

## Mark 16:15

*And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

I think we all are familiar with today’s verse, as we hear it taught from the pulpit to go out and tell others about Jesus. The problem is, even though we know it and hear it being taught, we twist it to mean something other than what Jesus really meant.

For example, we will interpret it as:

- ✓ Go into all the world and invite people to church.
- ✓ Go into all the world and invite people to a Christian concert.
- ✓ Go into all the world and invite them to your church picnic or event.
- ✓ Go into all the world and tell them that what they are doing is wrong.
- ✓ Go into all the world and picket at their abortion clinics or political rallies.
- ✓ Go into all the world and \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank)

The word **“Preach”** means: to *herald* (as a public *crier*), especially divine truth (the gospel); and none of our above examples sound like they would fit under the category of **“preach”**

No, that’s because Jesus is telling “us” to be a witness for Him, and not have someone else do the witnessing for us. Sad to say but this generation has become a lazy Christian generation, because we are expecting everything and everyone else to do the Lord’s work for us.

Case in point, we invite others to come to church so the pastor can preach the gospel to them. Now before you give a million excuses why your pastor can be a better witness to that person than you, let me stop you in your tracks and remind you that it’s not the pastor who is being the witness, but rather the Holy Spirit speaking through your pastor.

✠ **John 15:26** *“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”* (underlined for emphasis)

Sometimes people tend to forget that it’s not the vessel that’s delivering the message that is so important, but rather the Holy Spirit speaking through that vessel, whether it be you **“whom I shall send to you”** or your pastor, you both have the same Holy Spirit. Yet once again, so many like the fact that they are the Lord’s vessels, but really don’t want to be used by Him and are just happy to be sitting on a shelf waiting for the return of Jesus and doing nothing other than watching everyone else do the preaching or work.

If you say that is not true, then ask yourself, if you are a willing vessel for the Lord, what are you doing for the Lord? Are you telling others about Jesus, or are you pawning their eternity on someone else and having them tell others about Jesus and not you?

If you were in heaven and your best friend or family member were standing before God being judged, and they turned to you and asked, “*Why didn’t you tell me about Jesus.*” Would your response be, “*Hey, I invited you to church, it’s not my fault you didn’t go.*”

I know it may sound crazy, but once again, I repeat Jesus’ words which say “***Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.***” So, let’s stop throwing, or pawning the job on the pastor or others to do this. But rather let’s make it more personal.

- ✓ Go into your kids bedroom and preach the gospel.
- ✓ Go to your best friends house and preach the gospel.
- ✓ Go to your mom and dad and preach the gospel.
- ✓ Go to your brother or sister and preach the gospel.
- ✓ Go to lunch with your coworkers and preach the gospel. (Not during work hours)
- ✓ Go to social media and preach the gospel.

Go, look into the mirror and remember how someone preached the gospel to you. Now go do the same for someone else like it was done for you, and don’t let others steal your joy of serving the Lord and being obedient to what He has called you to do, and no longer pawn it on someone else to do it for you.

† **Luke 6:31 (NLT2)** *Do to others as you would like them to do to you.*

† **Philemon 1:21** *Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.*