

Series: "GO!"

For Message: Matt 28:18-20, 10:32-33, 3:13, 15; Romans 10:9, 6:4; John 14:15, 21

Message Title: "GO Publicly"

Introduction: Welcome to BMZ CHURCH! Glad you're here as we CONTINUE our WORSHIP SERIES called: "**GO**"! ACTIONS that IMPACT ETERNITY. And YOU and I are INVITED to PLAY a PART. We're SPENDING TIME over the NEXT FEW WEEKS with one of the MOST IMPORTANT PASSAGES in The BIBLE. We're USING the BOOK of MATTHEW. It's **The GREAT COMMISSION**. **PICKLES?** Not a snack...

THESE are JESUS' LAST WORDS according to MATTHEW. We FIND these GREAT WORDS AFTER Jesus' DEATH, Resurrection, and RIGHT BEFORE He ASCENDS, in His RESURRECTED BODY, into HEAVEN. Jesus gives The DISCIPLES (AND US) His FINAL INSTRUCTIONS ... THEY'RE GREAT!

These WORDS are GREAT ... AND they are called a COMMISSION. They are INSTRUCTIONS for GOING on MISSION WITH and FOR JESUS. JESUS SENDS US (you and me in 2023) ON a MISSION. And HE'S NOT PLAYING ... IT'S FOR REAL. Let's READ it TOGETHER ... MATTHEW 28:18-20 = *Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

OK, we need to TAKE a MINUTE and BETTER UNDERSTAND what THE MISSION IS. Jesus STARTS with "*I have been given all AUTHORITY in heaven and on earth.*"

LAST WEEK = CIRCLE the word, "**AUTHORITY**" and WRITE the word, "**POWER**." WHEN we GO on MISSION, we're NOT going UNDER our OWN POWER, SMARTS, or ABILITY. JESUS SENDS us on MISSION and GIVES us HIS POWER to CARRY it OUT!

Verse 19 ... "**THEREFORE**". What is it THERE FOR? A "**THEREFORE**" is usually FOLLOWED by SOMETHING IMPORTANT. BEFORE it ... JESUS has ALL the POWER and AUTHORITY ... UNDISPUTED. BECAUSE Jesus has all POWER and AUTHORITY, WE FOLLOWERS, need to LISTEN CAREFULLY to what FOLLOWS the "THEREFORE". Here it is ... "**GO!**" JESUS wants US, under HIS POWER / AUTHORITY to ... "**GO!**"

In the GREEK, it TRANSLATES ... "**AS YOU ARE GOING**". WE THINK if we're on a MISSION, we need TO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE ... AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST / REMOTE VILLAGE somewhere. NOPE. JESUS says, "**AS YOU ARE GOING...**" As you are GOING through your DAY, GOING to the STORE /WORK / LUNCH / SCHOOL ... WHEREVER you are GOING ... YOU have a JOB to DO / a MISSION to BE ON ... "**YOU'VE been GIVEN POWER ... THEREFORE, AS you are GOING through your DAY, MAKE DISCIPLES!**"

Our NUMBER ONE JOB AFTER GIVING our LIVES to CHRIST as SAVIOR and LORD is to BE OBEDIENT to HIM. He says to BE OBEDIENT to THIS ... and it's IMPORTANT ... **GO! And MAKE DISCIPLES**. After we BECOME DISCIPLES, we GO and MAKE DISCIPLES! It's FIRST PRIORITY ... Our GREAT COMMISSION.

God's NUMBER ONE GOAL for YOUR LIFE is for YOU to MAKE DISCIPLES. We, by our WORDS, and BY our EXAMPLE (we're LIVING THEM), TEACH OTHERS to OBEY

the COMMANDS JESUS GAVE US. What were JESUS' TWO MAIN COMMANDS? **“LOVE ONE ANOTHER as HE LOVES US”** and **“GO and make DISCIPLES”**.

That's the PLAN for THIS SERIES ... to LEARN HOW to LIVE JESUS' MISSION FOR US and to GET BETTER at IT! IF YOU'VE EVER WONDERED what LIFE was ABOUT and HOW we could MAKE IT COUNT for SOMETHING ... Here it is!

THEN, Jesus says ... BAPTIZING THEM (Father, Son, Spirit). Well, THAT is INTERESTING. PART of JESUS' COMMISSION for us is to BAPTIZE DISCIPLES. Now, in the TRANSLATION to ENGLISH, this gets KINDA WEIRD. The WORD in GREEK (original language) was **“BAPTIZO”**. That WORD **“BAPTIZO”** means to TAKE UNDER, SUBMERGE, or FULLY IMMERSE.

One of the EARLIEST TIMES we SEE this WORD **“BAPTIZO”** in WRITING is in the 2nd Century BC when the GREEK POET and PHYSICIAN, NICANDER wrote a RECIPE for PICKLES ... He USES the word **“BAPTIZO”** so say, “SUBMERGE the CUCUMBER in the VINEGAR for it to BECOME a PICKLE.” **“BAPTIZO”** the CUCUMBER ... SUBMERGE it.

Here's the POINT: When you BAPTIZO the CUCUMBER, it CHANGES. There is a **COMPLETE and PERMANENT TRANSFORMATION** that HAPPENS when the CUKE is SUBMERGED. BAPTIZO signifies PERMANENT CHANGE. When JESUS uses BAPTIZO for the DISCIPLES, He SIGNIFIES PERMANENT CHANGE.

Then, he says to OBEY ALL the COMMANDS ... OBEY. We do NOT LIKE that WORD, do we? We LIVE in a WORLD that PUSHES BACK at ANY AUTHORITY, YET that is what JESUS DEMANDS for HIS FOLLOWERS. OBEEDIENCE is KEY!

The GREAT COMMISSION, ULTIMATELY is about OBEEDIENCE. It's about DOING what JESUS ASKS ... WILLING to LIVE out our FAITH PUBLICLY ... so EVERYONE can SEE it!

How to Go Public with My Faith:

TODAY, let's talk about FOUR WAYS we can GO PUBLIC with our FAITH in OBEEDIENCE to JESUS' GREAT COMMISSION...

#1 = Publicly CONFESS Jesus for My SALVATION

Do you REMEMBER the STARTING POINT for The GREAT COMMISSION? It is our OWN FAITH. I SURRENDER to JESUS for SALVATION and for His LORDSHIP in MY LIFE. **BEFORE I GO** and MAKE Disciples, **I NEED to BE** a DISCIPLE and NOT be SHY about it. Jesus DIED a PUBLIC DEATH for YOU and He wants YOU to LIVE a PUBLIC FAITH for HIM. Jesus was NOT ASHAMED to DIE for YOU and He does NOT want YOU to be ASHAMED to LIVE for HIM.

Paul said it like this ... **ROMANS 10:9 = If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.** Would you please UNDERLINE **“OPENLY DECLARE”** ... because THAT is GOING PUBLIC.

Now, PAUL is CLEAR that our SALVATION comes when we **“BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART”** the TRUTH about JESUS ... He is LORD and GOD RAISED JESUS PHYSICALLY from the DEAD. That is where SALVATION comes FROM ... BELIEVING in your HEART.

BUT Paul also REMINDS us OUR FAITH is NOT to be KEPT HIDDEN in our HEARTS ... SALVATION comes when we BELIEVE in our HEARTS ... AND ... OPENLY DECLARE our FAITH. It's a PUBLIC PROFESSION of FAITH ... we let OTHERS KNOW about it. Now, PAUL did NOT come UP with THIS on His OWN.

JESUS ... **MATTHEW 10:32-33 = “Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.”**

It SEEMS to MATTER to JESUS that we LIVE out our FAITH in a CHRIST-LIKE MANNER. What we DO HERE on EARTH ... there are REPERCUSSIONS in HEAVEN. Acknowledge HIM HERE and HE'LL ACKNOWLEDGE YOU before GOD. If you DENY HIM HERE on EARTH, He will DENY YOU to His FATHER.

WOW! Somehow PART of our SALVATION DEPENDS on PUBLIC CONFESSION.

#2 = Publicly ADMIT to Others That I Am a CHRISTIAN

The 2nd WAY to GO PUBLIC with MY FAITH ... ADMIT it to OTHERS. It SEEMS MOST people want to KEEP their FAITH to THEMSELVES, and they'd LIKE YOU to KEEP YOURS to YOURSELF. Well, AGAINST our FEELINGS, JESUS says NOT TO!

Please UNDERSTAND (talking to myself too!), in OUR COMMUNITY (and every community in our country), a GREAT MAJORITY do NOT have a FAITH in JESUS. YET those SAME PEOPLE are LOOKING for SOMETHING MORE in LIFE...

You do NOT NEED to PREACH. As a matter of fact, please DON'T. BUT, if SOMEONE ASKS WHY you GO to CHURCH or WHY you are a CHRISTIAN or WHAT you BELIEVE ... Listen to PETER ... 1 PETER 3:15-16 = *Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. 16But do this in a gentle and respectful way.*

PLEASE do NOT MISS that ENDING. SHARE your HOPE as a BELIEVER, GENTLY and RESPECTFULLY. If we SHARE CHRIST in a NON-CHRISTLIKE MANNER, have we TRULY SHARED CHRIST?

This is NOT DIFFICULT, it's just a little SCARY for SOME. You do NOT need to FORCE the CONVERSATION ... SURE was a HOT and DRY SUMMER. *Do you know WHERE ELSE it's HOT and DRY?* Don't ... BUT IF someone ASKS HOW was your WEEKEND, tell them WHAT CHURCH you GO to and how much you APPRECIATE your CHURCH ... and how IMPORTANT your FAITH is to you.

"What are you UP TO TONIGHT?" "I'm GOING to my GROWTH GROUP..."

Be INTENTIONAL in ways that are NATURAL, NOT FORCED. #3...

#3 = Publicly ACKNOWLEDGE My Faith in Jesus Through BAPTISM

Now, as we THINK about a BELIEVER'S BAPTISM (not between your parents and God), this is YOUR PUBLIC PROFESSION of your SAVIOR and LORD. And, in The GREAT COMMISSION, Jesus COMMANDED IT. It's a FIRST STEP ONCE we BECOME a FOLLOWER of JESUS. A proclaimed FOLLOWER of JESUS who REFUSES to be BAPTIZED says they will NOT GO PUBLIC with MY FAITH. Is that faith?

Please allow me to GIVE you **FOUR REMINDERS about BAPTISM** so maybe it is LESS CONFUSING ... **#1 = JESUS was BAPTISED.** Did JESUS really NEED to be BAPTIZED to PROCLAIM His FAITH in HIMSELF? NO. BUT He CHOSE to be BAPTIZED as an EXAMPLE for US.

Listen ... MATTHEW 3:13, 15 = *Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. 15But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him.*

Pastor Stan, WHY do I NEED to be BAPTIZED as a BELIEVER? Is it IMPORTANT? Well, let's NEVER MINIMIZE what JESUS MAXIMIZED. JESUS made it IMPORTANT. He NOT ONLY TOLD US, HE SHOWED US the IMPORTANCE!

#2 = BAPTISM does NOT SAVE ME. BAPTISM is like a WEDDING RING. When SARAH and I EXCHANGED RINGS 35 YEARS ago THIS YEAR, we were NOT MARRIED BECAUSE we PUT ON RINGS. We PUT ON RINGS BECAUSE they were SYMBOLS of our MARRIAGE! This RING TELLS the WORLD that I BELONG to SOMEONE. BAPTISM is a DISPLAY to EVERYONE AROUND YOU that you BELONG to JESUS.

#3 = BAPTISM ILLUSTRATES my NEW LIFE in CHRIST. When we GO UNDER (“**BAPTIZO**”), it REPRESENTS Jesus’ DEATH, BURIAL and RESURRECTION, but it ALSO illustrates our NEW LIFE in CHRIST. JESUS RESURRECTED in a NEW BODY / New LIFE. Our BAPTISM represents BURYING our OLD LIFE of SIN and being RESURRECTED into a NEW LIFE ... a NEW WAY of LIVING that COMES through the POWER of JESUS.

#4 = BAPTISM IDENTIFIES ME with JESUS. It’s a way to SHOW the WORLD you FOLLOW Jesus. The SALVATION PROGRESSION is like this: A person ASKS Forgiveness, UNDERSTANDING it comes ONLY through JESUS on a CROSS. THEN they COMMIT to FOLLOW JESUS as LORD ... usually this is through a PRIVATE PRAYER or a conversation with a CHRISTIAN. After this INTERNAL COMMITMENT, the NEXT STEP is to IDENTIFY with JESUS PUBLICLY by being BAPTIZED. SO ... your BAPTISM is your FIRST CHANCE to SHARE your FAITH with OTHERS.

Paul ... **ROMANS 6:4 = *For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.*** Our BAPTISM SHOWS we have been TRANSFORMED to NEW LIFE ... we’ve CHANGED. Our BAPTISM REMINDS us WHO we FOLLOW from NOW ON...

INTERESTED? Saved but NEVER BAPTISED? CC / Prayer box ... “**BAPTISM**” November? LAST ONE ... HOW do we GO PUBLIC with our FAITH? OBEY...

#4 = Publicly FOLLOW Jesus in Daily OBEDIENCE

Listen, BAPTISM / “**BAPTIZO**” is a ONE-TIME, very IMPORTANT DECLARATION of your FAITH in JESUS. And it is the STARTING LINE to a LIFETIME of DAILY OBEDIENCE to HIM. One DAY / STEP / ACT of OBEDIENCE at a TIME. So, here is my QUESTION: Are YOU FOLLOWING JESUS DAILY, in OBEDIENCE? BECAUSE that is HOW we SHOW our LOVE for JESUS / PROVE our LOVE ... Jesus said ... **JOHN 14:15, 21 = “If you love me, obey my commandments. 21 Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me.** So, WHAT STEP of OBEDIENCE are you WAITING to TAKE TODAY? What do YOU need to DO TODAY to be OBEDIENT? What do you KNOW God WANTS you to DO or STOP DOING?

Maybe it’s SOMETHING we TALKED about TODAY ... Believers **BAPTISM?** Write it down. Let’s be OBEDIENT. Sign up for a **GROWTH GROUP? SEMINAR? TITHING?**

Please, WHATEVER GOD is ASKING you to DO ... do NOT PUT IT OFF. Take STEPS of OBEDIENCE to SHOW your LOVE for JESUS ... **MATTHEW 28:20 = 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”**

Let’s PRAY Together!

Next Steps: *Memorize Matthew 28:18-20*

Read John 14

Attend One of Two “GO!” Seminars

Monday, September 25 ____ (MZ) Tuesday, September 26 ____ (B)

Sign Me Up for GG# _____

Hosting (Closing)

HEY, it has been a GREAT DAY here at BMZ... Glad you've been here with us!
In a moment, we are going to RECEIVE the OFFERING so please take this time to finish COMPLETING any information.

- Or NEXT STEPS on your CONNECTION CARD (**FULLY FILLED OUT!!**)
- AND when our ushers come around to RECEIVE our OFFERING
- You can drop that card in the offering basket.

IF you are a First-Time Guest with us today

• We are so glad you joined us ... And we have a GIFT for you.
It's this book "**UNSHAKABLE**" and it's at the BACK TABLE / By the DOORS...

- all you need to do is HIT "**SEND**" your COMPLETED Connection Card

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- I just want to remind you ... STEWARDSHIP is DISCIPLESHIP ... we RECEIVE an OFFERING EVERY Sunday BECAUSE it's BIBLICAL ... AND it HELPS us GROW in our FAITH!
- STEWARDSHIP VERSE ... JOHN 14:21 = *Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me.*
- FIRST of our EARNINGS go back to the ONE who Blessed us in the first place! That's why WE/I do Automated Giving! I get paid ... the TITHE comes OUT FIRST!
- God's plan for BUILDING His Church was through TITHING and GIVING of the FOLLOWERS ... Share the GOOD NEWS! To REFRESH OTHERS!
- As Developing Followers of Jesus Christ, WE need to KNOW what the BIBLE says about GIVING ... NOT just what we THINK it should say.
- **MONEY is a HEART ISSUE.** And GOD wants what is BEST for your HEART! Listen, if GOD LOVES US so much that HE is willing to GIVE UP His OWN SON FOR US, WHY would GOD LEAD us ASTRAY in FINANCES?! USHERS ...
- NEXT WEEK: **GO! Into all the world...**

"Truth without Grace is Fundamentalism (Brutality). Grace without Truth is Sentimentalism (Hypocrisy)."

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