

“All right, this morning, I've got a question for you first, before I get into what I want to share with you.

Another trick question, I'm just going to ask you a question, and at the end, you remind me if I forget.

We're going to come back to this.

This is a hypothetical question, all right?

You have a choice this morning.

You can have, today, one million dollars.

Now, you know why I say that's a hypothetical.

You can have one million dollars today, or you can have the sum of one penny, doubled every day for a month.

It's your choice. It's your choice.

We'll get to that later, okay?

You say, well, what's that got to do with what you want to talk about this morning? This morning, our scripture reading should be very, very familiar.

It is Matthew 28, verses 19 and 20.

It is what is commonly known as the Great Commission.

When you commission something, it is something that you're supposed to do.

It's kind of what you go by in life.

This is my job.

This is my commission in life.

This is where I'm at.”

“Jesus said these words in Matthew 28 and 19. He said, go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.

And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

Basically, this is what Jesus told his disciples just prior to his ascension into heaven. And he's giving them this commission to go into the world and to tell the world about him.

Teaching them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you.

And teaching them the teaching of Jesus, okay?

Now, what are we preaching from the Book of Acts primarily?

I'm going to go a lot of places this morning, but what are we preaching primarily from the Book of Acts?

Now, in the Book of Acts, about the 19th chapter, the 19th chapter of Acts, we find that the Apostle Paul has come to the city in the area of Ephesus, and he comes in there, and according to the 8th verse, he went into the synagogue.

The synagogue is the church, okay?"

"That's what it's called in the Arizona Synagogue. And he went into the church, and he spoke boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. But when divers were hardened and, believe not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one tyrannus.

Now, the NIV says this about what I just read. It reads it this way. Paul entered into the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.

The ninth verse starts with this one word.

But some of them became obstinate.

You know what obstinate means?

Yeah, some of y'all do. You know what obstinate is?

They refused to believe and publicly maligned the way.

So Paul left them, took the disciples with him, and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

Okay, he is there for three months. Three months.

And I'm led to believe that maybe two to three times a day they would come together."

"For three months, sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Carrying on the great commission that was in our Scripture reading.

Okay?

Sharing them.

Telling them.

Now, I've got two lists here.

One of them is what we should be doing at church, and one of them is what we shouldn't be doing at church.

And when we're going to talk about the one we should be, we'll save the other one for maybe never.

Why are we here? Why did we come together today? First and foremost, we should have come to worship God.

We should have come together to worship.

And when I talk about worshipping God, I'm talking about worshipping the Trinity, the three in one.

The Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost.

So if we should come together to worship, we should also come together to hear God speak to us. And yes, God is still speaking to those who are willing to listen. Sometimes we spend more time talking to God than we spend listening to God."

"And God is trying to talk. But have you ever been in a room where everybody's talking at the same time? He doesn't understand nothing.

We need to learn.

And how does God speak to us?

He should have spoke to you through the music this morning.

It was outstanding.

The words in those songs and the message in that music, He'll speak to you.

He should have just spoke to you.

Your faith just got increased because you heard the Word. You heard hearing. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

That's what the Bible says.

So your faith should have just been increased because you heard the Word of God. The Sunday school classes, what you learned in class this morning should increase your faith. It should encourage you to hear God speak.

And when you hear God speak, the next one goes hand in hand, to feel God's presence.

When is the last time you came to a church service and had something you could see?"

"You don't get saved by a feeling, but thank God after you get saved, there's a feeling that comes. And once you come into the presence of God, and you know you're into the presence of God, the only thing you will want is to come back into the presence of Almighty God. And that can happen.

And man, that is a feeling that you just can't explain it.

You should be here to learn and to grow. Do you realize that you never stop learning?

John 3.16, the most familiar verse in the entire Bible.

All right?

People paraphrase.

You talk about it.

I learned one of the first verses I ever learned was John 3.16. You know?

And I can't tell you the number of times I have preached about John 3.16.

You know why?

Because every time I think, I've got it.

I know exactly. I can break it down and put it back together.

God says, let me show you something else.

Let me show you something else.”

“I mean, I have messages I've preached three or four times, because it takes that long before I'm getting it all. Folks, I told somebody just the other day, the deeper you get into the Word, the deeper the Word will get into you. And when that Word gets into you, it will open itself, you will learn.

And as you learn the Word of God, it will cause you to grow spiritually.

That's why we're here.

We're here also to deepen our relationship with God.

I truly believe, and I hate this one.

I'm not getting ready to say.

Most of the church today is a mile wide and an inch deep. We need some depth.

We need some roots that when the winds blow, an enemy will cause the winds to blow.

We hang on.

We're like the oak tree.

We've got depth.

We've got foundation. We have that we need to deepen our relationship with Almighty God. And to have that happen, the next thing has to happen.

You need to be changed.

Preacher, I got changed when I got saved.

Right. Have you been changed since then?

Well, I don't like change.”

“So you had on the same clothes all week then.

Because you don't like change.

No, you changed, God.

I remember my kids was all... I think my daughter changed clothes six times a day.

You know?

Just change.

No.

We don't like overall change, but we like some change. We need to realize that God will change us. And it's okay when God changes us.

He won't change you for the worse.

That's the thing. He'll change you for the better.

But I might not like it. But you might like it, too.

Let him change you.

Okay?

All right.

Next thing.

To encourage one another.

You are one of two things.

You're an encourager or you're a discourager.

Little preacher, I try to just be neutral.

Fellas and ladies, I don't know why y'all do this.

I really don't.”

“When you ask your husband, how does this look on me?

That is a no-win.

Amen.

It's a fallacy. Don't be afraid.

Go ahead and say amen, boys.

Yeah, you know I'm telling you the truth.

It's no win.

If we say, you look really good, I don't either.

Tell the truth.

If you say, you look really bad, what do you mean I look really bad?

That's just the way it is.

But we need to learn to encourage people honestly and openly, you know, in a positive way. We need to be lifting people up instead of tearing people down. We need to be encouraging when people come in and live like this.

You don't know what's going on in their life.

So smile at them for goodness sake.

I have been in those places.

I have been in those churches, most smaller churches, that when you walk through the door, it's like everybody's a hoot out.

Their heads turn and swivel and look right at you.

With that, what are they doing here?

Look, you know, I get up to preach, and I say, I'm here because you asked me to come."

"I'll never forget, and I'll never tell you what the church is. But I went to it.

I was between pastors.

I went to this church, and Christopher couldn't go with me, so my daughter went with me.

Carrie was with me.

We walked in, I introduced myself, and I said, and this is my daughter, Carrie.

And the guy looked at me and said, well, I hope that it was.

True story.

Oh, we had a real good time.

No, we didn't.

No, we didn't.

He had the opportunity to encourage or discourage.

Do you understand what I'm saying?

Sometimes, you don't need to tell people what you think.

I know that's contrary to the world we live in now, because everybody thinks everybody else ought to know what they think. But sometimes, we don't need to know. Y'all don't need to know what I think.

I don't need to know what you think sometimes.”

“We need to be encouraged. We need to be the people that are willing to lift people up, because you don't know what they've been through. You don't know what they're going through.

You don't know what the weak holds.

But if we encourage them when they come into the house of God, we've accomplished something.

To encourage them, we need to bear one another's burdens. The Bible says to bear one another's burdens, pray one for another.

We need to do that.

That was my next point. Pray for one another. I'm going to head on myself.

We come to church to be uplifting and to uplift other people.

To be uplifted.

We need that. We need...

Church needs to be an uplifting experience.

We need to be at church to bring people to Jesus and to bring them closer to Jesus. We need that.

We need to come into this place to find forgiveness and to find hope. Hope is a very rare commodity in this world, because all they want to talk about is the negativity that's going on in the world today. There is always hope in Jesus Christ.

Always, always hope in Jesus Christ.”

“And we need to be a place that instills hope.

And last, but probably most important, this needs to be a place where we further the kingdom of God by reaching other people so they can be saved and know that Jesus weep. We need to be stretching out and furthering the kingdom of God.

You know what Paul was doing for three months in this synagogue?

He was furthering the kingdom of God, or he was trying to. He was being that person. He was working, he was striving at it.

But after three months, people got to complaining.

They became obstinate.

They quit listening.

They quit listening to Paul, and they quit listening to the Holy Spirit.

They quit listening to God.

And they didn't like the way things were going.

They became obstinate, and they refused to believe, and they publicly maligned the church.

That goes on a lot, unfortunately, among churches today.

I would never go to that church.

They don't sing songs I like.

What about the song God likes?

Well, preacher, I like a certain type of music.

Well, I do, too.

But I like it all if it's about God."

"And we'll spend more time, if churches would uplift one another, instead of maligning one another, and say, oh, that church ain't no good, and that church ain't no good, you know? And okay, granted, some of them may where they ought to be, but instead of condemning them, let's pray for them and let's encourage them. We must spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

And sometimes, if the gospel is not being spread in the church, we need to get the church out of church.

Well, what do you mean?

That's what Paul did.

When they were pardoned, verse number 9, they became an obstinate, believe not.

He departed from them and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one tyrannist. He left the church and went to a lecture hall, basically, is what he went to, and began to have church there. Well, how long did he stay there?

Verse number 10 says he continued by the space of two years.

Two years!"

"He spent reaching people for the cause of Christ. And not in a church building, but in a lecture hall. Do you realize that it is not this building that ushers in the presence of God?

It's all of you.

We could have church in this beautiful building that God has blessed us with, and I like it, I love it. But we could have church in the parking lot. We're going to have church next Sunday night down at the paths where I expect God to show up right down there.

You can have church in your car.

How do I know? I've had it multiple times.

God will be any place you will let Him be. So when we say, well, we got to be in church, people are all the time telling me, I got to be in church because it's safe.

No, you don't.

You ask Jesus to come into your heart wherever you are, and you can be saved. We need to be for people spreading the gospel in just that way. Why?

Well, listen.

Verse number 10.

After two years, so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord.

“Both Jews and English.

Let me read it again.

Both Jews and English.

Do you know how many people?

And I looked it up.

Well, in Asia, about this time, 11 million, 11 million.

Did you realize?

Facebook did not exist back then.

There were no tele-evangelists.

Paul did not have a blog, whatever the world that is.

He didn't have one of them.

No TV, no radio, no nothing.

How in the world did they get the word out?

Word of mouth.

They shared the gospel.

They shared the gospel.

Have you ever shared the gospel?

Well, I'm not comfortable doing that.

I know.

That's the problem.

Well, preacher, that's really your job.

Yes, it is.

But do you think I just do it one day a week?

God will open doors anywhere.

And what I'm...

I'm not telling you to get on the PA's speaker at Wal-Mart and say, listen up, people, you're all going to hell.

That don't work. I'm not saying you're wrong, but that don't work. Quick, tell them what's wrong."

"Tell them what's right about Jesus.

You can do that.

Oh, I don't know if I'm comfortable.

Well, do it.

Do it.

You wasn't comfortable. Yeah, I've been here a long time.

You all wasn't comfortable when I first came here doing this.

You are now. You are now.

Because you've been in the presence of God, and it changes you.

It changes you.

Why?

Because that's what Jesus does.

He changes things.

So here we go.

He's got them out there, and he did something. He did not leave the disciples at the church.

He took them with him to the lecture hall.

And somehow, and I don't know exactly how many there were, but they were able to reach all of Asia with the word of Almighty God.

Oh, man, that is fantastic.

That is glorious.”

“Let me take you back to the first chapter of Acts for just a moment here. First chapter of Acts, the fifteenth verse, chapter one, says there were 120 people in the upper room.

Second chapter, the first four verses talk about the Holy Ghost falling on those in the upper room.

120 people.

The Holy Ghost fell on them.

Man, the power of Almighty God fell on them.

You know, that cloven tongue, just like the hair is on fire now, and they're on fire because they have come into the presence of Almighty God. They have experienced the anointing of God's power in their life and on their life.

Boy, it was glorious.

And verse number 41, in the second chapter, oh my goodness, it says this. Verse number 41 says, Then they that were glad, then, then they that gladly received his word were baptized.

And in the same day, there were added unto them about 3,000 souls.

God added to them.

Boy, it's glorious.

Right down to the 47th verse, it said, And the Lord added to the church daily.

Such as should be said.”

“Added to the church.

Oh, hallelujah.

Now go over to about the 5th chapter.

5th chapter of Acts about, I'm swinging pages here.

5th chapter of Acts about verse number 14.

All right.

It says this.

In believers were the more added to the Lord.

Multitudes, both of men and women, added to the Lord.

Addition is a great thing.

Barb, if you will, put up the first thing I wanted, that first slide.

This is that addition.

And what I'm showing you right now came from an article I read about a man named Robert Morgan.

And you may not know Robert Morgan, but if I ever were to pastor another church, and I'm not, but if I ever were, I'd want to go here, because he pastors a church called the Donaldson Fellowship.

Yeah, man, I could, I could, yeah.

I don't have an ego, but I'd like that.

I really would.

It's in, and you may not know where it is, but it's a little suburb of Nashville, Tennessee.

I've been through it.

There's Donelson Tire and Muffler.

There's Donelson Bowling Alley."

"And there's a Donelson Fellowship right there.

Still the same way I spelled my name, the right way.

He the whole time missed spelling my last name, but it's okay.

I corrected.

But Robert Morgan Pay, he doesn't pass it there anymore.

There was an opening and they didn't call.

All right, I wouldn't have went then anyway.

But I got this from Robert.

I read it from him.

Add these together comes up to 55, and that's a good number.

Man, if we had 55 souls saved 50 flories, wouldn't it? We all time talk about we want God to add to the church.

That's old school. That's old school.

Instead of adding, we need to start multiplying.

Multiplying. The sixth chapter of Acts, verse number one, and in those days when the number of the disciples was multiplied.

Why did God go from adding souls to multiplying?

Oh, I'm so glad you asked.

Show me the next one.

Same numbers multiplied.

Fifty-five if you add them.

Three million, six hundred and twenty-eight thousand, eight hundred with the exact same numbers being multiplied.

Put them both up there if you would, Barb.

See the difference in there”

“See the difference?

Oh, I've got things I want to share.

I've got so many examples I want to share with you.

Let me give you this one.

I'm just going to give you one.

I've got a lot of them. I can break it down by month if you want me to. But let me give you this one.

This is an easy one for you.

If one disciple, one person wins and trains, that's the secret. Getting people saved is the first step, but they've got to learn what it is to know Jesus.

We get them saved, and then we quit.

We've had new convert classes here, and we need new convert classes here. Because once you get saved, you don't know it all. I remember, I got saved, and I knew the results.

I knew I was saved, though.

Man, I knew that.

I didn't know anything about living for Jesus and all this other stuff.

One person wins and trains another person, and at the end of one year, you got two.

Whoo, you're really on fire there.

If two people, the next year, win two more people in a year, now we've got four”

“Pretty sure we need, we need some action.

We need to get people saved one or two a year.

Come on!

Hang with me.

It's gonna get good.

Four, we'll get eight, and in, let's say, ten years, in ten years, we've run 1,024 people.

I know. I know.

But are we stopping? No, we're not.

With that same mindset, each one wins one.

Each one wins one.

A year.

A year!

Each one wins one.

A year!

Ten years, we got a thousand.

And at the end of 25 years, I've been here almost 24. At the end of 25 years, you know how many people have been won?

33,554,432 people in 25 years. We have slightly less than that in the ten years, right here, right today.

But that's if we won one person a year, and that person won one person. Do you see how it multiplies?

Well, preacher, what if we just added?

Oh, I love this part.”

“If a preacher or anybody were able to add a thousand people a day being saved, a thousand people a day, you know how long it would take to reach that number?

Ninety-two years.

God switched, right here in the Book of Acts, from adding to a day to multiplying. Church, we should be multiplying.

Acts 6 and 1 says the number of disciples is multiplied.

Chapter 6, verse 7 says, in the Word of God increased, and the number of the disciples multiplied.

Multiplied.

That is what God is doing. He is multiplying, and we need to be multiplying also. We're really good when we think, well, we're adding to the church.

We need to be multiplying, and the disciples making disciples. And by the way, if you are a child of God, you are considered a disciple.

Man, that's a lot of pressure.

You're supposed to be doing it anyway.

It's not pressure. Come on. It's not pressure at all.

The Word did all that.

All right.

Let me break it down for a month for you.

Okay?

Because this one just blew my mind.

And it's simple math.

This table talks about the 12 disciples."

"You say, well, how did they do that in two years?

Reach all those people.

Reach all those people in two years.

Okay.

It's 12 disciples. 12 disciples take a complete year to win 12 more.

The second year, you've got 24.

Well, let's do it.

Let's do it in a month.

If we won 12 people per month, and it kept multiplying, it kept multiplying, in two years, in two years, in the day and age we live in, we would have reached, two years, I'm telling you, we

would have reached 100,000,663,296 votes. I've seen 12 people say, you understand what I'm getting at? What we should be doing for the glory of God.

I'm still in the sixth chapter.

The eighth verse talks about a man named Steve. He's full of faith and power, and he did wonders and miracles among the people. Now, I know, you're thinking, you've been talking about Paul and the disciples.

You know, they're kind of a chosen bunch.

You know what Stephen was?

Stephen was a great man of God.

He was a regular old church member.

You know, just a regular old guy.

You know how he did it?"

"The seventh chapter, verse number 55, talks about the fact that Stephen, even at the end, says that he, being full of the Holy Ghost, is what I added.

I wrote in my Bible, but he still being full of the Holy Ghost.

He was full when he started.

He was full when he left this life.

In the ninth chapter of Acts, when Paul was just getting started, there was a man in the Bible named Ananias.

And Ananias laid hands on Paul and prayed for him. Had no idea what that one small act was getting ready to ignite. And Paul was able to multiply because he had his people.

They got excited, and they went out and won people, and it multiplied and continually kept growing. But Ananias, you don't hear about him. You hear about this one act, and that's it.

But he went in, and he laid hands on Paul, and he prayed.

The things you don't think matter.

God will use them to make a difference in somebody's life.

And sometimes it's just encouragement.

Sometimes it's just praying for it.

You don't know.

But make the effort to multiply the Gospel of Jesus Christ"

"Now, we should be winning people to Jesus.

We're not so Jesus will love us, but we should be doing it because Jesus loves us. This is the difference between addition and multiplication.

Addition is good.

I don't like peonies.

I don't want to see your hands, but... Do you still pick up a penny when you see one?

You know?

And do you pick it up only if it's heads up?

If it's heads up, and you start smiling, and it heads down, and you start smiling, and you get up.

That's some old superstition I read.

Do you still take the time to pick up a peony?

Yep, me too. Me too.

Whether it's raining, whether it's in the mud, wherever, I pick it up.

What difference does a peony make?

Remember I told you I can have a million today. What does the sum of a penny double for 30 days? A million dollars sounds like a pretty good deal.

You ever told me she could do a million dollars?

Tax-free too, by the way."

"Tax-free million dollars.

Full million is yours.

I can have a penny today.

Hey, if you took the penny in 10 days, you'd have \$5.12.

Could have had a million.

In 15 days, you'd have \$163.84.

Yeah.

In 20 days. 20 days in, you didn't take the million.

20 days, you'd have \$5,242.82.

\$2.82.

\$0.88.

Sorry, \$2.06.

From day 20, to the end of the month.

You know what you'd have in 30 days?

By taking one penny, doubling the sum, that's a penny.

You know what happens to us?

We run on ahead of God all the time.

We're always in a hurry.

If we weren't always in a hurry, drive-throughs would have never been invented. And they're everywhere. I mean, you can drive-through everywhere.

We're in a hurry.

Because life has sped up so much.

Each and every house that was built had a porch.

You know what that porch was for?

Sitting on an even. Y'all may build a house with a porch.

How long has it been since you went out and just sat on it?

Watch the sun come up or watch the sun go down.”
“Listen to the birds sing. The birds travel up the porch.

It's just a matter of time.

We got caught up in the world. We were slowed down.

Learn to wait on the byline.

Now, there's a byline.

You can wait too much.

Well, I'm just going to sit and let God do it.

That's not what I'm talking about. What I'm talking about is look at the investment in Jesus as a long-term thing. Not just a today's thing, but as a long-term thing.

Plan for eternity, because that's what it's about.

It's not about living here.

It's about living there.

It's about getting as many people there as we possibly can.

Your friends, your family, your neighbors, the people you work with, the people you get acquainted with.

Well, I don't know how to witness to it.

They're watching your life, first and foremost.

Well, they listen a little bit of what you say, but they watch what you do.

Is your life to speak Jesus? Does your life and your talk line up perfectly?

I work construction my entire life.

I know that you've never worked in construction.”

“Let's just say the language to be clear.

Okay?

The phrases they put together, they only work sometimes.

But I worked with this guy one time, and we'd worked together for a good while.

And when I was working, I did not wear a sign around my neck that said Christian or preacher or anything like that.

I heard a lot of them say, well, why didn't you tell me?

Why should I have to?

But anyway, he found out I was a Christian, then he found out I was a minister.

And I listened to this guy for a good long while, and he was very colorful.

And after he found out I was a preacher, he came up and he said, yeah, I'm a deacon of so-and-so church.

That's what my mouth did too.

Val's mouth went, mine did too.

It's language and it's life didn't match up.

It's yours, it's mine, it's all mine.

Think before you speak, and speak what God gives you. Now, what rolled out of my head?

I'm not even going to say what just went through my mind.

Something about what rolled through your head.”

“But I might not say that.

I know that's a cliché and a saying, but it's very, very true.

Very, very true.

Are we making a difference?

Are we multiplying the kingdom of God?

Are we carrying out the Great Commission?

Teach everybody in the world, you know the world could be reached in just a few years by multiplying, by multiplying.

And I read a bunch of them. Most of them are anywhere from 30 to 35 years.

Every person in the world could be exposed to the gospel by the principle of one condition.

By addition, hundreds of years.

Think about the entire world in 30 to 35 years.

Are we doing our part? I'm floating here, Greg.

You guys, come on back up.

To those of you who took the million dollars, I'm sorry.

Those of you who are willing to wait on the penny, a bunch of liars. There was only one who waits on God. What happens to those who wait on the Lord?

Oh, my, you know that verse.

They will run and not get weary.

Stand with me this morning.”