

Series: "DARE..."

For Message: Matthew 9:36, 22:39, 28:19-20; John 1:14, 3:16, 9:4, 10:10, 17:18; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:19; Luke 16:27-28; Acts 20:24; 1 Corinthians 13:7

Message Title: "DARE ... to GO!"

Introduction: Good Morning BMZ! Happy SUPER BOWL Sunday! It is great to be BACK and have ALL BMZ Regional Church Represented. It's going to be a GREAT DAY overall and we are going to START by FINISHING UP the "DARE..." Series.

We've said ... it is DARING to STAND for GOD'S WORD in THIS WORLD ... You will receive PUSH BACK if you start talking about JESUS as TRUTH ... **John 14:6 = "I am the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE and no one goes to the Father except through ME."** That will STIR things up a bit...

GRAB your MESSAGE NOTES ... *If you haven't already, I invite you to take out your 3-HOLE PUNCHED MESSAGE NOTES and CONNECTION card. You will see that there are blanks to fill in ... Please take the time to do so. Grab a pen and write down whatever else you think is important to you and your faith journey. After worship, drop off your CONNECTION CARD and take your MESSAGE NOTES home. Please Re-read the Scripture and the notes to keep growing and learning. For those of you joining on-line, you can go to our website, www.bmzchurch.org / MESSAGES ... find the NOTES and the CONNECTION CARD and follow along ... LET'S PRAY (turn off marked lights during prayer)!*

Let's get AT IT ... Last Week, JOHN talked about the GREAT COMMISSION. You'll see it in your NOTES and we'll get there in just a MOMENT. But, JOHN actually spent time talking about the 2nd HALF of the GREAT COMMISSION ... the part where it says, "GROW"! THIS WEEK we are going to look at the FIRST PART of The GREAT COMMISSION; the part where it says, "GO"! Alright, lets read it TOGETHER this MORNING as ONE CHURCH ... **Matthew 28:19-20 = ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 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.** ¹ Go ahead and CIRCLE the word, "GO", because that's what Jesus COMMANDED US (you and me) to DO!

Okay, QUICK BACKGROUND. The GREAT COMMISSION is at the VERY END of MATTHEW'S VERSION of the HISTORY of JESUS. At the beginning of the BOOK is Jesus' BIRTH ... then, Jesus TEACHES and HEALS and LIVED His LIFE as an EXAMPLE for many ... Finally, JESUS is CRUCIFIED on a CROSS, BURIED, Resurrected ... and then gives His DISCIPLES and FOLLOWERS some FINAL INSTRUCTIONS. Jesus gives us His GREAT COMMISSION as his LAST WORDS (according to Matthew) BEFORE LEAVING this earth. Therefore, Jesus' FINAL COMMAND is OUR FIRST COMMAND! Our FIRST COMMAND from Jesus is to "GO"!

BUT, UNLESS you UNDERSTAND WHY Jesus CAME to the EARTH, you are going to STRUGGLE with WHY HE GETS to COMMAND YOU to "GO"! Follow me INTO your NOTES ...

WHY JESUS CAME FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH:

Again, HERE at the END of MATTHEW'S account of the HISTORY of JESUS, Jesus is about to LEAVE. Well, WHY did JESUS Leave HEAVEN and COME to EARTH in the 1st PLACE?! THREE Reasons ... #1 =

1. HE CAME TO SHOW HIS LOVE FOR US.

To EXPLAIN Jesus LOVE for us, I have to go back to the FIRST PART of the BOOK ... NOT Matthew, but the WHOLE BIBLE. If you remember the 1st 3 CHAPTERS of GENESIS, it is the CREATION Story. God has CREATED and SET UP Adam and Eve with a GREAT place to LIVE and a great LIFE. They are in PARADISE / Garden of Eden BECAUSE God LOVES them! God also LOVES them ENOUGH to give them FREE WILL ... a CHOICE to LOVE God BACK or NOT. If LOVE is FORCED, it is NO LONGER LOVE, right?! So, GOD, out of His LOVE for Humans MADE in God's IMAGE, are given a CHOICE to LOVE God BACK! They had a CHOICE to OBEY God or DISOBEY God.

Adam and Eve are in the GARDEN with INCREDIBLE FREEDOM. Only ONE RESTRICTION ... Don't Eat of a SPECIFIC TREE. And, they made a CHOICE. Remember? They CHOSE to DISOBEY God. And, DISOBEDIENCE is a BIG DEAL to GOD...

There were CONSEQUENCES for Adam and Eve's DISOBEDIENCE. They were KICKED OUT of the Garden. And, that DISOBEDIENCE trickles DOWN through TIME to US today. God created YOU and He LOVES YOU and gives you FREEDOM to LOVE Him back. But, much like Adam and EVE, we often CHOOSE POORLY. EVERY ONE of us in this room have CHOSEN to DISOBEY God. BUT, that does NOT MEAN God DOES NOT LOVE US!

NOW, you're Wondering WHY I'm talking about Adam and Eve instead of JESUS coming to EARTH to LOVE US. It's BECAUSE we need to UNDERSTAND JESUS CAME to RESTORE the RELATIONSHIP with GOD that was BROKEN back in the GARDEN. Or ... whenever WE had our GARDEN MOMENT of Disobedience. We had the CHOICE to LOVE Him BACK, but we ALL CHOSE, at some point, to DISOBEY God. Remember, God takes DISOBEDIENCE SERIOUSLY! According to GOD, our DISOBEDIENCE / SINFULNESS condemns us to SEPARATION from GOD in THIS LIFE and for ETERNITY!

Do you want to know HOW MUCH God LOVES YOU? How much He wants a RESTORED RELATIONSHIP with YOU? That's WHY JESUS came from HEAVEN to EARTH ... He LOVES YOU! God KNOWS that WITHOUT Jesus, WE, BECAUSE of our DISOBEDIENCE would be ETERNALLY SEPARATED from God! BUT, God COULD NOT, because of Who God is, LEAVE us DEAD in our SIN. So, God sent JESUS, SO we could EXPERIENCE PARADISE AGAIN ... Eternally! Want to know HOW MUCH God LOVES you? Look at JESUS... Look at this ... *John 1:14 = ¹⁴ So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.* ² And, IF that is NOT enough, the BIBLE is EXTREMELY CLEAR about God's LOVE and our SIN in Romans ... *Romans 5:8 = ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.* ³

God would be GREAT to SEND His SON for GOOD people, BUT, He went FURTHER ... He sent His SON for US! A bunch of SINNERS!

Adam and Eve, using their God-Given FREE WILL, turned their backs on God in the garden. We do the SAME! But, God goes PROACTIVE and says you don't have to LIVE that way for ETERNITY. He sends His Son JESUS. Jesus dies in our PLACE for OUR SINS. Do you know WHY? To SHOW God's LOVE for YOU! Let me tell you this TRUTH again ... God LOVES YOU UNCONDITIONALLY and UNFAILINGLY and has a BETTER PLAN for your LIFE! There is NOTHING you can DO to make God LOVE you MORE or LESS! Why did Jesus come? #1 = to SHOW God's LOVE for YOU. #2 =

2. HE CAME TO SHOW HIS COMPASSION FOR US.

² Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Jn 1:14). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

³ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ro 5:8). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

Again, #1 = Jesus came BECAUSE of His LOVE for us. He could NOT HELP IT. It's His CHARACTER. God is LOVE / Jesus IS Love. But, Jesus also has COMPASSION for us ... He's CONCERNED about us. He's CONCERNED about our ETERNITY. If we STAY DEAD in our SINS, not only do we have a BROKEN Relationship with GOD now; we would be SEPARATED from God for ETERNITY in a place the BIBLE calls "HELL".

Jesus' COMPASSION for us OFFERS to SAVE us from Eternal DESTRUCTION. In His COMPASSION, Christ came to REMIND us of what HELL is LIKE. Jesus came from HEAVEN to EARTH because he SAW that we were CONFUSED and HELPLESS to SAVE OURSELVES from HELL and couldn't just ALLOW it to HAPPEN. Jesus has COMPASSION for YOU and wants to SAVE you from ETERNAL DAMNATION in HELL.

Jesus SHOWED His COMPASSION throughout His time on earth ... **Matthew 9:36 =**
³⁶ *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*⁴ WE are CONFUSED and HELPLESS in our LIVES today and for ETERNITY! So, God DID SOMETHING ABOUT IT ... **John 3:16 =**¹⁶ *"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."*⁵

Jesus came to SHOW His LOVE for us, as well as His COMPASSION! God did everything He could to SAVE YOU from HELL, except to FORCE you to BELIEVE. He won't FORCE you to Believe. BUT, He OFFERS SALVATION and GIVES us a CHOICE. Remember, He LOVES us enough to ALLOW us to CHOOSE. And, He has COMPASSION enough to HELP us in our HELPLESSNESS about ETERNITY. Love / Compassion / #3 =

3. HE CAME TO SHOW HIS DREAM FOR US.

"DREAM" might seem like an ODD word when we talk about God. BUT, let's go back to the Garden of Eden. In the Garden, God CREATED us to be IN an UNBROKEN RELATIONSHIP with Him. We were DESIGNED to be in CONSTANT FELLOWSHIP with GOD ... a RELATIONSHIP with God, NOW and for ETERNITY. That was God's ORIGINAL DREAM for US. BUT, when we TURN our BACKS on God, that ORIGINAL DREAM of God's is ENDED. So, JESUS came to RESTORE that DREAM! Jesus came so we could get BACK to God's ORIGINAL DREAM of having a BEST LIFE here and for ETERNITY.

Jesus said it this way ... **John 10:10 =**¹⁰ *The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*⁶ God's ORIGINAL PLAN was for us to have RICH and SATISFYING LIFE; BUT, we miss out on that when we CHOOSE AGAINST God and God's WORD. So, Jesus CAME from HEAVEN to EARTH ... Because GOD DREAMS for YOU to have a RELATIONSHIP with Him. God wants YOU to find FORGIVENESS through JESUS and a CERTAINTY that you're going to HEAVEN when you DIE ... AND, for you to have the BEST LIFE POSSIBLE HERE in this life. God wants YOU to have a GREAT LIFE! That's WHY JESUS CAME from Heaven to Earth.

Doesn't that ALL sound GOOD to you? So, let me ask: Have you EXPERIENCED God's LOVE for you through JESUS Christ? Have you experienced God's COMPASSION for YOU through JESUS Christ? Do you KNOW God's DREAM for YOU through JESUS?

Do you REMEMBER 1ST COMING to a SAVING Faith in JESUS? Do you remember WHEN you FIRST BELIEVED? For me, it was a Tuesday morning in MARCH 1983. My DAD and I went to the ALTAR at Faith Church in NEENAH. Unforgettable... What about you? If you are a FOLLOWER of JESUS, would you WRITE down YOUR DATE ... at least the YEAR?

⁴ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Mt 9:36). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.
⁵ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Jn 3:16). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.
⁶ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Jn 10:10). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

If NOT ... maybe TODAY is your DAY... Keep LISTENING, because if you want to EXPERIENCE WHY Jesus came ... this is IT!

WHY WE SHOULD GO INTO OUR WORLD:

Remember, we're talking about The GREAT COMMISSION, where Jesus said we were MADE to GO into ALL the WORLD... Well, BEFORE we can UNDERSTAND our GOING to make DISCIPLES for JESUS, we need to UNDERSTAND WHY JESUS CAME in the 1st PLACE. That's what we just did. NOW, why should WE GO into our WORLD in 2019? #1 =

1. I GO BECAUSE OF MY LOVE FOR OTHERS.

Just like Jesus came to SHOW His LOVE for ME, I go BECAUSE of my LOVE for OTHERS. As I EXPERIENCE God's LOVE in MY life, it is only NATURAL that I want OTHER people to EXPERIENCE God's LOVE as well! My LOVE for OTHERS comes from GOD'S LOVE for ME. Listen ... **1 John 4:19 = ¹⁹ We love each other because he loved us first. ⁷**

It's IMPOSSIBLE to truly LOVE other people UNTIL we first EXPERIENCE God's LOVE for US! Let me ASK: Do you have a SINCERE DESIRE to see others EXPERIENCE the same LOVE YOU'VE EXPERIENCED from GOD? Do you ACHE for your FAMILY members, CO-WORKERS and FRIENDS to understand the UNCONDITIONAL LOVE of GOD? If you do, it's ONLY BECAUSE God made His love EVIDENT to you!

Think about WHAT is the OPPOSITE of LOVE... (Hate?). NO! The OPPOSITE of LOVE is INDIFFERENCE / APATHY! If you say you "LOVE" someone but have a COMPLETE LACK of CONCERN for them ... that's INCREDIBLY UNLOVING! That's downright MEAN!

If we BELIEVE the BIBLE / BELIEVE in JESUS and BELIEVE He is TRUTH ... Therefore, BELIEVE there is a very REAL PLACE called HELL ... IF we BELIEVE a person WITHOUT CHRIST is SEPARATED from God ... AND, we are INDIFFERENT about it when it comes to people we CARE about ... that is the OPPOSITE of LOVE!

The ULTIMATE EXPERISSION of the LOVE we've EXPERIENCED and RECEIVED from JESUS is to INVITE OTHERS to EXPERIENCE it TOO! That's why JESUS gave these GREAT STATEMENTS ... the GREAT COMMISSION = "GO"! IOW – LOVE is about LIVING out the 2nd part of The GREAT COMMANDMENT ... **Matthew 22:39 = ³⁹ A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰⁸**

If you CLAIM to be a FOLLOWER of JESUS, we know JESUS COMMANDS us to Love PEOPLE. How can we SAY we are FOLLOWERS of CHRIST WHEN we REFUSE to LOVE people ENOUGH to TELL them about JESUS? How can we say we LOVE people if we DON'T TELL THEM about LIFE and DEATH and ETERNITY? You can't say you LOVE someone and NOT CARE about their LIFE / JOY / Happiness and/or ETERNITY.

More than just our LOVE for OTHERS ... IF we LOVE Jesus, we will OBEY His COMMANDS! We MUST GO and TELL. Go and INVITE. We share JESUS with them because WITHOUT Jesus, they are LOST HERE and for ETERNITY.

INVITE someone for NEXT Week's KICKOFF of our RELATIONSHIP SERIES, called: "UNTANGLED". Why would I GO and TELL others? Because I LOVE THEM! #2 =

2. I GO BECAUSE OF MY COMPASSION FOR OTHERS.

Jesus had COMPASSION for US because He knew APART from HIM, we would spend ETERNITY in HELL. When we THINK about our Family / Friends / Co-Workers who do NOT know JESUS, we have COMPASSION on them, because we know APART from JESUS, they too will spend ETERNITY SEPARATE from God.

⁷ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (1 Jn 4:19). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

⁴⁰⁸ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Mt 22:39-40). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

Jesus told a story in Luke 16. He tells about a NAMELESS MAN who lived without COMPASSION and DIED apart from GOD. Now, we are reminded this man was RICH, but that's NOT WHY he's in HELL. He's in HELL because he REJECTED JESUS ... Luke 16:27-28 = ²⁷ "Then the rich man said, 'Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father's home.' ²⁸ For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don't end up in this place of torment.' ⁹

Why did JESUS TELL this Story? A COUPLE of reasons. 1) To REMIND US how Horrible HELL is and 2) to REMIND US THIS WORLD is the only chance we GET to TELL FRIENDS about the LOVE and COMPASSION of GOD. This RICH guy was trying to SHOW COMPASSION for his BROTHERS and Jesus let him know it was TOO LATE! Can't DO ANYTHING about it NOW! IF we are going to TELL people about God and SIN and FORGIVENESS and Jesus, then we MUST DO IT in THIS LIFE! Like, NOW!

Throughout HISTORY, Followers of Jesus have INVITED OTHERS. Think about it. Jesus had about 120 DISCIPLES gathered around him when He GAVE the GREAT COMMISSION. TODAY, there are over 2 Billion people in our world who are CHRISTIANS. Which is GREAT. The PROBLEM is there are OVER 7.5 Billion people currently on the PLANET! Anyway, those EARLY FOLLOWERS of JESUS were COMPASSIONATE! Here's PAUL ... Acts 20:24 = ²⁴ But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God. ¹⁰ (REPEAT) What is the WORK ASSIGNED? TELLING others!

There is NO BETTER way for YOU to IMPACT ETERNITY than to GO and TELL your friends about Jesus. I know you CARE about your Family and Friends, BUT, I'm not sure we always REMEMBER it's a matter of LIFE and DEATH. Eternities TRULY HANG in the BALANCE! How can you SHOW COMPASSION? Invite someone to WORSHIP with you NEXT WEEK (Connection Card)! Here's a GREAT QUESTION to ASK yourself ... "Will anybody be in heaven because of you?" Jesus COMMANDS that we GO. Will you? CONNECTION CARD = Write down a Name / Initials and we'll be praying with you! #3 =

3. I GO BECAUSE OF MY DREAM FOR OTHERS.

Do you have a DREAM for the PEOPLE in your life who do NOT yet KNOW Jesus? I DO! Here's what I BELIEVE ... A person's LIFE gets SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER when they have a RELATIONSHIP with GOD through JESUS! That MOTIVATES ME! That helps me go and INVITE ONE more PERSON to WORSHIP when I don't FEEL like it! BECAUSE, God has something BETTER for that PERSON than what they are EXPERIENCING! THAT is WHY I keep DOING what I DO WEEK after WEEK, Month after Month and YEAR after YEAR ... God has a BETTER DREAM for people than THEY DO! But, SOMEONE needs to TELL them!

Ever wonder why I keep PREACHING from the BIBLE? Ever wonder why we (BMZ) do RELATIONSHIP SERIES where the MESSAGES FLY in the FACE of what our CULTURE tells us? Because God has PLACED in ME a DREAM for OTHERS to have a BETTER LIFE! In this World, we are GIVEN MESSAGES OVER and OVER until we BELIEVE them to be TRUE and the VAST MAJORITY of PEOPLE are Swallowing those MESSAGES HOOK, LINE and SINKER and DON'T KNOW IT! Ever wonder why I keep PREACHING the BIBLE? Because PEOPLE are LIVING in SEVERE PAIN. They are NOT WHOLE. They are BROKEN, and they CANNOT even RECOGNIZE IT. And Jesus is the ULTIMATE HEALER in THIS LIFE, but SOMEONE NEEDS to TELL THEM! (JEFF FAULKNER VIDEO)

Do you wonder WHY I keep PREACHING the BIBLE? SIMPLE: God CALLED me to.

⁹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 16:27-28). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

¹⁰ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ac 20:24). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

Let me ask ... What would I look like if EVERY PERSON in your OFFICE KNEW Jesus? Your CLASSROOM? What would it look like if EVERY PERSON in your FAMILY KNEW JESUS? My prayer for MY Family and FRIENDS is probably the same as yours ... Ephesians 3:19 = ¹⁹ *May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.* ¹¹ Maybe you're thinking, "**NO! I've tried INVITING people before and it has NOT WORKED ... I'm not going through THAT again!**" Let me remind us ... 1 Corinthians 13:7 = ⁷ *Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.* ¹²

Remember WHY JESUS Came from HEAVEN to EARTH? Love. Compassion. Dream. As we think about the "GO" part of the GREAT COMMISSION, listen to JESUS PRAYER for US ... John 17:18 = ¹⁸ *Just as you sent me into the world* (Jesus had a MISSION to SAVE the WORLD), *I am sending them into the world.* ¹³ The GREAT COMMISSION. We are the "CO". We partner with JESUS to let people KNOW about HIS MISSION ... Save the World!

As we WRAP UP, let me REMIND you of JESUS WARNING: We only have SO MUCH TIME ... John 9:4 = ⁴ *We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work.* ¹⁴

You can put off INVITING that PERSON another week if you want to, but NIGHT is COMING ...

Let's PRAY!

Next Steps: *I will memorize Acts 20:24*
I will ask God to open my eyes to people around me who need to know Jesus.
I will invite the following friend to the "Untangled" kick-off next week:

 Sign me up for GG#: _____

"Truth without Grace is Fundamentalism (Brutality). Grace without Truth is Sentimentalism (Hypocrisy)."
 Special thanks to Andy Stanley, Nelson Searcy, and R.A. Pegrum for outlines and ideas for this worship series.

¹¹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Eph 3:19). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.
¹² Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (1 Co 13:7). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.
¹³ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Jn 17:18). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.
¹⁴ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Jn 9:4). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.