

Series: "GO!"

For Message: Matt 28:18-20; John 1:41-42; Eph 2:8-9; Romans 3:22, 10:9; 1 Peter 3:15

Message Title: "GO Passionately"

Introduction: Welcome to BMZ CHURCH! Glad you're here as we CONTINUE our WORSHIP SERIES called: "**GO**"!

When I was 16 Years Old, I started working at BURGER KING in Neenah. Once hired, you had to WATCH TRAINING VIDEOS BEFORE you were allowed to TOUCH anything. THEN, when you got into the KITCHEN, you had a TRAINER or at least SOMEONE already WORKING the STATION you were GOING to be RESPONSIBLE for. I had someone SHOW me how to WORK the BROILER (burgers), the FRYERS, the BURGER BOARD and WHOPPER BOARD ... COUNTER / DRIVE-THRU. The idea was you were TRAINED ENOUGH so you could AT LEAST START. You might NEED some HELP in your FIRST SHIFTS, but at LEAST you KIND of KNEW what to DO.

But THEN, it took PRACTICE. Those FIRST SHIFTS were ROUGH if it GOT BUSY ... but OVER TIME and DOING those JOBS AGAIN and AGAIN, I got BETTER at it and kind of KNEW HOW it was GOING to GO ... more CONFIDENT I could DO the JOB.

I was TRAINED. I was PREPARED. I was EQUIPPED and given the TOOLS to be SUCCESSFUL doing FAST FOOD at BURGER KING. It just TOOK TIME and PRACTICE...

TODAY, we CONTINUE with our SERIES on JESUS' GREAT COMMISSION. And MAYBE, IF you are a CHRISTIAN, you've thought that YOU'D LIKE to LIVE OUT your FAITH and maybe, even RECENTLY, THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE to LIVE OUT The GREAT COMMISSION. You've THOUGHT ... *I WANT GOD to USE ME. I WANT to SHARE my FAITH / TALK ABOUT my FAITH in JESUS. BUT ... it FREAKS me OUT a BIT and I get SCARED. I do NOT FEEL PREPARED to SHARE. I DON'T KNOW HOW!*

Well, TODAY is TRAINING DAY. SAME for ME at BURGER KING ... I want to GIVE you a FEW TOOLS that will HELP you GO from HESITANT to PASSIONATE about SHARING your FAITH. GRAB your NOTES ... Let's START With READING The Great Commission TOGETHER ... *MATTHEW 28:18-20 = Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 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."*

In THESE VERSES, Jesus GIVE US a MISSION to LIVE OUT that BRINGS us MEANING and PURPOSE and can also IMPACT the WORLD AROUND you.

And AT the HEART of The GREAT COMMISSION is THIS JOB ... **GO and MAKE DISCIPLES**. That is the HEART of The Great Commission. That is the GOAL for JESUS ... HELP people who do NOT KNOW JESUS, GET to KNOW JESUS, and BECOME Disciples.

Then, the QUESTION is: HOW? HOW am I, just a NORMAL Follower of Jesus supposed to GO and MAKE DISCIPLES? Listen, IF you are going to DO YOUR COMMISSION with JESUS, be PASSIONATE about JESUS' COMMAND ... you MUST get READY!

Over the NEXT FEW MINUTES, please ALLOW ME to be your COACH and GIVE you some **STEPS** that will HELP PREPARE you to "**GO!**". Then, I want to GIVE you some **TOOLS** to help you KNOW HOW to "**GO!**". GOOD?

In your NOTES ... **3 Steps to Prepare to Go:**

**1. Be AVAILABLE for God to use me.**

FIRST ... I let GOD KNOW that I'm WILLING and AVAILABLE to be USED for HIS Great Commission. SIMPLE ... PRAY this PRAYER ... "GOD, USE ME." It takes a LOT of COURAGE to PRAY those THREE SIMPLE WORDS. You are making yourself AVAILABLE and letting GOD KNOW you are OPEN to ANYTHING GOD might ASK YOU to DO.

God will NOT FORCE YOU. It's UP to YOU to MAKE yourself AVAILABLE to HIM.

**2. Be ALERT for Divine Opportunities for God to use me.**

ONCE you are OPEN to GOD'S PLAN, He will PLACE some OPPORTUNITIES in FRONT of you. But WE need to be ALERT to those "***DIVINE OPPORTUNITIES.***" A DIVINE OPPORTUNITY is ANY OPPORTUNITY where YOU can MAKE an ETERNAL IMPACT on someone's LIFE. God will MAKE sure you HAVE Divine Opportunities ... we NEED to be ALERT. HEAR ME ... it is EASY to get DISTRACTED / PREOCCUPIED with your OWN LIFE / BUSY ... and we MISS the OPPORTUNITIES GOD keeps PUTTING in OUR LIVES to IMPACT someone ELSE'S LIFE. Step #3 to PREPARE...

**3. Be PREPARED for God to use me.**

Make yourself AVAILABLE to GOD. Be ALERT for DIVINE OPPORTUNITIES. Then, BE PREPARED for GOD to USE ME. Maybe you FEEL like if GOD presented ME with one of those DIVINE OPPORTUNITIES ... well, ***DON'T! Because I'm NOT SURE what to SAY or DO. I'm NOT GOOD at TALKING about my FAITH. I don't KNOW the BIBLE well!***

Please ... GOD does NOT want YOU to be DISCOURAGED and DREAD being USED by HIM. GOD wants YOU to be CONFIDENT and EQUIPPED so you can NOT WAIT to TAKE ADVANTAGE of those DIVINE OPPORTUNITIES.

But ... HOW? How can I BECOME CONFIDENT and PASSIONATE about The Great Commission? TWO WAYS: **PRAY** and **PRACTICE**. Start PRAYING for people you KNOW do NOT KNOW JESUS. PRAY for THEM to have an OPENNESS to HEARING the GOOD NEWS of JESUS. INVITE Christ's POWER / AUTHORITY / WISDOM / LOVE BACK into the SITUATION and THAT PERSON'S LIFE. You DON'T NEED to DO this ALONE.

Then, PRACTICE. PRACTICE what you will SAY when the OPPORTUNITY COMES up. PRACTICE brings CONFIDENCE and we GET BETTER over TIME. But PRACTICE is NECESSARY and WE can NOT ... NOT PRACTICE.

TODAY, FOUR WAYS to INCREASE our CONFIDENCE in LIVING out The GREAT COMMISSION for JESUS. AND we'll NEED to PRACTICE ... **4 Ways to Go Passionately: #1 = INVITE to Church**

This is the SIMPLEST, yet MOST EFFECTIVE WAY to SHARE your FAITH! Just INVITE SOMEONE you KNOW to COME WITH you to WORSHIP or a GG. Listen, WHEN you INVITE SOMEONE to WORSHIP, you and I have NO IDEA what GOD will DO in THAT PERSON'S LIFE. That's PART of the EXCITEMENT. There is POWER in an INVITATION.

We have an EXAMPLE from SCRIPTURE. SOMEONE SIMPLY INVITED their BROTHER to COME and MEET UP with JESUS. **JOHN 1:41-42 = Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means "Christ"). Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus.** That was IT. Do you KNOW what HAPPENED out of that SIMPLE INVITATION. SIMON PETER was CHANGED FOREVER. THEN, PETER (Matt 16) went ON to CHANGE the WORLD. He LED the EARLY CHURCH. He WROTE. He was CLOSE to JESUS, BECAUSE someone who LOVED HIM, INVITED HIM.

When you INVITE someone to a PLACE where they can MEET UP with JESUS through HIS WORD, it MAY CHANGE their LIFE / ETERNALLY. This does NOT involve a LONG CONVERSATION / EXPLANATION. You are SIMPLY SHOWING someone ELSE what YOU'VE FOUND. Only QUESTION: Do we CARE enough about SOMEONE to ASK?

OFTEN, we have the WRONG PERSPECTIVE when we THINK about INVITING someone. INSTEAD of FOCUSING on what the INVITATION might MEAN to the OTHER PERSON, we FOCUS on OURSELVES. We OVERANALYZE it and THINK of ALL the THINGS that could GO WRONG and WHAT SOMEONE might THINK. We MAKE it about OURSELVES when it's NOT. Two RECENT studies to EASE our MINDS...

79% of UNCHURCHED Americans say they would NOT MIND if a FRIEND TALKED about their FAITH. (This percentage has been rising over the last few years). I GUESS we need to PRACTICE TALKING about our FAITH, right?

Barna ... ALMOST 50% of UNCHURCHED Americans said they'd IMMEDIATELY ACCEPT and INVITATION from a FRIEND to COME to CHURCH. THAT'S 1 out of 2 ON AVERAGE. BUT ... you MIGHT need to INVITE more than 2 ... FRIENDS!

NOW, this is the SIMPLEST WAY, but let me OFFER a COUPLE MORE... IF you've EVER had anyone TELL you that RELIGION STUFF is ALL about the RULES and there are TOO MANY to FOLLOW, USE THIS ... #2

### **#2 = DO vs. DONE**

Write that down. People THINK that CHRISTIANITY is just a BIG TO-DO LIST ... or a TO-DON'T LIST. FOR MOST people they SPELL "Religion" ... "D-O". They THINK they NEED to DO ALL the RIGHT THINGS to EARN their WAY into HEAVEN or to be ACCEPTED by GOD. NOW, they are NOT WRONG, because MOST RELIGIONS (Islam, Judaism) HAVE a LIST of THINGS to DO to be ACCEPTED by GOD.

EASTERN RELIGIONS have TO-DO LISTS to GAIN a HIGHER STATE of BEING.

Then, our WORLD tells us we MUST DO THIS and THAT or it WILL NOT get DONE. If it's to BE, it's UP to ME. IF you WANT it DONE RIGHT ... (?) RIGHT!

BUT, NOT in CHRISTIANITY. It is the ONLY WORLD RELIGION that SPELLS "Religion" DIFFERENTLY ... "D-O-N-E". For CHRISTIANS, getting into HEAVEN is NOT about DOING GOOD THINGS or BAD THINGS. No. It's ABOUT what JESUS has ALREADY DONE. SALVATION is NOT about WHAT I DO, but what JESUS has DONE.

God's WORD teaches us that ALL that NEEDS to HAPPEN for ME to be ACCEPTED by GOD and GET INTO HEAVEN has ALREADY been DONE by JESUS. He was the PERFECT SACRIFICE for ALL our SINS and He TOOK them and KILLED them on a CROSS. NOW, we SIMPLY ACCEPT THAT from the DEPTH of our BEING and TRUST HIM and HIS WAYS. IF we will ACCEPT the GIFT of what JESUS DID on a CROSS, then GOD will WIPE AWAY your SINS and SECURE your ETERNITY in HEAVEN. I CAN be FORGIVEN by GOD BECAUSE of what JESUS DONE DID on a CROSS.

Paul writes ... *EPHESIANS 2:8-9 = God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*

You CAN'T DO ENOUGH to EARN this GIFT. JUST ACCEPT what's been DONE. #3 ...

### **#3 = The Morality Ladder**

NOTHING to WRITE DOWN BUT get READY to DRAW. The MORALITY LADDER works WELL when PEOPLE THINK they've DONE ENOUGH GOOD to GET INTO HEAVEN, or when they say, "WELL, we ALL GO to a BETTER PLACE."

This HELPS people who THINK IF they do MORE GOOD than BAD in LIFE, that's GOOD ENOUGH. I'll MAKE IT. Here's what you DO ... grab a NAPKIN ... AGREE that their IDEA seems GOOD in THEORY, but ETERNITY is a LONG TIME and MAYBE it's WORTH thinking about ... THEN ... DRAW a LADDER "The Morality Ladder". On the TOP, write "HEAVEN" (not a stairway) and on the BOTTOM, write, "HELL".

Then, say ... Let's THINK about SOME PEOPLE who we KNOW a BIT about their GOODNESS / BADNESS. Who would you say HISTORICALLY has been GOOD? Let's PUT them UP HIGH on the LADDER ... CLOSER to HEAVEN. MOTHER THERESA certainly DID a LOT of GOOD on the STREETS of CALCUTTA. Billy GRAHAM offered the GOSPEL to MILLIONS over MANY DECADES. (Someone in Worship?)

Then, let's THINK about some PEOPLE who are NOT SO GOOD ... HITLER, a MURDERER, a CHILD MOLESTER, HUMAN TRAFFICKING ... let's PUT them LOW on the LADDER... CLOSER to HELL.

Well, HERE'S a QUESTION: WHERE are YOU on the LADDER? NOT as HIGH as Mother Theresa or Billy. NOT as LOW as Adolf or TRAFFICKERS. But, WHERE? Most people PUT themselves ABOVE the MIDDLE. THEN, what about the PERSON sitting NEXT to YOU? Where do THEY GO on the LADDER? A little below you?

THEN ... WHERE'S the LINE between GOING to HEAVEN and GOING to HELL? Right BELOW YOU? BETTER QUESTION: WHERE does GOD PLACE the LINE between HEAVEN and HELL? WAY UP HERE at PERFECTION. NO SIN.

IF you are going to EARN your WAY to HEAVEN, you MUST have NEVER SINNED and NEVER WILL. PERFECTION. PURE HOLINESS. There's a GAP between Mother Theresa / Billy / Hitler / Child Molesters / and YOU ... and HEAVEN. We ALL SIN and FALL SHORT. WHAT is your PLAN to FILL that GAP between YOU and being RIGHT with GOD?

JESUS! Paul ... ROMANS 3:22 = *We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.* #4 ... #4 = The Three Circles

ONE MORE ... INVITE to CHURCH, DO vs. DONE, Morality Ladder, and finally, THREE CIRCLES. DRAW this in YOUR NOTES ... Maybe you're in a SPIRITUAL Conversation and you SIMPLY ASK, "Can I SHOW you a PICTURE that CHANGED my LIFE and HELPED ME get CLOSER to GOD?" Napkin? Notecard?

Circle 1 = **BROKENNESS** ... WORLD (war, poverty, injustice, racism, pain, etc.) ... PEOPLE (shame, loneliness, emptiness, pain caused and received) ... NOT GOD'S PLAN ...

Circle 2 = **GOD'S PERFECT DESIGN** ... SIN (anything against God) PULLED us to BROKENNESS. Sin is the PROBLEM, but GOD had a PLAN to RESTORE US ...

Circle 3 = **JESUS** (Solution) ... He's **GOD** ... Came DOWN ... **PERFECT** ... PERFECT SACRIFICE on a CROSS to RESTORE US ... 3 days later HE ROSE from the DEAD so WE CAN TOO ... BACK to GOD'S **DESIGN**.

From BROKENNESS to JESUS ... **TURN** from our Sinful WAYS and **CHOOSE** to FOLLOW JESUS as LORD. JESUS to God' DESIGN ... **GROW** in our relationship with JESUS ... THEN, we can **GO!** BACK to THOSE who are BROKEN and INVITED them to BE DISCIPLES as WELL. 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.*

Every PERSON in this WORLD is in ONE of TWO PLACES: BROKENNESS or GOD'S PERFECT DESIGN ... WHERE are YOU? NOW ... PRACTICE ... We'll practice MORE in a SEMINAR NEXT WEEK ... Here's WHY we need to PRACTICE

... 1 PETER 3:15-16a = *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. But do this in a gentle and respectful way.*

Let's PRAY Together!

Next Steps: *Memorize Matthew 28:18-20*  
*Read Romans 3 and 10*  
*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 ... **EPHESIAN 2:8 = God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.**
- 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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