

SERMON: “I Will Go” – Acts 1:8; Acts 4:13-21

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Today, we continue our look at the nine traits of the outwardly focused Christian. The Bible helps us to see the importance of responding to all Jesus had done for us in His death and resurrection by saying “I will” – by serving others, loving others, and seeing the needs of others.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”
(Acts 1:8).

I. Introduction: What is Your Jerusalem?

What is your context, your circle of influence, where can you make a difference - Your community, work, school, neighborhood, favorite restaurants, barber chair, fellow traveler, etc.

Four common objections to God’s call to “go”

III. Objection 1 – “This is not my spiritual gift”

Members of the body of Christ – members of His church on earth.

Pray for opportunities, for courage and strength

IV. Objection 2 – “That is what we pay our pastors and staff to do”

Matt. 28 – The Great Commission – Who is it for?

Invite people to church or church activities.

Coca-cola is one product that has far outgrown its humble beginnings. In 1886, Dr. John Pemberton first introduced Coca-Cola in Atlanta, Georgia. The pharmacist concocted a caramel-colored syrup in a three-legged brass kettle in his backyard. He first "distributed" Coca-Cola by carrying it in a jug down the street to Jacobs Pharmacy.

After little more than 100 years, surveys show that 97% of the world has heard of coca-cola. 72% of the world has seen a can of coca-cola. 51% of the world has tasted a can of coca-cola. All due to the fact that the company made a commitment years ago that every one on the planet would have a taste of their soft drink.

We should stand up and take note here...97% of the world has heard of this sugar and water concoction while 1.7 billion people world-wide have no access to the good news of Jesus Christ! It is estimated that 17 million people die every year without having

heard the name of Jesus!

When I hear those facts, I should not hang my head in despair and shame. Instead, I should be challenged, motivated, and inspired to a new level of commitment in sharing the message of forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ.

V. Objection 3 – “I don’t have time”

- a. Intentionally look for opportunities
- b. “Life Conversation Guide” app or “Hands and Feet” KTIS
- c. Local opportunities – come to a Midweek Meal, bring a team to serve, Foodshelf ministry...
- d. Create a neighborhood map – get to know your neighbors, know their stories, needs...

VI. Objection 4 – “I don’t want to impose my beliefs on others”

- a. Be prepared to speak when the opportunity arises (especially when you’re busy)
“Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15)
- b. Your beliefs (if you are a Christian) are not an imposition, they are a life raft for a drowning neighbor or friend or family member or colleague or classmate....the Gospel is the life saver for a drowning world...More than 22% of Americans say they never go to church. In 2004, that number was 17%. That number is going up not down. A lost world is crying out...

The comforting thing is that we don’t do this on our own. Jesus said, *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses...”*

QUIET STRENGTH - There is a story about a sunken ship that illustrates the quietness of the spirit, but at the same time His Power in our lives.

"Several years ago engineers building a new bridge over the East River in New York, discovered that the wrecked hull of a ship, sunk many years before, lay right where the center piers were to be built. Powerful machinery was brought in to remove the ship, but it would not budge.

Then one of the engineers had an unusual idea-why not have the tide raise the ship!! Some strong cables were attached to the hull when the tide was low. The other ends were fastened to the barge above. As the tide came in, the barge gradually lifted the sunken ship. It was then towed out into the ocean and sunk at a spot that would not cause future problems."

God's Holy Spirit is like the tide, it comes quietly, it comes in slowly, but it comes to us with enough power so that we might do the job God has called and led each of us to do.

VII. Conclusion – It's Time to Go

- a. Settle the issue; will you go?
- b. Right one name on your calendar to:

Pray for (date: ____)

Invite (date: ____)

Identify gaps in your calendar to visit (date: ____)

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