



**Text:** A Variety of Passages on Christ's Mission

**Message:** *Week 3 – Embracing the Lord's Acts 1:8 Challenge*

**READY-SET-GO - In Our Samaria – To Those Different Than Us!**

St. Paul and his colleagues were successful in evangelism and discipleship in large part because they were PREPARED to both GO and WIN.

- 1. They prepared with a \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch. Acts 14:21*
- 2. They prepared with a \_\_\_\_\_.** Spiritual warfare is unending so we must have a “no man left behind” mentality including those different than us.  
*Strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God, they said. Acts 14:22*
- 3. They prepared with a \_\_\_\_\_.** There is no larger or greater enterprise than reaching lost souls...God's succession plan for His church is what you and I call the Great Commission, as we, His disciples and faithful stewards embrace His Acts 1:8 Challenge.  
*Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and with prayer and fasting committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. Acts 14:23*
- 4. They were prepared to \_\_\_\_\_.** They shared the Good News and reviewed all that God had done. This was their proof. They understood they were called to be indispensable workers for the harvest. This was their passion.  
*From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. Acts 14:26-27*
- 5. Yet Jesus commanded that His followers go to those different than them and asked that we pray for many \_\_\_\_\_ to accomplish this task.**  
*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. Matthew 9:37-38*
- 6. Jesus readily associated with people who were \_\_\_\_\_ from Him.** When Jesus traveled through Samaria, he had a “chance encounter” with a Samaritan woman drawing water from a common well and asked her for a drink. “Chance encounters” are rarely really “chance.” Opportunities surround us to engage people with the Gospel.  
*When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) John 4:7, 9*
- 7. Jesus turned a “\_\_\_\_\_” into a teachable moment.** Jesus was the

master teacher who was able to use common life experiences to illustrate theological truth. Simple object lessons and personal testimonies can make the best points when sharing the simple plan of God's love for all people, including those different than us. Jesus made a metaphor of the water in the well and associated it with His role as the "living water."

*Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water. But whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:10, 14*

8. **Jesus knew the woman's \_\_\_\_\_ condition.** Jesus didn't just cross an unnatural cultural barrier for a Jew and a Samaritan. His "chance encounter" brought Him face-to-face with a woman deeply mired in bitterness and sin. Jesus had divine discernment in His encounters and exposed the sin of the woman at the well since conviction of sin precedes a need for salvation.  
*Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance. Proverbs 1:5*
9. **God blesses \_\_\_\_\_ efforts that are focused on – *Believing what Jesus believed...Living as Jesus lived...Loving as Jesus loved...Serving as Jesus served...Leading as Jesus led.***
10. **Find where God is leading you to take the Gospel** to your Jerusalem, your Judea, your Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. You do not have to have it all figured out right this moment, you simply need to be willing to say "YES," now that Christ is saying, "GO," one of our Lord's favorite commands, occurring 224 times in the Gospels. Are we \_\_\_\_\_? Are we \_\_\_\_\_? Will we \_\_\_\_\_?

**Are we up to the Acts 1:8 challenge, to become all things to all men so that by all possible means we might save some...might win some for Christ...that we may share in its blessings (1 Corinthians 9:22-23)?**

Heavenly Father,

Help us to fulfill the Great Commission by going and making disciples as we live the Great Commandment by loving others as Christ loves us with passionate, Spirit-given power, boldly speaking, living, loving Your Word into the hearts and lives of others as we embrace Your Acts 1:8 Challenge. Fill us with the Holy Spirit to empower us to be Your bold witnesses in our *Jerusalem* (to our FRAANS), *and in all Judea* (to our community) *and Samaria* (to those different than us), *and to the ends of the earth* (to go plant your church wherever you lead us). *Amen.*

1. Strategy
2. Steadfastness
3. Succession
4. Succeed
5. Workers
6. Different
7. Chance Encounter
8. Spiritual
9. Discipleship
10. Ready – Set - Go