

**SAY YES!
Not For You
Acts 1:4-8**

Have you ever said “Yes” to something, only to discover that you had agreed to something FAR BIGGER than just the thing that you THOUGHT that you had signed up for? I have. When I signed up for the FOOTBALL TEAM in Vilonia, I was in it for the GAME and the GLORY. I failed to realize just how much PRACTICE and SWEAT and TIME that I would have to devote to it. But I did love it. The same is true for MARRIAGE! I signed up for it because I was going to get to SLEEP next to the REDHEAD for the rest of my life! [I know how SHALLOW I am. Don't judge me.] I had no idea that this deal came with SLEEPLESS NIGHTS and RELATIONAL CONFLICT and MORTGAGE PAYMENTS and SIX KIDS! **Marriage was WAY MORE than I had BARGAINED for, but I have TRULY LOVED IT!**

Do you have any idea what you said “Yes” to when you gave your life to Jesus Christ? I am afraid that some of you don't. I can tell. You thought you were just getting FORGIVENESS for your enormous load of SINS and a “Get out of HELL free” card. **You did not realize that entering into a relationship with Jesus as your SAVIOR also came with entering into a relationship with Jesus as your LORD!** Your FAILURE to see this is causing you to MISS OUT on some AMAZING EXPERIENCES that you will learn to LOVE – if only you are willing to EMBRACE the FULL “YES” of salvation.

Today, I want us to enter into a 3-week series about what it means in our practical, everyday lives to say, “Yes” to Jesus Christ. I want us to realize some KEY ASPECTS of life that can never be the same once we have chosen to follow him. You will LOVE it. But first, you will have to deal with the fact that you may not LIKE it! It will STRETCH YOU beyond the BORDERS that you are comfortable with right now.

Just before Jesus ascended back to heaven, he gave one final REMINDER to his followers about what they should be doing. They were actually looking for Jesus to do something else, but Jesus REDIRECTED their attention. **Acts 1:4-8 NIV**

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**" 6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "**It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.** 8 **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**"

I don't know what you are really WISHING that Jesus would do right now, but you need to remember something: He is the Lord! He alone knows the MISSION and the PLAN that he has for us, and it is our JOY to discover that and then LIVE IT OUT! I

believe that – in some way – this plan involves each of us helping to bring the message of the GOSPEL to PLACES and PEOPLE that have not yet heard the name of Jesus. Every one of us should find out just how Jesus wants to use us to do that!

WHY YOU SHOULD SAY “YES” TO INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS:

Jesus COMMANDED us to GO to ALL the nations.

Acts 1:8 NIV

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- GOING out as a WITNESS is EVIDENCE of being FILLED with the Holy Spirit!
- When we have Spirit-filled passion for the Gospel, no place is TOO FAR AWAY.

*GOING is the KEY to being able to MAKE DISCIPLES.

Matthew 28:18-19 NIV

18 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,

- You cannot do this LONG-DISTANCE. You have to GET CLOSE: [TPI in Guatemala](#)

*JEUS MODELED this for us! **John 1:14 NIV**

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- I love how Jesus TOUCHED those that he ministered to. He came CLOSE!

Someone said “Yes” for YOU!

Ephesians 2:12-13 NIV

12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

*Where were you when you first heard about Jesus? How would you have ever heard if someone had not come to where you were during those days?

If we do not GO, others will not KNOW how to find eternal life!

Romans 10:14-15 NIV

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

*Do you have BEAUTIFUL FEET?

Jesus won't return UNTIL the Gospel is preached in EVERY NATION!

*Taking the Gospel to all the world PRECEDES the 2nd Coming of Christ!

Matthew 24:14 NIV

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

SO, HOW CAN YOU SAY "YES" TO INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS RIGHT NOW?

Start sharing the Gospel with the people that are already around you.

*Too often, we let FEAR or SHAME keep us from sharing the Good News.

-Current CULTURE makes it OFFENSIVE to share your faith.

*You WILL be rejected and mocked in some cases for sharing. [\[Luke 10:3\]](#)

-We must remember that there is ONLY ONE Gospel: **Acts 4:12 NIV**

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."

-Do you REALLY BELIEVE that Jesus is the ONLY way to ETERNAL LIFE?

*Many will tell you that this is ARROGANT and CRUEL. Many ways to God?

Repent of any prideful or prejudicial ATTITUDES toward others in your own heart.

-Many of Jesus's parables EXPOSED pride and prejudice! [\[Good Samaritan, etc.\]](#)

*Look for ways to befriend and serve those in our IMMEDIATE VICINITY that are ethnically different from you.

*Jesus's command for us to go to "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth" reveals a PATTERN: **START WHERE YOU ARE!**

-SAD REALITY in some churches: They send money to places where they would NEVER be willing to go themselves! [MOVIE: The Help]

PRAY about International Missions.

*PRAY for people groups that are outside of the United States.

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*PRAY for MISSIONARIES that are currently serving in International Missions.

-Pray for their needs and their ministry success.

-Ask God to raise up OTHER WORKERS in the field. **Luke 10:2 NIV**

2 He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

-BE AWARE that YOU may BECOME the ANSWER to your OWN PRAYER!

Make a DECISION to go AT LEAST ONCE on an International Mission trip.

*Commit to going with your children on a mission trip before they leave home!

-Start praying for God to lead you and provide for you to go.

-Start SAVING MONEY for a trip now . . . by FAITH.

-Come to a meeting TODAY about mission trips at CHC.

Will YOU say "Yes" to the Lord in his call to take the Gospel to the Nations? Some of you may be struggling with this. I understand that. But that will not change the way that Jesus speaks to us about GOING to those that do not KNOW him. You can have a part in the GREAT MISSION that Jesus sends his children on.

*Some of you may be feeling the CALL to go on the Mission Field FULL TIME!

-That is AWESOME! We will joyfully encourage and support you in this.

We desire to do our part for this as a church family. It requires that we all support International Missions FINANCIALLY, PRACTICALLY, and PRAYERFULLY. We must be willing to SAY "YES," and then DO what we say! Remember, our "YES" is simply an ECHO of his obedience to God in the first place. **2 Corinthians 1:19-20 NLT**

19 For Jesus Christ, the Son of God, does not waver between "Yes" and "No." He is the one whom Silas, Timothy, and I preached to you, and as God's ultimate "Yes," he always does what he says. 20 For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

Let's pray.