**Ready? Let’s Go**

**Luke 10:1-11, 16-20**

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| **Slide** | **Sermon** |
| 1 | Title Slide |
| 2 | Story #1 – Introduction I heard recently about a man who prided himself on being exceedingly punctual. He followed a very precise routine every morning. His alarm went off at 6:30 a.m. He rose briskly, shaved, ate his breakfast, brushed his teeth, picked up his briefcase, got into the car, drove to a nearby ferry landing, parked his car, order the ferry across to the downtown business area, got off the ferry, walked smartly to his building, matched into the elevator, rode to the seventeenth floor, hung up his coat, opened his briefcase, spread his papers out on his desk, and sat down in his chair at precisely 8:00 a.m. Not 8:01, not even 7:59. Always at 8:00 a.m. He followed this same routine without variation for eight years.  Until one morning his alarm did not go off and he slept fifteen minutes late. When he did awake, he was panic stricken. He rushed through his shower, nicked himself when he shaved, gulped down his breakfast, only half-way brushed his teeth, grabbed up his briefcase, jumped into his car, sped to the ferry landing, jumped out of his car and looked for the ferry. There it was, out in the water approximately 15 feet from the shore. “I think I can make it,” he said to himself, running toward the dock at full speed. Reaching the edge of the water he gave an enormous leap out into the water and miraculously landed with a loud thud on the deck of the ferry. The captain rushed down to make sure he was alright. “Son, that was a tremendous leap,” the captain said, “but if you would have waited just another minute, we would have been to the shore.”  Transition: With this same sense of urgency that our text comes to us today.  Kingdom of God is a priority in Luke. In this text Jesus wants his disciples to share the Good News of God’s Kingdom to the many places he planned to go!  Let’s look at the instructions Jesus gave. |
| 3 | Harvest is plentiful, laborers are few  America’s birthday – O beautiful for spacious skies   * + - * + For amber waves of grain         + For purple Mountain majesty         + Above the fruited plan. |
| 4 | Likewise, we have a world of people who are waiting to here the good news of Jesus - - but workers are needed.  Amazed at all the homes around here and the new ones going up across the road!  Harvest is plentiful right here - - - more workers are needed. |
| 5 | B. Sending like lambs among wolves!!  Not Good news to me!!! Don’t want to go there, do you?  Yet, the 70 encounter resistance and they had to shake the dust of the towns from there and go on.  In Luke’s day, Christians met much resistance from Rome and from the Jewish leaders - - harassment, torture, even death. |
| 6 | When we speak frankly about our faith and our relationship with Christ and with others, we’ll get some odd looks, some we thought were friends aren’t anymore, people dismiss us as simple minded. Sometimes when we stand for justice, and fairness, we put ourselves in danger. |
| 7 | Story #2 – Marie  In 1968, Marie Ragghianti (Rag-gen-anti) took her 3 children and walked out on her abusive husband. She landed a job and worked hard for the state. She was eventually named chairperson of Tennessee’s Board of Pardons and Paroles – quite an honor for this industrious young woman. The thrill of this prestigious job is short lived, however. The legal counsel to the governor and the person who got her the job soon started badgering her to expedite clemency recommendations for ineligible prisoners. When rumors started circulating that one of the governor’s cronies was selling pardons to hard-core criminals, Marie took a stand against the legal counsel and the governor. She contacted the FBI.  The upshot was that there was an audit of Marie’s books and she was fired by the Governor. Even in the midst of their attempts to destroy her character, Mare filed suit against the governor for wrongful dismissal. Before the trial is over, a close supporter was murdered, but in the end, Marie was vindicated when the jury voted in her favor.  Where we step out in acts of fairness, peace and justice – all causes of Christ – no matter how small or large – we will encounter resistance and sometime outright danger! |
| 8 | Yes – bearing the Good News can be dangerous!! BUT I remember the image of Jesus being our Good Shepherd – His rod and his staff protects and comforts – He leads beside the still waters; He restores our souls. |
| 9 | Carry no bag, no purse, no sandals. Don’t even take time to talk to people on the road!  In other words – Keep it lean, streamline, manageable!! |
| 10 | EX: Moving from the mountain to Statesville – 7 years in Weaverville – longest since college years – Boy, did we accumulate stuff  – 4 pickup loads to landfill  – big yard sale  – 4 van loads to Christian ministries.  Result: I felt lighter, better, less encumbered.  That’s what Jesus is getting to here. Don’t let stuff get in the way of what’s most important. |
| 11 | Sharing the Good News with others   1. Too much stuff – ties you down physically  * Big yards, house, cars * Can’t leave town more than a few days because we have to get back and check on things  1. Ties you down emotionally – worried that we’ll lose it, or it will get damaged or stolen 2. Ties you down financially – takes so much of our income to maintain our stuff that we don’t have the money to give to the Kingdom work.   Too much stuff creates a greater challenge for us and begs us to become better stewards . . . . . How have we allowed things to sap away the urgency of sharing Christ with others?? |
| 12 | D. Stay with those who welcome you and eat what they eat.  Translation: don’t play your Christian faith for what you can get out of it!  A temptation for all of us. It’s a matter of orientation”   1. Are you Christian because of what it does for you? OR 2. Are you Christian because of what God want to do for the kingdom?   Answer: To these 2 questions makes all the difference.  EX: 100 AD- ? of whom is a real prophet for Jesus. How to know?  Book written – “The Teaching of the 12”  Rules for discerning  Rules for discerning   * if a person stayed in a place more than 3 days without working – FALSE Prophet * If he asked for more money or better food – FALSE Prophet   When we seek to share Christ – the focus is on others – not what we can get nor how much our church will benefit – but on that person knowing and accepting God’s love.  A mission statement should be – not to be ministered unto, but to minister to others. |
| 13 | E. Lastly, and most importantly, Jesus says with urgency – Meet the needs and share the Good News.  When the 70 returned they were overjoyed, amazed at what had happened. Miraculous healing, demons being cast out, people hearing and responding to God’s call.  This is exciting to me!! When we share our faith with others - - - share what God has done and is doing in our lives - - then amazing things happen.  Of course, I’m not telling you anything new. Many of you have had the same experience. |
| 14 | Hal Brady Story #3  Hal Brady of Dallas, Texas tells the story of a young man who came to a pastor and said he wanted to become a Christian. The pastor instructed him to read the Book of Acts as a preparation for this important decision. Weeks passed, but the young man did not return.  The pastor began to think he had made a serious mistake in his suggestion. Finally, almost a year later, the young man returned. When the surprised pastor asked where he had been, the man said, “You told me to read the Book of Acts. Every time I started to read it, it told me something to do. So, I stopped and did it! I have just been too busy to get back.    This young man read the story of the early church and took it to heart, didn’t let the stuff of life stand in his way and it changed him! |
| 15 | My prayer for you and for me as we begin to move forward in our faith –  We’ll Lift Christ up together,  We’ll Minister unto others together  We’ll feel a sense of urgency in our work,  We’ll know the joy that God gives in this life called Christian  And we will take that next step in our faith. |
| 16 | Are You Ready – to be all you can be? Well, Let’s go!  Amen. |