

OUT THERE

Part 5: As You Go...

Objective: To encourage us to live out our faith and to be prepared to tell others why we live the way we do.

Read together:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! 20 As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Acts 4:18-19

The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. 6 Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. 7 They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 Jesus is

"the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone.'

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:5-13

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..."

1 Peter 3:15

- Have you ever had to serve as a witness? (Maybe for a traffic accident or something like that.) What was your job as a witness? What was the hardest part about being a witness? What was the easiest part?
- Taking the message of Jesus 'out there' begins with living an authentic life as a Jesus follower. What does that kind of life look like? How do authentic Jesus followers live their lives differently than the rest of the world?
- When Peter and John were told to stop speaking about Jesus, they replied "we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20) What have you seen and heard that you can share with others? What do you need to know about the story of Jesus to be a faithful witness for him?
- Taking the message of Jesus 'out there' is not about winning arguments, proving points or convincing anyone to believe anything. It's about living lives that point others to Jesus and telling them what we know when they ask questions.
Have you ever tried to make sharing the Gospel about trying to convince someone?
Have you ever turned it into an attempt to win an argument?
What was the result?
- In 1 Peter 3:15, Peter tells us to always be prepared to give an answer for the hope we have. What is our hope? What answer would you give to someone who asked why you have that hope or asked why you live life the way you do?
- Peter also tells us to give our answer with "gentleness and respect." What does it look like to share your faith with gentleness and respect, especially when you are sharing with someone who is antagonistic to what we believe?

Final Thought: The life you live will point people towards Jesus or away from him. Make sure your life is pointing people towards Jesus.

This Week: Focus on living as an authentic follower of Jesus. And as you go, be prepared to tell others what you know.

