

## FACING AN UNFINISHED TASK

Text: Joshua 13:1 and 14:6-15

Early missionary enterprise to Africa largely bypassed Muslims - Why?

- Pagan tribes seemed to be the greater need of the hour; also more receptive ground
- Some thought that Islam provided a stepping stone to convert the pagans more easily
- Others developed the idea of a chain of mission stations south of the Sahara to shield off Black Africa from an Islamic advance
  
- Today the Church in Africa still avoids reaching out to Muslims. - Why?
- INDIFFERENCE - our churches are still full. Pastors are kept busy without reaching Muslims
- FEAR - it's dangerous; they have lots of power, money, demons > hate, no Muslims as neighbours
- IGNORANCE / HELPLESSNESS - We just don't know how to handle them ("Snake")
  - Learn: Who You are in Christ and What Muslims are like

FACTS:           1. Half of Africa's Muslims are living south of the Sahara (200 Million / 2010?)  
                      2. They are within your reach.  
                      3. Help is at hand: Training > RO and Evangelistic Materials > DA and tracts

CRUX: Why poke into/ or bother about Islam? Isn't it enough to share the Bible with them?  
      WWJD&M2M = What would Jesus do about Muslims today?

I suggest:

### I. WE NEED TO LEARN FROM THE MASTER

1. He was fully aware of His mission                   - The Kingdom of God is at hand.
2. He was continually led by His Father           - John 4:34 "My food is ..."
3. He refused to neglect difficult people           - John 4:4 "gentile dogs", "Second-class persons"

John 8:48 "Samaritan and demon-possessed" reputation; Luke 9: 52-56 endured rejection willingly

4. He gave us the Great Commission   - ALL men to be saved > Christ died for Muslims too!
5. He understood ALL people groups   - Even Pharisees; "Were the Pharisees also Muslims?"

What do we conclude from this?

### II. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF ISLAM

1. A Religion of Power and Success
2. A Religion/ SYSTEM of rituals, of Do's and Don'ts
3. A Fundamentally Anti-Christian System:
  - no Salvation needed
  - no Assurance possible
  - no Son, Father, Holy Spirit,
  - no true love experienced

Conclude: Story of "Abou" at Lake Langano

*Walter Eric, 2005*