



Go, Therefore—Part 2
From Sermon 11.14.21

Read *Matthew 28:18-20*

Review from Sunday's sermon: For the second week, we explored and reviewed our need to return to some missions/outreach projects. It has been three years since we've had a formal program. We need to see that there is no ideal time, circumstance, or candidate to go. God uses us right where we are and with all our issues and deficiencies. That way He gets the glory and credit. It's not so important about what we will do or where we will eventually go. We need so surrender ourselves to His service/plan.

1. Read *Isaiah 6:1-9*. How would you describe Isaiah's journey into God's service? He clearly sees, in himself, reasons he's a wrong candidate. Various answers, including: inconsistent life (I am a man of unclean lips & unworthy (woe, is me). Yet, changed to "willing" (Send me) after time with Holy God.

2. If you had to guess, what do you suppose will be the #1 reason people will give for not going on a mission trip of any distance, length, commitment, and risk? Various answers & insights

2a. If someone came to you for advice on this reason (your guess from above), how would you counsel them? Various answers. But, include: show them scriptural examples of their same fears and how God met them. Challenge them to pray about them. Have them share their spiritual journey and transformation and the people who took great risk, trusted God, and shared the Gospel. Look for small, low commitment opportunities to start.

3. Read *Acts 1:8*—Jesus lays out 4 locations for outreach, missions, and evangelism. We are, obviously, not called to go literally to those parts of the world in our mission. So, what would each look like for us?

- Jerusalem: Personal Evangelism and witness to those in my sphere of influence (neighbors, family, friends, co-workers).
- Judea: Local projects in my home town & surrounding community
- Samaria: People, places, and outreach outside my familiarity and comfort zone.
- End of the earth: Utterly foreign/full reliance on Christ regarding time, energy, money, safety.

4. How is your salvation experience tied to someone's willingness to obey Christ and go? Various answers based on experience and journey. However, everyone has some common gratitude for those in the Southern Baptist denomination (State, regional, and local churches) who had vision, heart, sacrifice, and faith to start/fund New Heights.

5. Read Jesus' strange words in *Matthew 10:16*, as He commissions the Apostles for their first mission trip. Four animals are named as illustrations. Identify each, note what they represent, and discuss how we can apply Jesus' admonition in our future ministry.

- Wolves: The hostile secular world, but (sadly) an increasingly hostile religious world that hates absolutes, adherence to Scripture, and the exclusivity of the real Jesus Christ
- Sheep = Us. Missionaries. We are not under our own authority, but that of the Chief Shepherd. He leads. We go. We are not be the wolves or join them.
- Serpent: Develop and incorporate skill, patience, shrewdness, wise timing, & discernment. See also *1 Corinthians 9:19-23*. [I know of those who had to "go" into some areas as pharmacists, doctors, teachers, aid workers]
- Doves: Be Christ-like. Not agitators*, gentle, peaceable, pure, spirit-filled and reliant