

The Invitation

Mark 16:15 (NASB)

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Today I want to break this down into bite size pieces.

This has been called the Great Commission

Theologians have labelled 2 of Jesus's sayings as "Great"

1. Great Commandment - Love God with all your heart, soul and mind, love your neighbor as yourself.
2. Great Commission - Go into all the world.

Great = above average or normal

Commission = instruction or duty

Many saints dread this commission and so they avoid it - but this commission is only dreaded by those who view it as a duty demanded by religion, to those who see it as an invitation offered by love it becomes a natural byproduct of our love for our community.

If we were to sync up the Great Commandment with the Great Commission we would see that the one empowers the other.

Why

If I love I tell.

If you find a video online that makes you laugh what do you do? You share it - you want others to know the joy that you felt when you watched it.

You don't have to share it - its not a religious duty - you share it because you want to

If you find a new product that makes your life easier and better what do you do? You share it right? Why? Because its a religious mandate? No! Because you want others to feel as clean and smell as fragrant as that new body wash has made you feel and smell.

That's all Christ is asking - share with other what He has done for you.

If the story of God's love is going to be told it will only be told by those who have experienced God's love, whose lives have been saved, transformed and improved by God's love.

Who

Because the writers used the word "preach" many think that this is the preachers job.

This is a task best left to the missionary, the pastor, the evangelist, prophet and teacher.

But instruction was not given to an individual, or even designated to a rank or office

This instruction was given to a group

- You need not be a preacher
- You need not have a Phd in history, or a doctorate in doctrine
- You don't even need know what hermeneutics means?

All you need is a story - and all of us have a story.

Our mandate is to tell our story and all of us are story tellers.

Every Christ follower has a story of how Christ changed their lives and that is all they need tell.

I'll touch this more in a few moments

Go

Go - verb - denotes action it means to move, to advance to make progress.

Go is never "gone" - past tense

Go is never "going" - future tense

Go is always "go" - present tense

Always moving, always advancing and always progressing

Into all the world. Every where you go is part of the world.

There is nowhere you have ever been that was not part of the world.
So where ever you are - that is where you are to "Go tell it"

Preach

Preach literally means to proclaim, to tell.

What do we tell? The good news - The entirety of the Bible is a story.

It's a story of God's love, a divine romance between the Creator and His creation.

In this story there are many characters and each have a part of the story.

Jesus is of course the main character, but not the only one.

Peter has a part, Paul has a part, James, John and Andrew all have a part - each has a story.

But they aren't the only ones that have a part of this magnificent story.

- Jimmy has a story
- Debra has a story
- Cleve has a story
- Darnell has a story

No one can tell my story like me. I was there. I was a witness. I can't tell Darnell's story with the same passion and authority that Darnell does because its his story

So I will tell my story, its my story to tell because I can tell it is to well

Its not about doctrine because people can argue doctrine

It's not about facts and history because people can disagree with the facts and disagree with the history but you can't debunk my story - because I know every line of it is true.

Luke 8:39 (NLT)

39 "No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you." So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him. -tell them all the wonderful things God has done for you.

You see I know beyond any doubt the level of pain I felt deep inside the morning I went into that building filled with those people.

People who had been broken, disfigured and scarred but Jesus had put them back together.

I have total recall of the story I heard that told of a second chance, a new life without the pain, the stain and the sin

I can tell you how in that place filled with those people I opened my heart to this Jesus and all (and I mean ALL) of that pain went away.

I walked out of that building and the sky was bluer, the air was sweeter and I couldn't stop smiling

That's my story - and that is what I'm supposed to tell. What's yours?

Romans 10:14 (NLT)

14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

After we share our story all we need do is invite them to come to a place - like this place.

John 4:29 (NASB)

29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?"

It's an invitation. That ain't hard!

Luke 14:16-24 (NASB)

*16 But He said to him, "A man was giving a big dinner, **and he invited many;***

17 and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.'

18 "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.'

19 "Another one said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.'

20 "Another one said, 'I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.'

21 "And the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.'

22 "And the slave said, 'Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.'

23 "And the master said to the slave, **'Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled.'**

24 'For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.'"

The goal of the invite is that the Father's house would be full.

Every seat occupied, every heart mended, every body healed, every soul saved and every destiny restored.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NASB)

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Go out and bring them in - that is the Master's request of us today.