed acts of chivalry, and rescued a damsel in distress.

In sharp contrast to society during medieval times, we today live in a society that is extremely mobile. At the drop of a hat we can board a plane and travel anywhere on the face of the earth. It takes roughly six hours, flying in a jet airliner to fly from Los Angeles to New York City. Along the way we will come in contact with hundreds of people when you factor in the terminals and the plane itself. Check your address "book" on your phone (and the one you have at home) and chances are you will have well over 100 people listed. Your life can and does have an impact on so many others. It gives a

person pause to consider *"the conversation of your life"* as noted in Philippians 1:27 (see also Colossians 4:5)

"Behold I say to you lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest." (John 4:35)

Opportunities abound where the gospel can be spread, we need to awaken to our responsibility in this regard. It is safe to say that more often than not our eyes fail to see the openings presented to us on a daily basis to share the gospel. The future of the Lord's church rests in the hands of individual members who must step

forward and accept the role and responsibility entrusted of acting on the Great Commission. *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."* (Mark 16:15)

During the days of our life we will have met hundreds if not thousands of people. How many of them have you deeply influenced? Please accept the following challenge. Focus on 100 people you know. Let them know you really care for them, and in so doing, hopefully they will care to listen to what you have to say. When that connection has been made, you may be surprised to learn that their heart may be more receptive to hearing the glad tidings of the gospel, While not all will accept the teaching of Jesus Christ, you have done your part, you will have done well. Keep in mind what Paul wrote to the brethren in Corinth as found in 1Corinthians 3:5-7. *"What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed even as the Lord gave opportunity. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth."* Are you up to the challenge? One hundred people. (wbc)

THE BULWARK