

WELCOME HOME WEEK 5 “GO”

– PATRICK WALTON / 11.26.2017

Matthew 28:16-20 | Acts 1:4-8;2:1-4,40-47

THE PILGRIM PEOPLE OF GOD

The Bible is a movement oriented book—it speaks of a people constantly going from one place to the next, developing friendships, cultivating the land, and looking for a city, “...Who’s Builder and Maker is God” (**Heb. 11:8-13**).

1st Peter 1:1 *“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims of the Dispersion...”*

That word pilgrim is Strong’s Greek word #3927 (*parepidēmos*)—PAR-EP-ID’-AY-MOS and it literally means a *foreigner, someone passing through but still with personal relationship with the people in that area*

Jesus Himself said 39 times in the Gospel of John alone that He was sent from God the Father to earth—But Jesus mission was nothing new, God always has and always will send His word into the earth.

John 17:15,18 *“I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one...As You sent me into the world, I have also sent them (you and me) into the world.”*

The people that you and I are sometimes working so hard to get away from are often the very people that God is sending us to. As good pilgrims/missionaries, Jesus is intending us to eat with others, drink with others, live life with others, and serve others as we share both our lives and His with the culture in which we’ve been set

John 4:27-35 *“And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked to a woman...The women then left her water pot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did...In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, Rabbi, eat...But He said to them, I have food to eat of which you do not know...Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent me...Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest...”*

BEING SALT AND LIGHT

At the conclusion of Jesus’ teaching on the 8 beatitudes He immediately moves from talking about the INTERNAL posture of our hearts to the EXTERNAL posture of our lives;

Matthew 5:13-16 *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it then be seasoned? It is good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

This call is going out to anyone who will come and partner with Jesus that through Him and by Him you might greatly impact the people of our culture.

Matthew 4:25 *“Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and beyond the Jordan...And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain...then He opened His mouth and taught them*

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The salt that Jesus is speaking of has two primary out-workings:

It Prevents Decay—Salt is used as a preservative as it slows down the process of decay. It doesn't ever eradicate decay, but it slows it down. This is what God has called us to do in the midst of our culture.

It Gives Flavor—Salt changes whatever it touches. It leaves people hungry and thirsty for more. And in the same way, God has called His people, in the midst of an entertainment hungry culture, to leave society hungry for more of Him through salty saints.

Being light in the midst of darkness means two primary things:

You Alone Are The Light—Christians, and Christians alone are the light of the world. Without the involvement of Christians in culture, there is no light. It's you!

Our Light Is Christ—As Christians our light doesn't belong to us, it's Christ's light shining through us. Christ's light not only lights up our way, but it also lights up the way for others around us.

IT'S ALL SUMMED UP

Matthew 5:16 *"(Therefore) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

Jesus is summing up His exhortation to us about being the salt of the earth and the light of the world with how we should respond. It's the *"in light of what I have just said, go and do/be it."*

Sometimes we overlook the simplicity of God's invitations, looking for deeper meanings and complex outworking's. We don't need a Greek word study to step out in faith and be the kind of people that Jesus is asking us to be, and doing the kingdom works that He's asking us to do.

According to Gallup Polls, only 8% of Americans say they work 40 hour weeks. 92% say they work around 47 hours a week.

52 weeks (1 year) x 47 hours = 2,444 hours a year worked

After 40 years of working average weeks (47 hours) you will have worked 97,760 hours or 4,073 twenty-four hour days or 11 years of 24 hour days.

What if we could redeem all that time by seeing our jobs, our careers, our workplace, our neighborhood as our ministry assignment? What if that person we're trying to get away from is the person that Jesus is trying to send you to?

Jesus isn't just the Chief Intercessor, He's also the Chief Evangelist. Our passion for the gifts of the Spirit must be coupled with compassion for broken people and the public proclamation of God's glory. In Acts 2, Peter understood that the outpouring of God's Spirit wasn't given just to enhance Christian meetings but to proclaim God's glory and lead sinners to Christ