



Go, therefore—Part 1
From Sermon 11.7.21

Read *Matthew 28:18-20*

Review from Sunday's sermon: For a long time, now, New Heights has been committed to preaching sound doctrine, the entire counsel of God, and expository style (verse-by-verse). We've been fed a healthy spiritual diet. We've strived to be a biblical church. But, that is not all we are called to be—corporately or individually. We are called to "go". We have to take the Gospel into our world and show Christ's love and compassion, while there is still time. We need a new mission drive and goal.

[Cedar House was not well attended and ended 3 years ago]

1. To whom was Jesus speaking and commanding in the Great Commission? Physically, the 11 remaining Apostles. Spiritually, practically, and eternally, He was commissioning the entire Church family until the end of the age. [Literally: "While you are going, make disciples..."]

2. Read each verse and note Moses' excuses for not being the right candidate to "go". Then, discuss how we can offer the same reasoning for dismissing the missions we are called to.

Exodus 3:13—I don't know enough about God. I'm unqualified. They may ask me a theological question that I can't answer.

Exodus 4:1—They may not believe me. I will look foolish. Others have damaged my mission opportunities.

Exodus 4:10—I don't have the skills. I don't speak well. I'm not good with people/strangers.

Exodus 4:13—I just don't want to. I'm scared. Send Steve...

2a. Now, consider Jesus' interaction with potential follower/ambassadors in the New Testament.

Luke 9:57-58—I don't have the resources. The conditions in the mission field are below my standards.

Luke 9:59-60—I have other commitments and priorities. Maybe later, Lord, when life is quiet.

Luke 9:61-62—Let me have perfect conditions and check every box for ideal timing.

3. Read *Jonah 1:1-3*. What do you suppose was Jonah's reason for running from God's commission? It appears to be prejudice. Jonah hated the evil Ninevites and was even angry when they repented and God spared them. He had goals of being a prophet to his own people, Israel.

3a. As much as we may hate to admit it, could a prejudice play a part in our own hesitancy to "go"? Thinking: They made their decisions. They are not victims. They should come to Christ first. Their families, governments, and communities should take care of them. We have our own problems here.

4. Read *James 2:14-17*. What point regarding faith is the Holy Spirit having James make here? Are we saved by works? Do our works keep us saved? We are not saved by works or kept saved by them. The rest of Scripture makes that very clear. Works (including outreach and evangelism) are a gauge—an indicator or evidence we are actually saved. We can claim to have faith with our words. But, only an active faith of works proves our conversion.

5. What makes our guy, Steve, a better candidate for a mission trip than you? Various personal answers. During the sermon, we all probably thought of our reasons we cannot go on mission.