

Sermon Study Notes – Key Points, Questions & Application

Sermon – **A Mission-Minded Believer: Go.**

Sermon 2 in the Series – “**Words to Live By**”

Guest Preacher, **Rev. Dan Martin of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)**, with which Eastminster has partnered for over 30 years

April 19, 2026 (following the Go Encounter Mission Conference)

Key Scripture References

- **Matthew 28:18–20** – The Great Commission: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that I commanded you. And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- **Matthew 4:18–22** – Jesus calls the first disciples: “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets, their boat, and their father and followed Him.
- **Luke 5:17–26** – The paralyzed man lowered through the roof: four friends use every resource available to bring their friend to Jesus. “Seeing their faith, He said, ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven.’”
- **John 14:6** – “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” – The urgency of the Great Commission: those who never hear the gospel are left out.
- **Isaiah 6:8–9** – “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!” He said, “Go!”

Big Idea

The word to live by this week is “**Go.**” Every believer – not just missionaries and pastors – has a mandate to play a role in the Great Commission. A mission-minded believer is available to be used, resourceful with what God has given, and obedient to the command to go. None of this is done in our own strength; God has promised us a Helper.

Christian Year Context for Worship & Spiritual Formation

Go Encounter Mission Conference Weekend – Eastminster welcomes MAF staff and advocates in gratitude for 30+ years of partnership. This sermon sits within the “Words to Live By” series and presses the question: if Jesus’ words define reality (last week’s sermon), then what does obedience to his final command – *go* – look like in our everyday lives?

Last Week’s Sermon Review – “What Difference Does It Make?”

Three takeaways:

1. Because Jesus is alive, his words are not optional advice – they define reality. We are not dealing with a simple teacher but with the one who has authority over life and death.

2. Obedience is not about earning his love; it is about alignment – what it looks like when someone begins to take Jesus’s words seriously.
3. Through the Holy Spirit, we are not left alone. The Christian life is not trying harder – it is being internally transformed by his presence.

Key question carried forward: If Jesus’ words are not suggestions but life-giving truth, then what does obedience to his final instruction – the Great Commission – actually look like in your life?

The Trend We Must Address

Barna Group research: 85% of pastors say missions is a mandate for all Christians. Only 42% of practicing Christians agree. Less than half of practicing Christians believe sharing the gospel is a mandate for them personally.

And yet Jesus’ final instruction was precisely this: go and make disciples. The gap between what pastors affirm and what congregants own has devastating consequences – because John 14:6 leaves no middle ground. Those who never hear the gospel are left out. Our loving God does not want to leave anyone out. That is why we were given the Great Commission.

The Word to Live By: Go

Matthew 28:19 – “Go, therefore...”

The Greek word behind “go therefore” (*poreuthentes*) does not just mean a short, sharp command. It conveys the idea of **as you are going – while you are living your life**. The Great Commission is not a call to leave ordinary life behind (for most of us). It is a call to be intentionally mission-minded within it.

Go means: your neighbors. Your coworkers. Your classmates. Your community. And for some – like MAF missionaries – it means crossing an ocean to an unfamiliar land to reach people who have never heard. But for most of us, go means right here.

Three Characteristics of a Mission-Minded Believer

1. Available

Matthew 4:18–22 – Peter, Andrew, James, and John leave their nets and their father immediately.

- Notice the inconvenience. It was not convenient to leave their nets, their livelihood, or their families. To be available to the Lord means being willing to be inconvenienced.
- Availability is really about **living with an awareness of others** and not just of ourselves – an awareness of their needs, and of their need to respond to the gospel.
- Ask yourself: who might God bring into your path today? Who are the people you work with, go to school with, interact with regularly? Who is God wanting you to be available for?
- **Greg Laurie:** “God is not looking for ability as much as he is looking for availability. God isn’t looking for strong people. He is looking for weak people

through whom he can be strong.” That means every person is qualified to be used by God.

- Jesus’ first disciples were not the religious elite or the who’s who of Jewish society. They were fishermen – ordinary people, some considered outcasts. They were the very people Jesus chose.
- **A mother’s sending words:** *“Remember, today you may be the only Jesus people see.”* What a gift: Christ in us, going with us everywhere we go.

2. Resourceful

Luke 5:17–26 – Four friends carry a paralyzed man to Jesus, can’t get through the crowd, go up on the roof, and lower him through the tiles.

- They ran into real obstacles – a huge crowd, no way to the front of the line – and they could have easily given up. Instead they asked: **what can we do?** and they found an answer.
- They were **desperate to get their friend to Jesus**. That desperation drove their creativity and their resourcefulness.
- Each of us has been given unique gifts, talents, and resources by the God of the universe – not to make us rich, not to fill our bank accounts, but **to be light in this world and to spread his love**
- Resources include: the ability to give financially, unique professional skills (pilots, mechanics, engineers), creativity, relationships, time, property.
- Think collectively, not just individually. Seth Montgomery said last week: *“Obedience to Jesus does not happen privately. It takes shape in community.”* The same is true of mission.

For Eastminster specifically: What could God do through this building, these 40 acres, the gym, the grounds – with the neighbors who may never walk through the doors? Churches elsewhere are building housing for homeless single mothers on their land, opening ball fields and sports leagues to the community free of charge. What might Eastminster’s resourcefulness look like?

3. Obedient

Matthew 28:18–20 – “All authority has been given to me... Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations.”

- This command was not given only to missionaries and pastors. It was given to everyone who would choose to follow Jesus – including every person in the room today.
- The mandate is to **play any role** in fulfilling the Great Commission. Not every role looks the same.
- An elderly woman said, “I’m no longer available.” She was asked: “Can you pray?” She said yes. **Prayer is the biggest work of fulfilling the Great Commission.** She is available. So are you.

- Obedience is not about what we can generate from within ourselves. God has promised a Helper. As Jesus was leaving, he promised his followers would do greater things than even he did – by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Personal Application: Habits of the Heart for Spiritual Growth

The Takeaway This Week: Go.

Not necessarily across an ocean – though for some that is the call. For most of us: go right where you are, while you are living your life.

- **Pray the Isaiah prayer:** “Lord, here am I. Send me.” Make yourself available. Ask God each morning: who will I encounter today, and how do you want to use me in their life?
- **Take stock of your resources:** What has God given you – skills, finances, relationships, time, creativity – that he wants put to work for the kingdom? Use it not to build your own comfort, but to reach others.
- **Ask the desperation question:** How desperate am I to get my friends and neighbors to the feet of Jesus? What obstacle would I go up on a roof and tear off tiles to overcome?
- **Find your role in the Great Commission:** It may be prayer. It may be giving. It may be a conversation with a neighbor. It may be hosting something on your property. It may be going overseas. All of it counts. None of it is optional.
- **Support and pray for MAF and Eastminster’s mission partners:** Ask the church office how you can be more actively engaged in the partnerships this church has built over 30+ years.

Discussion Questions

1. **The Barna study found only 42% of practicing Christians believe sharing the gospel is a mandate for them personally.** Where do you fall? Do you see the Great Commission as your mandate – or as something for missionaries and pastors? What has shaped that view, and what would it take to shift it?
2. **Being available to God means being willing to be inconvenienced.** Where in your current life is God calling you to be available – to a person, a situation, an opportunity – that would require inconvenience? What is keeping you from saying “Here am I. Send me”?
3. **The four friends in Luke 5 were desperate to get their paralyzed friend to Jesus – desperate enough to tear up a roof.** Who in your life needs to be brought to Jesus? What obstacles are in the way, and what would it look like to be that resourceful and determined on their behalf?
4. **The sermon challenged Eastminster to think collectively about its resources – the building, the land, the gym, the finances.** What creative or imaginative idea do you have for how this church could use what God has given it to reach people who may never walk through the doors?
5. **The elderly woman who said “I’m no longer available” discovered she could pray – and that prayer is the biggest work of the Great Commission.**

What is your role right now? Not someone else's role – yours. What specific step of availability, resourcefulness, or obedience is God asking of you this week?