

## **DEVOTIONS FOR HONDURAS MISSION TRIP TO JERICHO VILLAS**

January 31 – February 7

- We arrive on Wednesday, January 31 and have our first devotion as a Team on Thursday morning, February 1
- We meet daily as a Team for morning devotions
- We don't have Team devotions on Sunday morning, as we join the Jericho community for corporate worship

## **DEVOTION ONE – Thursday, February 1, 2024**

This week, we're going to look at the last sentence in each of the four Gospels and see what that has to say to us today about how God wants us to share the Gospel message. By looking at the last lines of all four Gospel accounts, we can learn four truths to take with us as we go out to share this Good News with the world.

The last two sentences of Matthew's Gospel account are found in **Matthew 28:19-20** *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

We are going to focus on the word **GO**

As Christians, we are challenged to leave the people who look like us, think like us, act like us, and talk like us. To GO into the world with this news.

What does that look like? Do we have to go overseas, become a missionary? The command to GO is maybe more of a challenge for us to leave what is comfortable. We sometimes get very comfortable in our Bible study groups and with our church friends. And it IS important to have those good strong connections and friends. But, the danger in comfort is that we love to get "comfy." And then, we stay there. And, we forget that as Christ followers, we are not called to a comfy life. We need to look outside of our comfort zone, our bubble.

We may be able to say that we know an awful lot of scripture; we can tell the stories and recite the verses. But, do we know our neighbor's name? There are people all around us who need to see and hear the gospel message of Jesus's love. And that might require us to move away from what's comfortable. So, if we're going to spread the Word, we need to GO.

### Discussion:

- What does that look like for each of us in the various places God has placed us (work, school, neighborhood, at the gym, social clubs we belong to, etc.) ?
- How can we take this command to GO and apply it to our lives without being fearful?

## **DEVOTION TWO – Friday, February 2, 2024**

The last sentence of Mark's Gospel account is found in **Mark 16:20**

*"And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs."*

They went out and preached, "*while the Lord worked with them.*" We sometimes worry when we start thinking about sharing the Gospel because we don't know what to do or what to say. We must be willing to share, and then let God do the work. Trust Him. Keep the message of Jesus clear and simple. Tell what he has done in your life. Then, let God do the work as you simply share the Good News!

And, remember what we learned from yesterday's devotion in Matthew? Jesus promised: "and behold, I am with you always; to the end of the age."

He will be with us when we take the bold step to share our faith with others.

### Discussion:

- What keeps you from sharing the "Good News" with friends, neighbors, family members?
- What are some of your fears when it comes to sharing the "Good News" with others?

## **DEVOTION THREE – Saturday, February 3, 2024**

The last sentence in the book of Luke is found in **Luke 24:52-53**

*"And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God."*

If we are going to go out and share the gospel message, then we're going to need to continually be filling ourselves up with the presence of God. You can't pour out what you haven't poured in. To effectively share the life-changing Truth of Christ, we need to be in the Word, we need to be worshipping, we need to be gathering together with other believers. But, we can't stay huddled there. Eventually, we have to go. But then, when we gather back together again, we encourage each other, and we build each other up so that we can go again!

In **Galatians 6:9** it says, *"And let us not grow weary of doing good..."*

God knew that sometimes we would get tired. He just doesn't want us giving up when we are. It is OK to be tired. If you volunteer to help with the youth group, it will require some late nights. If you help your neighbor with their yard, you might get sweaty; if you truly GO, then you're going to get tired. But, following Jesus is going to create a good kind of tired. And when you're tired, you have to rest. And one of the ways we rest is by taking that time to be in the presence of God. We need to be constantly refilling so that we can pour out.

### Discussion:

- What are some ways we can continually be filling ourselves up?
- Have you even been in a circumstance where you “grew weary of doing good?” How did you handle it? How did you re-fill your tank?

## **DEVOTION FOUR – Monday, February 5, 2024**

The final verse in the book of John is found in **John 21:25**

*“Now there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written down one after the other, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.”*

John ends his Gospel acknowledging that the story he has described is larger than anything he can imagine or fully communicate. As glorious as it is to read about the life and miracles of Jesus through John’s eyes, John’s account pales in comparison to the glory of the Person it describes. We can be grateful for what was recorded (for our benefit), and yet we can’t help but wonder what “many other things” he did in His lifetime which were not written down!

### Discussion:

- Do you ever wonder what other things Jesus did in His lifetime that were not written down?
- When you think of Jesus, is it hard for you to imagine Him as a person (just like us) who lived in this world with trials and temptations (just like us)?

Thank Him today that even though He is the Son of God, He loves you and can relate to your trials because He, too, lived and walked this earth. (just like us!)

## **DEVOTION FIVE – Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

We've learned this week how the Gospels are harmonized, using the *last words*; and, hopefully, you found it encouraging and practical as you pray about how to share your faith with others. He calls us to this, and we know He equips those whom He calls. He equips us with every word. And we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us to empower us to do this!

### Recap:

From **Matthew**, we learned we are to GO. We might have to leave what is comfortable.

From **Mark**, we learned that God works with us. We don't have to have perfect words. And we aren't in charge of changing hearts. The Holy Spirit does that!

From **Luke**, we saw that if we're going to go out, we're going to get tired sometimes. And, it is so important that we remember to continually refill through prayer, worship, and time with God's people.

And from **John**, we saw that if all that Jesus did was written down, the world would not be able to contain this Gospel message because it is the Power of God.

**First Corinthians 1:18** says, "*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*"

The Gospel message has behind it the full power of God. **There is nothing that the Gospel message cannot change, fix or accomplish.** Do you believe this?

You carry the power of God when you step out in faith and share with your friends, your neighbors, your co-workers, your family!

So be brave. Be bold. Be confident. Trust God! He will provide!

### Discussion:

- Which Gospel message that we studied this week spoke to, challenged, or encouraged you the most?