

Mark 3:13-14 (MSG)

He climbed a mountain and invited those he wanted with him. They climbed together. He settled on twelve, and designated them apostles. The plan was that they would be with him, and he would send them out to proclaim the Word.

Jesus could have chosen twelve Rabbis, or twelve rich businessmen, but instead He chose twelve ordinary men to walk with Him for three years during His ministry, and even to do extraordinary things as they did.

When you think about that, it should be an encouragement to all of us, because most of us are ordinary people, with ordinary jobs, who have ordinary families, and ordinary cars, and ordinary homes, and.... Yet Jesus chose ordinary people just like you and me to do extraordinary things.

Think of the great commission and listen (read) to what Jesus said.

† **Mark 16:15** *And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

The part we want to focus on today is “**He said to them**” and who are the “**them**” ordinary people like you and I. Notice He didn’t break it up and say, “*Okay Mathew, you go to the tax collectors and preach the gospel to them. Peter, Andrew, James, and John, you go to the fishermen and preach the gospel to them. Mary Magdalene, you go to the prostitutes and preach the gospel to them*” No, rather Jesus said to them all to go preach the gospel. And who did he tell them to preach the gospel to? “**every creature**” or if you think about it, to ordinary people who are ordinary just like you are. Not go to just the homeless, but also go to the rich as well, and the regular people. Don’t just go to the whites or blacks or Asian but to all, regardless of race, color, or nationality.

Also notice that when Jesus said to “**Go into all the world**” He didn’t say how to go. He didn’t say to go knock on doors or roam the streets being a street witness, but a simple, open command to “**Go**.” And for all of us, that does not look the same. There are those who do street witnessing and even knock on doors, and that’s awesome, because that is their calling. Others share in their jobs, some do so in small groups and bible studies, some do so in their own homes or neighborhoods. So we shouldn’t be discouraged that we are not going like someone else is, but the real question is, are we going in the way that the Lord wants us to go?

Example, I write these devo’s and post them on my website (UseTheSword.com) every day. But I also post them on social media daily as well, because I have a lot of non-Christian friends or

followers there. That's just one of several ways I am "going and preaching the gospel." I say that because once again, we are all ordinary people telling others about and Awesome God, and God has called us all to share His Son Jesus with others.

So, don't be discouraged that you have not done anything extraordinary yet like the apostles did, or like someone else has, like the Billy Graham's, or Chuck Smith's or Greg Laurie's, because God is not done with you yet. But then maybe He has used you, but you don't realize it because He uses your ordinary life, to do for His kingdom, and if it's for His kingdom, then it's extraordinary!

- † **Romans 1:16 (MSG)** *It's news I'm most proud to proclaim, this extraordinary Message of God's powerful plan to rescue everyone who trusts him, starting with Jews and then right on to everyone else!*
- † **Ephesians 3:10 (MSG)** *Through Christians like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!*
- † **2 Thessalonians 1:11 (MSG)** *Because we know that this extraordinary day is just ahead, we pray for you all the time—pray that our God will make you fit for what he's called you to be, pray that he'll fill your good ideas and acts of faith with his own energy so that it all amounts to something.*