



Monday, April 29, 2024 - The Call to Go!

“Therefore, go....” (**Matthew 28:19**) Jesus gives a simple but powerful command to the disciples before he ascends. This command is not merely a suggestion, rather Christ is giving them a call to action. This is a call to engagement, to get outside of your comfort zone and engage with a lost and dying world.

How easy is it for you to get complacent with a daily routine? You wake up, go to work, grab lunch, go back to work, go home, take care of our responsibilities there, go to bed, and then repeat. Do you have eyes to see and ears to hear those around you? Are you available for holy interruptions in your life? Do you regularly share the gospel with those you come in contact with?

For you to “go”, you cannot be passive. Stepping out of your comfort is not easy to do and can be downright intimidating. However, Christ calls us to actively engage the lost. I want to challenge you to take a step of faith and have the courage to share your faith with others this week.

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” **Matthew 9:35-38,**

As you go, you carry the lamp of the gospel, the light in the darkness. There are people that God has placed in your path who need to hear the message of God’s saving grace. Know that God goes before you and has prepared hearts and minds to hear the gospel. Remember, *the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.* Will you be a laborer today? Who will you share the good news with?

Tuesday, April 30, 2024 – Make Disciples of All Nations

Revelation 7:9

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;

What a beautiful picture of heaven! The call to disciple making reaches beyond the geographical confines of our neighborhoods. Christ commissions you and I to go and make disciples of every people and every tongue. What an incredible responsibility given to us! In College Station we have the unique privilege of a diverse culture due to Texas A&M University. What an incredible opportunity we have that the nations have come to us!

How can we effectively reach the nations? The local church is the launchpad for global missions. There are international women and children who are on our church campus every Wednesday for Discovery. The Baptist Student Ministry has regular events for international students and provides a space for genuine connections that can open the door for gospel conversations. There are opportunities to share with the nations, right here in our backyard!

Over the past year our church has sent teams to Japan and the United Kingdom. This summer we are sending another to Japan! July 15-19th we will be going to Lasara, TX with opportunities to share the gospel! Would you prayerfully consider taking a step of faith and jump on a missions opportunity?

Take a moment and look into the cultural context that God has placed you in. What do the “nations” look like in your own life? These could be classmates, coworkers, or neighbors. How can you be intentional about building relationships with them? Perhaps God has placed a calling on your life to global missions, will you seek His will and trust Him?

Wednesday, May 1 - Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

When Jesus gives the Great Commission, He doesn't tell His followers to go, make disciples and have them become good church members. He commands His followers to **baptize** the new disciples in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This commandment of baptism would have meant that people had to

break with their traditional views of Judaism and publicly proclaim their conversion to follow Jesus by being baptized. Jesus says it another way in **Matthew 16:24** *“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘if anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.’”* If we are to follow Christ, we must deny ourselves, throw off our old ways and take up His cross. We do that by publicly proclaiming our allegiance to Jesus through believers’ baptism. Baptism is not what saves us and there is nothing special about the baptismal waters, but nevertheless the commandment to “baptize them” is important. Not only is it a public proclamation of our decision to follow Christ, but also a visual picture of our new life with Him. Being lowered into the water, buried with Christ in baptism, and being brought out of the water, raised to walk in newness of life (**Romans 6:3-4**). What a beautiful representation of being dead in our sins, but being made alive through Christ Jesus! If you haven’t been baptized, what’s stopping you from taking that step?

Thursday, May 2 - Teaching them all I have commanded you

It’s easy in today’s church culture to get caught up in things that the early disciples would have scoffed at. As Jesus is ascending into heaven, He gives His disciples one task, to make disciples by **teaching** them ALL that He commanded them, in its entirety, without adding or taking anything away. So what is it that should be taught to these new disciples? — exactly what Jesus taught the disciples in the gospels. The great stories of old, the sermon on the mount, how to pray, the cost of following Him, Church discipline, the importance of the sabbath, love, repentance and forgiveness, just to name a few. But why? Why is it important to teach the fullness of Scripture and what Jesus taught? **Ephesians 4:12-14** answers this perfectly, *“to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness. Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit.”* We can’t become like Christ if we don’t know what He was like or what He taught. We can’t equip the saints if we ourselves are not equipped. We can’t reach unity in the faith if we get caught up in matters that wouldn’t have mattered to Jesus or the disciples. Which leads us to two important questions: Who are you teaching? And what are you teaching them?

Friday, May 3, 2024 -The Presence of Christ

Last words are important! Jesus gives His disciples one final promise, *"I will be with you always until the end of this age."* Do you rest in the assurance of Christ's presence within you? What a precious gift Christ has given you and !! No matter the circumstance, Christ is with us. This must have been reassuring to the disciples who were with Him during His final moment physically on this earth.

Jesus gives this promise after He commissions them to go and make disciples of all nations, to baptize and teach them everything that He commanded them. There is great significance to this promise. Christ is not sending them to on their own authority, He is sending them on His behalf.

We have been given this same promise. Christ will never leave or forsake us. He goes before us as we do the work that He has called us to. We are to walk by faith, trusting in Christ every step of the way, knowing that we are not walking alone. Do you trust that Christ is with you? Will you take time today to pray that His presence will be evident in your life and that He will empower you to boldly proclaim the good news!

*This week's devotions were prepared for you by Nathan and Dannielle Yates.