

Title: Will Anyone Be in Heaven Because of You? A Call to Gospel Witness

Sermon Summary: This sermon issues a direct and personal challenge to every believer to take seriously their responsibility to share the gospel with lost people. The pastor opens by asking the congregation to reflect on who first told them about Jesus Christ, then turns the question outward: will anyone be in heaven because of their witness? Drawing on the model of the Gideons International, the sermon presents the gospel in four simple truths accessible to any believer, regardless of theological training or public speaking ability. Through two powerful video testimonies, the congregation witnesses how a single act of obedience, placing a scripture in someone's hand or initiating a gospel conversation, can alter the eternal destiny of a soul. The sermon closes with an invitation both to those who do not yet know Christ and to believers who have grown passive in their witness, calling all to renewed urgency and faithfulness.

Key Points:

- Every Christian should reflect on who first shared the gospel with them, and then ask whether they are doing the same for others
- The Great Commission in Matthew 28 and Mark 16 is given to all believers, not only to pastors, missionaries, or ministry organizations
- The gospel can be explained in four simple truths: God loves you, all are sinners, God has provided a remedy through Christ's death and resurrection, and salvation is a gift that may be received by all who come to Christ
- Christians often hesitate to witness out of fear of not knowing enough, but a believer does not need a theology degree or a pulpit to begin a gospel conversation
- A significant percentage of Christians, estimated at 55 percent, have never shared their faith with anyone, which the pastor identifies as a serious failure in light of the Great Commission
- The Gideons International exists not merely to distribute books but to point people to Jesus Christ, and their reach now spans 200 countries with over 2.75 billion scriptures distributed since 1908

- Gospel opportunities are time-sensitive; the story of Nikki, who came to Christ at a Texas Roadhouse and died in a car accident one month later, illustrates that no open door should be treated as if it can wait
- Faithfulness in planting gospel seeds matters even when the one who plants never sees the harvest

Scripture Reference:

- John 3:16, which declares God's love for the world expressed through the gift of His Son
- Romans 3:23, which affirms that all people have sinned and fall short of God's glory
- Romans 3:10, which states that no one is righteous on their own
- Romans 6:23, which contrasts the wages of sin with the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ
- 1 Corinthians 15:3, which summarizes the gospel as Christ dying for sins, being buried, and rising again
- John 1:12, which describes the authority given to those who receive Christ
- 1 John 1:9, which promises forgiveness and cleansing to those who confess their sins
- Mark 16:15, the Great Commission command to go and preach the gospel to every creature
- Matthew 28:19-20, the Great Commission command to make disciples of all nations
- 2 Corinthians 6:2, which declares that now is the accepted time and now is the day of salvation
- Psalm 40:1-3, which speaks of God lifting a man from a pit of despair and establishing his steps

Stories:

- Brandon Blair, a Marine machine gunner who served in Fallujah during one of the most dangerous periods of the Iraq War, was handed a Gideon New Testament by an elderly man as he boarded a bus headed for deployment. He carried it as a good luck token in his left breast pocket. After being shot in the chest by a sniper and surviving without internal bleeding, he found himself isolated in a field hospital with no visitors, no television, and no

phone. When a fellow Marine he cared for was killed by a sniper one week after visiting him, Blair reached the lowest point of his life. He remembered the testament in his uniform pocket, opened it to Psalm 40, and read of David being lifted from a pit of depression and sin. In that moment, he gave his life to Christ. He later testified at the Gideon International Convention in Phoenix, declaring that the Gideons are his heroes and that while the Marine Corps gave him a Purple Heart, God gave him a brand new heart.

- Ron Archer was born prematurely to a fourteen-year-old mother who had been trafficked into prostitution. Attempts were made to end his life before birth. He survived with physical disabilities and a severe stutter, was subjected to abuse as a child, and by age ten held his mother's gun to his head wanting to die. A teacher came to his school with a Gideon Bible and read him stories of broken people whom God used greatly, including Moses, who also stuttered. She told him that God uses greatly those who have been wounded very deeply. Ron began memorizing scripture, his stutter disappeared, he became a class valedictorian, eventually became a pastor and bishop, and his entire family came to faith in Christ. He testified that the trick was on the devil because of the power of the Word of God placed in his life through a single Gideon Bible.

- Connie and Wayne Stanley, longtime Gideon members, encountered a young woman named Nikki at a Texas Roadhouse restaurant. They initiated a gospel conversation and asked her whether she knew where she would spend eternity if her life ended. Nikki did not have an answer. The gospel was shared, she received Christ as her Savior, and approximately one month later she died in an automobile accident. The pastor uses this account to illustrate the urgency of gospel witness and the danger of postponing a conversation that God has opened.