



## Go With Me

### The Cross Formation

As we come towards the end of this series, at least my part of preaching it, we come back to a central assurance that Christ gave His disciples when He departed. *Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

Not only did Jesus give His disciples this assurance as proof of the vertical relationship between Christ as Lord and His disciples as followers, but He also gave them a blueprint for their companionship in ministry in Luke 10:1-3 (NKJV) when He sends the seventy disciples out. *Luke 10:1 After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. 2 Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. 3 Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves.*

The Cross is not just the symbol of our salvation. It is also the formation of our discipleship. Vertical

dependence on Christ. Horizontal companionship with each other.

Today I want to explore the topic "Go With Me" and see how this phrase can be both a statement and a request at the same time. The phrase "Go with me" can be said with a rise in pitch in one's voice to intimate a request of someone ("Go with me?") This is a request that's hard to turn down. It's when a person is letting you know that they aren't ready to go on their own yet.

- they've never done it before
- they've had something happen that made them fearful to go alone
- they are unsure if they can do it on their own

The second expression of the phrase "Go with me" can be said as a statement and not a question (Go with me!)

- an invitation and confident pull for someone to go with you
- a statement saying that "I'm not going unless you come with me"
- a statement saying I feel better if you come with me
- a statement saying "you're welcome," "wanted" and "needed"

Jesus gave us an example of the latter when He called His first set of disciples "Come follow me" We tend to do the former "brother/sister, God, can you please go with me?"

We need to learn how to do both - "Go With Me"

## Where Are We Going?

There is a common catch phrase used in Christendom: and every time I heard it used, it bothered me because it was often said with a sense of pride, exclusivity and overconfidence. The phrase is ***"You can't take me somewhere you haven't been."***

This phrase usually gets some hearty "amens" from people who don't want to feel as if they are being misled. And the person that says it usually is trying to present themselves as having some form of spiritual authority but their intent is really control.

We need to really Scripturally "stress test" that statement!

Hebrews Chapter 11 alone (and all the Scriptural passages it references) debunks this church cliché.

1. Abraham led his family to a place he didn't know.
2. Noah built an ark for weather he hadn't seen.
3. Abel offered a better sacrifice without even knowing why his was better (neither do we)
4. Enoch walked with God and didn't know he would disappear one day. And still can't show us the path he took to get to Heaven lol
5. Sarah never gave birth until 90. This can be neither studied or taught.

There's more examples in there spanning several books in the OT.

Hebrews 11:13 (NKJV) succinctly says this:

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

- Meaning they didn't exactly know where they were going and they didn't even reach their destination.
- Not even Moses made it to the promise land but led them to the river and could go no further. Joshua led them over, but didn't lead Israel to finish the conquest of Canaan.
- Believing in this false phrase assumes that the leader must be the source of the destination.
- But in Scripture, **God is the source. The leader is a follower first.**
- Biblical leaders did not lead from personal arrival.
- They led from **divine obedience.**
- Because the real power in discipleship is not: "Come where I've been."
- It is: "Come with me as I follow Him."
- This is exactly what Paul said:
- "Follow me, as I follow Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1)
- Paul never claimed to be the destination.
- He pointed to the destination.

The main realization is that only Jesus knows the way! When Jesus told His disciples He was going away, they asked Him, "where are you going and how will we know the way to find you?" (paraphrase). Jesus said "I am the way, I am the truth and I am the life."

## We Might As Well Go Together

Even the most unlikely group of people willing to journey together can stumble their way into power and authority.

2 Kings 7:3-8 (NKJV) 3 Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die? 4 If we say, 'We will enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die." 5 And they rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise no one was there. 6 For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses—the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!" 7

Therefore they arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact—their tents, their horses, and their donkeys—and they fled for their lives. 8 And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried from it silver and gold and clothing, and went and hid them; then they came back and entered another tent, and carried some from there also, and went and hid it.

The leper's breakthrough was not born from certainty. It was born from shared courage. They reasoned together that if they all stayed where they were, they were going to die from hunger because of the famine conditions. But they didn't want to get separated because of the threat of the Syrian army. So they said to themselves, let's face the army together. If we die, we die together, but if they take us captive, at least we will have food.

There is something significant about being a part of a group of people who are crazy enough to believe with you that you can Go for Broke together. That you've got more to gain than to lose if you go together. They are your ride or die, road dogs. Whether it's All for One and One for All—4 Musketeers or the Dynamic Duos.

#### **4-5 Musketeers:**

- The 4 Lepers who scared off the Syrian army
- The 4 friends who carried the paralyzed man
- Jesus and His inner circle of 3
- Paul's core ministry team (Silas, Timothy, Luke, Titus)
- The 5 wise virgins vs the 5 foolish virgins

#### **Dynamic Duos:**

- Moses chickened out and God said I'll send Aaron with you
- Joshua didn't go without Caleb
- David & Jonathan decided to go together
- Elijah found Elisha to go with him
- Ruth & Naomi made a commitment to each other to go together
- Paul and Barnabas were sent together
- Paul and Silas worshipped together and were delivered together

God repeatedly uses:

- 2 (sent two by two)
- 3 (inner circle)
- 4 (carriers, lepers)
- 5 (wise virgins, ministry teams)
- 12 (apostles)

Rarely one alone.

**"God advances His Kingdom through circles, not solos."**

**Go With Me**