

EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

By Cecil Culbreth

Text: Mark 16:15-20

Other Passages: Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:8; Matt 28:18

Big Idea: We must go everywhere and proclaim the good news of Jesus.

Intro: Deal with the concept that good news is not good news until you hear it. Use a suppose illustration about something being free. That news does not benefit you until you hear it. Jesus was born, but it was not good news for the shepherds until the angels told them. Jesus gave the command to go into all the world and preach the good news. But until that good news is preached, it is not good news. It is only good news when someone hears it. That is why these first century followers of Jesus went everywhere preaching the good news. They were convinced that Jesus wanted everyone, everywhere to hear the good news of His salvation.

The command is still valid today. Jesus wants us to tell everyone, everywhere the good news of His salvation. Why it would be impossible for us personally to go everywhere and preach the gospel, through our investment in Light for the Lost our church can proclaim the gospel in scores of nations around the world. Our scripture text gives us some of the last words that Jesus said before He left earth. It is a mandate concerning the proclamation of the gospel.

In this scripture Jesus teaches that we are to:

I. Preach to EVERYONE, Everywhere in Obedience to the Command.

v. 15, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every

Jesus had instructed his disciples on more than one occasion to go preach the good news. The first time Jesus gave the command, He told them to only go to the lost in Israel (Matt 10:5, 6) but now Jesus expands the command, it is go everywhere. Go to the Jew, go to the Samaritan, go

Jesus wants every ethnic group, every nation to hear the message. (Matt 28:19)
 In the natural this sounds like an impossible task. Yet Jesus said to go everywhere.
 That means the halls of your schools and yet the remotes jungles of Africa. That
 means your friend down the street and yet the remote rain forest of Latin America.
 That means the coldest spots in Siberia and the blistering heat of the Sahara desert.
 That means the quaint villages of rural America and yet the dangerous world of the
 radical Muslim. It is to everyone everywhere.

Impossible? No, it is not impossible. I have got great news. We will go everywhere
 with the good news. I have some insider information that I want to share with you
 about the victory. I already know how the game is going to turn out. I can tell you who
 is going to win.

Rev 5:9-10

9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open
 its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
 Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation , 10 And have made us kings and
 priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." NKJV

Why do we have missions? To be obedient to the command. A church that does not
 make missions a priority is living in disobedience to the command. At the end of this
 service you are going to be given an opportunity to demonstrate your obedience to the
 command of Christ to go into all the world by making a faith promise (of financial gift)
 to LFTL.

In this scripture Jesus teaches that we are to:

II. Preach To Everyone, Everywhere in Fulfillment of the Promise

v. 17 Jesus said, "These signs shall follow those who believe. In my name..." "and
 the Lord confirmed His Word...."

The first disciples of Jesus understood the power of His Name. Jesus had told them, “All authority is given me in heaven and in earth...you go.” Jesus’ promise was, I have all authority in heaven and in earth. There is no greater authority. You go in my authority. Go everywhere in fulfillment of the Promise—Jesus’ presence and authority is with you. Jesus was saying, “You proclaim the message, I will do the work.”

“Whatever you bind on earth.....

Acts 3—the lame man. Peter said, “In the name of Jesus.” Jesus had already ascended into heaven, but Peter understood he had the promise of the authority of Christ.

Acts 4—When Peter and John were called in by the city leaders they asked Peter, “By what power or what name have you done this?” Where did you get this authority? Who authorized you to do this?

Peter then preached to them and said there is No other Name....

When he got through, the men marveled and realized that Peter and John had been with Jesus. They preached everywhere in fulfillment of promise of Jesus’ authority and presence.

Please understand that **when** these first century followers of Christ went out there were no churches, no Bible schools, no New Testament, no Christian TV, no videos, no worship CD’s, no touring worship bands. They preached to people who either did not believe in God or who served many gods. But they did have the promise of Christ’s authority and presence. That is why they went **everywhere** preaching the gospel. God worked with them. His presence and authority was with them. That is why on the day of Pentecost 3000 were saved. A few days later 5,000 were saved. Then the number of believers multiplied.

I can go everywhere preaching the gospel, because I have been with Jesus. He is alive in me. His authority is on my life. Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world.

There is no part of this world that cannot be touch by the gospel of Christ.

FUGONG COUNTY, IN CHINA'S YUNNAN PROVINCE, HAS SO MANY BELIEVERS THAT IT IS KNOWN AS "CHRIST COUNTY," WITH ABOUT 90% OF ITS 70,000 PEOPLE PROFESSING FAITH IN CHRIST. IMPRESSED WITH THE FALLING CRIME RATE AND OTHER SOCIAL BENEFITS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ARE ACTUALLY ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO BELIEVE. (SOURCE: "WORLD PULSE")

When Jesus told his disciples to go to all nations—to go everywhere preaching the gospel, it appeared to be an impossible task. A small group of 120 people were told to go everywhere. There was no printing presses, no radio, no TV, no quick mode of travel. You traveled by foot, by boat or by animal. Yet they went everywhere. Look at what has happened since that time.

IN 100 AD THERE WERE 360 NON-CHRISTIANS PER TRUE BELIEVER. TODAY THAT RATIO IS ABOUT 8 TO 1. INCREDIBLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN REACHING THE WORLD FOR CHRIST

As recently as 150 years ago the church world forgot that Jesus had said to go everywhere.

WILLIAM CAREY, THE FATHER OF MODERN MISSIONS HAD TO CONVINCING THE CHURCH WORLD THAT MISSIONS WAS OF GOD. HE STARTED A REVOLUTION IN MISSIONS, BUT IT WAS COSTLY. EARLY MISSIONARIES ALMOST ALWAYS WENT TO THEIR DEATH ON THE FIELD. OF THE 35 MISSIONARIES THAT WENT TO GHANA BETWEEN 1835 & 1870 ONLY TWO LIVED MORE THAN TWO YEARS. AND YET THIS MODERN MISSIONS MOVEMENT KEPT GROWING. They were going EVERYWHERE!

ALONG COMES A HUDSON TAYLOR WHO WANTS TO REACH ALL OF CHINA. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE ON GOING REVIVAL IN CHINA IS A RESULT OF THOSE EFFORTS?

The director for the Chinese State Administration for Religious affairs has stated that there are 130 million Chinese Christians. (2007)

LFTL has been involved in helping to provide 3 million Fire Bibles in the Chinese language so that the pastors and leaders of this great revival movement will have a Pentecostal study Bible.

We can go everywhere preaching the gospel.

WHILE IN GUATEMALA, CAMERON TOWNSEND REALIZES THAT NOT EVERYBODY SPEAKS SPANISH IN THAT COUNTRY AND LAUNCHES THE WYCLIFFE TRANSLATORS. (Wycliffe translators start a new translation about every 4 days)

At the end of this service you are going to be given an opportunity to be preach everywhere in fulfillment of the promise by your faith promise (or giving) to LFTL. Your investment is going to help proclaim the gospel around the world.

In this scripture Jesus teaches that we are to:

III. Preach to Everyone, Everywhere in the Power of the Holy Ghost

v. 19 & 20

Mark does not tell us everything that happened between verse 19 & 20. We learn from Luke's gospel that after Jesus ascended into heaven that His followers, in obedience to His command, returned to Jerusalem to wait for spiritual power. Jesus had told them to not leave Jerusalem until they were endued with power from heaven. According to what Luke writes in Acts these people waited for 10 days after Jesus had

ascended into heaven. They knew they could not preach everywhere without the power of the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost something happened. The Holy Spirit came upon 120 believers and radically changed their lives. They were endued with power in the person of the Holy Spirit.

When a crowd gathered, many of whom were mocking and laughing, Peter stood up to address the crowd, remember, this is the same Peter that 53 days earlier had denied ever knowing Christ. This was the same Peter who would not even acknowledge to a teen age girl that he had been with Jesus.

But now, he stands to preach to a crowd of thousands of people. What made the difference? Peter could preach everywhere because he had the Power of the Holy Ghost.

Later when Peter was arrested, he preached to a group of educated religious people in the Power of the Holy Ghost.

When strong persecution came against the believers the scriptures say, "Those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the Word." (Acts 8:4)

I can preach everywhere through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Spirit filled people are missions minded people. The Holy Spirit was given to us to fulfill the missionary vision of Jesus. You shall receive power....(Acts 1:8)

IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT GOD CHOSE TO POUR OUT HIS SPIRIT ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST. PENTECOST IS A HARVEST FESTIVAL. IT WAS A TIME OF THANKSGIVING AND CELEBRATION UNTO GOD FOR THE BOUNTIFUL HARVEST. I THINK GOD PURPOSELY CHOSE THIS DAY TO POUR HIS SPIRIT TO SHOW THE NEW BELIEVERS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ABOUT MISSIONS. WHILE I BELIEVE THAT THE INITIAL PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT IS SPEAKING IN TONGUES, GOD DOES NOT GIVE US THE HOLY SPIRIT SO WE CAN SPEAK IN TONGUES. HE GIVES US THE HOLY

SPIRIT TO EMPOWER US FOR THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE WORLD. THE MISSION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN ONLY BE FULFILLED THROUGH THE CHURCH'S OUTREACH TO THE WORLD. WHEN THE CHURCH DOES NOT MAKE MISSIONS ITS TOP PRIORITY, SHE QUENCHES THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MISSION IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS.

If you claim to be Spirit filled and are not missions minded, then I have to say you got a different Holy Ghost than what was poured out on the day of Pentecost.

Interestingly, the Holy Spirit uses people. People just like you. He takes what we give—ourselves and makes it powerful enough to meet the needs of a world that is in spiritual darkness even if He has to perform a miracle to make it happen.

CONCLUSION

We can't all physically go everywhere to preach the gospel. But we can all go everywhere preaching the gospel because of our partnerships. The Philippian church was one of the first missions minded churches mentioned in the Bible. Paul let these believers know that because of their missions giving they were in a partnership with him. Your giving is not a substitute for going. By your giving you are going.

By our investment in Light for the Lost, we can go everywhere preaching the gospel.

Cecil Culbreth: Founder and President of His Story Ministries, works with churches and ministries within the United States to provide copies of the various editions of Book of Hope on a donation basis. Cecil and his wife Patti, serve as US Missionaries with the Assemblies of God.