

## HE SAID WHAT?!?!

Title: Part 8 – “I Said Go!”

Date: May 31, 2026

While everyone in the house is saying "Hi" I want to take a quick second to welcome everyone joining us online or on our app. We consider you family, and we mean that. If there is anything we can do to pray for you or serve you, please reach out.

Well, welcome to summer! If you have a Bible or the Bible app, let's head to **Matthew 28**. If you don't have a Bible no worries, we'll put everything on the screens. But I want to read you the last thing Jesus ever said in the Gospel of Matthew. After seven weeks of looking at the surprising, confrontational, and beautiful things Jesus said during His life, I think there's no better way to close this out than with the last one-liner we have in Matthew's Gospel.

So, Matthew 28, starting in verse 18, this is what we call the Great Commission:

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. [Scholars believe this meeting on the mountain was where He was seen by 500 people at one time, that's why it says some doubted. The disciples had no doubts at this point because they had already seen a dead man walking. Verse 18] <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> **THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

We are in the final week of our collection of messages called **"He Said What?"** where we have been meeting the real Jesus in His own words. AND what a ride this has been!

- Week 1, Jesus asked the question that everyone must answer for themselves at some point, He said, **"Who do you say I am?"**
- Week 2, He revealed what God is actually like, He audaciously said, **"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."**
- Week 3, He diagnosed the thing that keeps us stuck when He said, **"They say the old is better."**
- Week 4, He held grace and holiness in perfect tension, He said, **"Go and sin no more."**
- Week 5, He looked at an extravagant sacrifice the world called wasteful and called it, who remembers, **"Beautiful."**

- Week 6, He reminded us, ***“He didn't come to bring peace but a sword.”***
- And last week, He turned to a dying criminal with His dying breath and said, ***“Today you will be with me in paradise.”***

Seven weeks. Seven one-liners. One Jesus—wilder, more compassionate, more confrontational, and more real than the version most of us were carrying around when this started. Amen?

But here's the thing. If all we do with these seven weeks is feel inspired, if all we do is nod along and take some notes and go, “That was great, I learned so much.” If that is all this is then we've missed the whole point. Because Jesus didn't speak just to be studied. He spoke to be followed. And His final words in Matthew’s Gospel make that crystal clear. He doesn't end with a theology lesson. He doesn't end with warm fuzzies. He ends with a commission!

Today I want to preach a message I’m calling:

### **“ I Said Go!”**

I want to start with a confession. One of the things that has always bothered me about church culture, which I have been a part of for 47 years (yikes), is that we are really good at consuming and not always that great at commissioning. We consume sermons. We consume worship. We consume podcasts and devotionals and Bible studies and concerts. We consume, consume, consume. And then we go home and wait for next Sunday, or the next episode of our favorite Christian podcast, so we can consume some more.

And listen, there's nothing wrong with being fed. You need to be fed. That's part of what we do here as a church. But at some point, if all you ever do is eat and never exercise, you don't get healthy. You get obese! Spiritually obese. Your Bible belt is on the last buckle obese. For so many believers in the west we are full of knowledge, but short on obedience.

I actually think this is one of the great dangers of a collection of messages like this. We've spent eight weeks (2-months) meeting the real Jesus. We heard some incredible things. We had some aha moments. Some of you took notes. Some of you posted about it on social media. And all of that is great. BUT if we walk out of this the same way we walked in, if nothing has changed or shifted, if nobody around us now encounters Jesus because of what happened in us over the last two months, then we just did a Bible study and didn't actually encounter Jesus.

See: ***The goal of the church has never been just information; it's always been transformation.***

Right? The reason we gather and worship and pray and open God's Word every week is not just about consuming more information. The goal of the church has always been transformation. This is what James; the half-brother of Jesus told the early believers. He told them 2,000 years ago, shortly after Jesus gave the Great Commission in Matthew 28, He told them: (James 1)

<sup>22</sup> But don't just listen to God's word. You must **DO WHAT IT SAYS**. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

He's basically saying if you hear the truth and don't act on it, you're not just passive, you're self-deceived! You actually think you're growing when you're not. You're confusing consumption with discipleship.

AND I'm going to step on my own toes here because as a pastor, I can fall into this too. This is one, not the only one, but one of the reasons we see these big-name celebrity pastors fall. I can study so much, that I mistake studying for obeying. I can spend 12-14 hours preparing a message and feel like I've done the work when really all I've done is write and talk about the work.

SO, what does it look like to actually DO something with what we've learned over the past 8-weeks? What does it look like to take these eight encounters with Jesus and let them change the way we live this summer and beyond? Jesus tells us in three very practical assignments. Let's look at them:

### **1. Go! Because the mission moves when you do.**

Turn to two people around you and say, "Go!" Go! Why? Because the mission moves when we do. Look at verse 18 again, the Great Commission starts with a declaration. Jesus says:

**"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."**

Before Jesus tells them to go, He tells them why they can, because ALL authority—not some, not most, ALL authority—in heaven AND on earth belongs to Him. That means there's nowhere you can go where His authority doesn't reach. There's no workplace too secular. No school classroom too far gone. No family situation too complicated. No conversation too awkward. His authority covers all of it. And that authority is the engine

behind the commission. He's not saying, "Go figure it out." He's saying, "Go! And take all of My authority with you."

Then Jesus says, verse 19:

<sup>19</sup> **THEREFORE** go and make disciples...

Therefore, is the key that unlocks all of this. Therefore, because I have all authority, therefore, you can go. You don't go in your own power. You don't go in your own wisdom. You don't go with your own resume. You go on His authority. The same authority that calmed storms and healed lepers and cast out demons and raised the dead—that authority backs you up when you open your mouth and say, "Let me tell you about Jesus."

So, therefore, and then the first word of the commission is what? Go! GO and make disciples...

I want to teach you something important here. In the original language this was written in, the main verb in this sentence is not "go." The main verb is "make disciples." The word "go" is actually a participle, meaning it modifies the main verb. So, a more literal translation would be:

**As you are going, make disciples.**

Or even, "In the going, make disciples." BUT why does that matter? It matters because Jesus isn't telling you to go on a special trip. He's not saying you need to book a flight to a foreign country. He's not saying the only way to do this is through some organized missionary program. He's saying, in the normal rhythm of your life—as you go to work, as you go to the grocery store, as you go to your kid's soccer game, as you go to Starbucks, as you go to school, as you go about your everyday Tuesday—do what? **MAKE DISCIPLES!**

I wrote it in my notes this way: **The mission isn't a special event; the mission is your daily life!**

And this is where I think we've gotten it backwards in the church for a really long time. We've created this idea that ministry is something that happens inside these four walls, led by paid professionals, during designated hours. And if you want to participate in ministry, you come here and volunteer. But that's not what Jesus said. He said GO! The verb is outward. The direction is forward. The mission is out there, in your neighborhood, at your workplace, in your school, at your gym, in your family.

AND don't get me wrong, I love what we do in this space on Sundays, and it is vitally important! But I want you to hear me—this room is the locker room. This is where you get the game plan. This is where you get encouraged, equipped, and challenged. But the playing field is out there. Monday through Saturday. In the rest of your week. That's where the mission lives.

So, what does that look like practically this summer? Here's what I want to challenge you with. I want every person in this room to identify one person in your life (just one) who doesn't know Jesus. Not a stranger. Not a project. A person you already have a relationship with. A coworker. A neighbor. A friend from the gym. A family member. Someone you already do life with. And I want you to be intentional this summer about going deeper with that person. Invite them over for a cookout. Go fishing with them. Grab coffee. Be present. Be genuine. Not so you can preach at them but so you can simply love them. And when the opportunity comes to share what Jesus has done in your life, you'll be ready because the relationship is already there.

And I know that sounds intimidating, but we have to understand that most people don't come to Jesus through programs. They come through people. You are plan A. God's strategy for reaching your non-believing family member, neighbor or co-worker is you!

And let me say something about this summer specifically? Summer is when the church world traditionally slows down. Attendance dips. People go on vacation. The energy drops. And I get it and we plan around these natural rhythms. That's why we are not meeting here on July 5th and instead doing BBQ at Hungry Harry's Lakeside Venue, right? Things slowing down is not the issue. BUT here is my challenge. What if instead of summer being the season where our faith takes a vacation, it became the season where our mission came alive?

Think about it. Summer is when people are more relaxed, more available, more open to hanging out. You're at the pool, you're at the beach, you're at cookouts and block parties and soccer tournaments. You are ALREADY in proximity to people who don't know Jesus. You don't have to create opportunities. Summer IS the opportunity!

**So, don't waste it!** Be intentional. When you're at that pool party and someone opens up about their marriage falling apart, you have seven weeks of walking with Jesus that have equipped you to say, "Hey, can I tell you what I've been learning?" When your coworker mentions they've been anxious and can't sleep, you know a God who says, "Don't let your hearts be troubled." When your friend confesses they've done something they're ashamed of, you know a Jesus who says, "Neither do I condemn you."

You are literally locked and loaded with the words of Jesus! Now go use them! Not as weapons, but as gifts. Go! Everyone say, "Go!" Because the mission moves when we do.  
Number 2:

## 2. Make disciples! Because salvation is the starting line, not the finish.

In the early 1950s, Billy Graham was filling stadiums. Thousands were walking the aisle every night. But a man named Dawson Trotman—founder of The Navigators—pulled Graham aside and asked him one brutally honest question: "What's happening to all these people after they go home?" As the story goes, Graham didn't have a good answer. People were praying the prayer, feeling the emotion, going home, and within weeks most of them were right back where they started. Trotman looked at him and said, "You're winning converts, Billy. But you're not making disciples. And there's a difference."

It shook Billy Graham so deeply that he brought Trotman in to build the entire follow-up system for his organization. Trotman's philosophy was simple: you haven't made a disciple until *THAT* person can make another disciple.

AND that's the second takeaway today. We can fill this room every Sunday. But if nobody is walking alongside the people who say yes to Jesus, we're just producing decisions, not disciples. And decisions fade. Disciples multiply!

Look at verse 19 again, Jesus says:

<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make **DISCIPLES...**

Not "make converts." Not "get people to just pray a prayer." Not "get them to show up on Sunday." Make disciples.

SO, what is a disciple? The Greek word used here literally means: **Apprentices**. People who are actively being shaped into the image of Jesus through relationship and instruction and real life. It's not a one-time event. It's an ongoing process.

And here's why this is so important. We're great at getting lost people in the door. We're great at getting people to pray the prayer, and baptism Sundays, and big emotional moments. And those matter! Don't misunderstand me. But if that's where it stops—if we celebrate the decision but never invest in the development—we're building a church full of spiritual babies who never grow up.

Think about it this way. When a baby is born, everybody celebrates. The whole family shows up. There are balloons and pictures and social media posts. But imagine if that

baby was still in diapers at 16. Nobody's celebrating anymore. Something went wrong. The birth was great. The growth didn't happen.

That's what happens when we prioritize salvation without discipleship. We have a church full of people who made a decision but have never been challenged to grow, to serve, to give, to sacrifice, to live like the Jesus they said yes to. And the result? A generation of Christians who know ABOUT Jesus but don't really KNOW Jesus. Who can quote the verses but can't live the life. That's spiritual infancy.

So, then what does it look like to make disciples? Well, it's simpler than you think BUT harder than you want it to be. Everyone say, "It's simpler than you think."

It looks like this. You find somebody who's one step behind you in their faith journey, and you walk with them. You meet with them regularly. You open the Bible together. You share your story—the struggles, the failures, the things God has taught you through the ups and downs. You pray with them. You challenge them. You let them into your life far enough that they can see what following Jesus actually looks like in real life.

Come on, this what Jesus modeled for us! He didn't start a seminary. He picked twelve guys and did life with them for three years. He taught them while they walked. He corrected them when they messed up. He prayed with them. He ate with them. He let them watch Him interact with broken people, religious people, powerful people. He disciplined them through proximity and time.

SO, here's my challenge. This summer, I want you to be discipling someone. Maybe it's a new believer. Maybe it's your own kid. Maybe it's a friend who's been in church their whole life but has never really grown. Find someone. Commit to meeting with them regularly—even if it's every other week over coffee. Open the Bible together. Share your life. That's discipleship. It's not complicated. It's just intentional.

And I want to be really clear about something. You don't have to be an expert to disciple someone. You don't need a seminary degree. You don't need to have all the answers. You just need to be one step ahead. That's it. A sophomore can disciple a freshman. Someone who got baptized last year can walk alongside a brand-new believer. You don't need to know everything. You just need to know Jesus and be willing to open up and share what He's doing in your life.

In fact, sometimes the most powerful discipleship comes from the person who's still figuring it out. Because they're honest about the struggle. They're not pretending to have arrived. They're just inviting someone to walk alongside them while they follow Jesus. AND that's way more compelling than a polished theological lecture. People don't need you to be perfect. They just need you to be real! Amen?

Alright, I've got one more big takeaway, but before we move on I want to be blunt. Can I be blunt because I care? As your pastor, some of you this morning need to be disciplined. You have been in church for years, but you've been going through the motions and there has been little life change. If that's you, there is no shame in speaking up and saying, "I need someone to walk with me." That's actually the bravest thing you could do. Don't go another summer drifting, it is time to get serious about your faith. AND if you have no idea where to start, simply write "discipleship" on your communication card and drop it in the offering later.

Alright, last one:

### 3. Remember! He's with you to the very end.

Look at the last thing Jesus says in Matthew's Gospel. Second half of verse 20:

**"And SURELY I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

I love that Jesus ends here. Because after giving this Great Commission, go to ALL nations, make disciples of EVERYONE, teach them to obey EVERYTHING, after all that He doesn't just send them out. He goes with them!

The word "surely" in Greek is an exclamation. It means "look!" or "behold!" It's Jesus saying, "Pay attention to what I'm about to say because you're going to need this." And what He says they need to remember is that I am WITH you. Not "I will be with you," future tense, no "I AM with you," present tense. Right now. Today. Tomorrow. This summer. In the hard conversations. In the awkward invitations. In the moments where you feel completely unqualified representing Me. I am there and I'm not sending you alone.

AND notice Jesus says, "always." Not some of the days. Not the easy days. Not just Sundays. ALL the days. The hard Mondays. The exhausting Wednesdays. The lonely Saturdays. Every single day!

AND if we really let that sink in and journey from our head to our heart it would change everything. Amen? Because the number one reason people don't share their faith, the number one reason people don't invest in someone else, the number one reason people don't step into the mission is one word... FEAR. "Well, I don't know enough." Or, "I know I'll say the wrong thing." Or, "What if they reject Jesus and make fun of me?" Or, "What if they ask a question I can't answer?" It's all fear, it's all what if questions.

And I get it. I do! I've felt every one of those things. I will celebrate 25 years of ordained ministry on July 1st (25 years, what is that your silver anniversary... I've got plenty of silver in my beard to celebrate), BUT even after 25 years I still get nervous sometimes when a

conversation turns spiritual with someone I might be trying to get to know. But here's what I've learned, in any area of life, courage isn't the absence of fear. Courage is going anyway because the One who sent you promised to go with you!

And honestly, some of the most powerful moments of ministry I've ever been a part of were the ones where I had no idea what to say. Where I showed up empty. Where I opened my mouth and had nothing prepared. And God met me there. He gave me the words. Or more importantly, He gave me the silence. Sometimes the most Jesus-like thing you can do for someone is just show up and shut up. Be present. Sit with them. Weep with them. You don't always need a verse. Sometimes you just need a chair and a box of tissues and the willingness to not look at your phone for an hour. Amen?

Jesus says, "I'm going with you. So, stop waiting until you feel ready! You'll never feel ready! Go anyway! And I'll be there when you open your mouth! I'll be there in the silence! I'll be there when you mess it up! I'll be there when you have no words and all you can do is be present! I am with you, always, to the very end!"

Come on, if that doesn't light a fire in you, check your pulse! The God of the universe—the one who spoke stars into existence, the one who walked out of a tomb, the one who said "all authority in heaven and earth is mine" — that God says, "I'm going with you to the cookout. I'm going with you to that hard conversation. I'm going with you to that coffee with your coworker. I'm going with you to your kid's bedside when you don't know what to pray. I am WITH you! ALL the days!"

The same Jesus who met Peter at Caesarea Philippi and a thief on a cross and a woman in the dirt and another woman with an alabaster jar, that same Jesus is walking out of this building with you today. Now go.

SO, here's what I want to leave you with today. We have spent eight weeks meeting the real Jesus—and let's be honest we have barely scratched the surface—but He's asking the same question He asked in week 1:

**Who do you say I am?**

But this time, the question isn't just about belief. It's about behavior. Because if He really is who He says He is then the ONLY appropriate response is to go. Go and live like it. Go and share it. Go and invest your life in the people around you.

AND just so this is as clear as it can be, this is what I mean:

**Identify your one.**

Who is the one person in your life who doesn't know Jesus? Name them. Right now, in your head. Got them? That's your person this summer. Pray for them by name every single day. And look for opportunities to love them well. Not to fix them. Not to convert them. To love them. And when the moment comes to share what Jesus means to you. AND I promise you, if you will do that, you won't have to manufacture it. It'll flow naturally because the relationship is already there.

### **Invest in someone.**

Find one person you can pour into this summer. A new believer, a struggling friend, your own teenager, anyone who needs someone to walk alongside them. Commit to meeting with them regularly. Open the Bible. Share your story, be available, be consistent, be honest. That's discipleship at its core.

### **Invite somebody to church.**

We are going to continue opening God's Word every single week this summer (well, almost, don't forget July 5th we will be at Hungry Harry's) BUT here's what the research shows. The number one reason people come to church for the first time is because someone they know personally invited them. Not a social media ad. Not a billboard. Not a Google search. A personal invitation from someone they trust. And that someone is you. So, this summer, after you invite someone to the beach, invite them to church. Text them Saturday night. Say, "Hey, had a great time at the beach. I'm going to church in the morning, want to come?" You have no idea what one invitation could do. One invitation could literally change someone's eternity.

### **Increase your engagement.**

If you've been sitting on the sidelines, this is your moment. Maybe you need to get baptized, maybe you need to connect in one of our groups, maybe you need to start serving (our kids' ministry is a great place to start, they have so much fun), maybe you need to start having a regular quiet time in the morning with Jesus, maybe you just need to ask someone to disciple you! Whatever it is, take the next step. Don't just consume, commission yourself! Go do something with what God has spoken to you over these last eight weeks.

Read these with me: Identify your one. Invest in someone. Invite somebody to church. Increase your engagement.

I started this eight weeks ago by saying I thought some of us were going to meet someone we didn't expect. A Jesus who's wilder, more compassionate, more confrontational, and

more beautiful than the version we'd been carrying around. I hope that happened for you. I really do. BUT now that it's over the question isn't, "What did you learn?" The question is, "Now, what are you going to do?"

Because there are people in your life right now—at your job, in your neighborhood, at your kid's school, in your own family—who are asking the same questions that the people in these texts were asking. "Who is Jesus?" "What is God really like?" "Is it too late for me?" "Does anybody see me?" "Is there more than this?" AND you now have eight weeks of encounters with Jesus that have equipped you to answer those questions. Amen?

- You know who Jesus is.
- You know what God really looks like.
- You know what keeps people stuck and how to break free.
- You know what grace says next.
- You know what Jesus calls beautiful.
- You know He's not safe but He's good for your freedom.
- You know it's never too late.
- And you know He's going with you.

Now go!

Go love somebody the way Jesus loved the woman in the dirt. Go invest in someone the way Jesus invested in twelve ordinary men. Go invite your neighbor the way Jesus invited a thief into paradise. Go share your story the way Peter shared his confession. Go be the church—not just in this building, but wherever you set your feet—because Jesus said all authority is His and He's sending you with it!

Guys, I am so proud of this church. I am so grateful for these past eight weeks. And I believe with everything in me that the best fruit of this hasn't happened yet. It's going to happen this summer. In your living rooms. At your kitchen tables. On your back porches around the pool. In your cars. In the quiet conversations that happen after the cookout when everyone else has gone home and someone finally says, "Can I tell you something?"

That's where the Gospel lives. And that's where you're going. Now go.

**[PRAYER TIME]**