

Sermon Series: “Intentional Disciples–Purposeful Mission”—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN–5/28/2006

Title: “So what don’t we get about the word ‘go’?”

Text: Acts 1: 6-11

Intro.: *Illus.: Silence lost the case*

Theme: With so much to share and so much going for us as believers in the risen Lord Jesus, we can’t help but get out and get the good news out to our friends, neighbors, and world.

Top five excuses not “to go”

- “I’m too busy with other things.” (vs. 6,7)
 1. Time got away from me (friend moved, schedules did not work out, transferred to another department, school ended)
 2. **Print and read Luke 9: 59-62**
 3. **ILLS. Too busy to be rescued**
- “I’m too intimidated.” (vs. 9, 10)
 1. What would they say or do to me if I started to talk about Jesus or sound too religious?
 2. *Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." 1 Peter 3:13-14*
- “I have no right to impose my religious beliefs on someone else.” (vs. 8)
 1. Parents with children — “I’ll let them make up their own mind.”
 2. Politically correct world which says all religions have equal place on world’s stage
 3. *For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time. 2 Tim 1: 7-9*
- “I don’t have the right words.”
 1. **Example of Moses**
 2. *The Lord said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." Ex 4: 11-12*
- “I just don’t want to.” (vs. 10-11)
 1. **Example of Jonah**
 2. Thank God that he did not wait for you and me to make the first “right move”
 3. *For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Romans 5:10*

Jesus’ reasons to GET GOING

- You have a wonderful message
 1. *I will show the wonder of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes. Psalm 17:7*
 2. **ILLS.: It showed on your face**
- You are authorized
 1. *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples . . . Matt 28: 18-19*
- You have a promise to back you up
 1. We will receive power from the Holy Spirit (vs. 8) and His powerful word at your disposal
 - a. *Do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Mat 10:19-20*
 - b. *So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11*
- You have an urgency to get the message out, now (vs. 11)
 1. **ILLS.: Life and death urgency**
 2. *And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. Romans 13:11*

Silence lost the case

I read about a court case that was lost because of the silence of an attorney. The distinguished lawyer Samuel Hoar (1778-1856) was representing the defendant. When it was time to present his case, he told the jurors that the facts favoring his client were so evident that he would not insult their intelligence by arguing them. The jury retired to deliberate and returned in a few minutes with a verdict of guilty. Samuel Hoar was astonished! "How," he asked, "could you have reached such a verdict?" The foreman replied, "We all agreed that if anything could be said for a case, you would say it. But since you didn't present any evidence, we decided to rule against you." Silence had lost the case.

Too Busy to Be Resuced

A friend said mournfully the other day that he'd lived his life like the Professor on "Gilligan's Island." While he found time to fashion generators out of palm fronds, vaccines out of algae, he never got around to fixing that huge hole in the boat so he could go home. How many people actually do? **Anne Lamott, "Sincere Meditations," theooze.com; submitted by Mike Kjergaard, Hampton, Virginia**

It Showed on Your Face

Many years ago some men were panning for gold in Montana, and one of them found an unusual stone. Breaking it open, he was excited to see that it contained gold. Working eagerly, the men soon discovered an abundance of the precious metal. Happily, they began shouting with delight, "We've found it! We've found gold! We're rich!" They had to interrupt their celebrating, though, to go into a nearby town and stock up on supplies. Before they left camp, the men agreed not to tell a soul about their find. Indeed, no one breathed a word about it to anyone while they were in town. Much to their dismay, however, when they were about to return, hundreds of men were prepared to follow them. When they asked the crowd to tell who "squealed," the reply came, "No one had to. Your faces showed it!"

Life and Death Urgency

Sitting on the hard wooden bleachers at Fort Benning while attending the United States Army Airborne School, we prepared for our first parachute jump. Soon we would soar hundreds of feet above the red Georgia clay and hear the jumpmaster bark out the orders, "Stand up! Hook up! Check equipment! Stand in the door! Go! Go! Go! Understandably, the instructors had our undivided attention. The Airborne sergeant's voice rang out confidently as he explained what to do in case of a parachute malfunction. "If your main parachute should fail to deploy, don't panic—pull the handle of your auxiliary parachute. Should your auxiliary parachute fail to fill with air, don't panic—pull it in toward your body and then vigorously throw it away from yourself. Should your auxiliary chute again fail to deploy, don't panic—vigorously repeat this process." He paused dramatically, looking intently into our eyes. Then with a slight mischievous grin he slowly stated, "Should this also fail, don't panic. You'll have the rest of your life to get your parachute to deploy." **Tim Wilson, pastor of Indian Hills Christian Fellowship, Indian Hills, Colorado, from a sermon titled, "Urgency"**

Acts 1:6-11

⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Luke 9:59-62

⁵⁹ He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-by to my family." ⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."