

Stat 7 The Great Commission

Welcome

Before I get started, let me read you one of my e-mails sent to me. A pastor was walking down the street when he came to a group of about a dozen boys, all of them between the age of 10 and 12. The group surrounded a dog. Concerned the boys were hurting the dog, the pastor went over and asked, "What are you doing with that dog?" One of the boys replied, "This dog is just an old neighborhood stray. We all want him but only one of us can take him home. So we've decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie, we'll get to keep the dog." Of course, the pastor was taken back. "Boys, boys, boys," the pastor said, "You shouldn't be having a contest telling lies,". And then he then launched

into a ten-minute sermon about lying, "Don't you boys know that it's a sin to lie and when I was your age and on and on he went..." There was dead silence for about a minute after the pastor finished. From the faces of all the small boys you could see they felt sad.../ one of the smallest boys gave a deep sigh and said, "All right, give the pastor the dog. He wins, we can't out do that one."

Next week we will start the series "Winning the Battle of the Mind. But I am excited what God has for us today.

Message: This is such an exciting time to be a Christian and be alive. Did you know that God has chosen for us to be at this particular place and at this particular time in

history? He chose for you and I to be here before the foundation of the world so that we could help carry out His plan. God has something for each and every one of you to do. He's got something specifically just for you to do. And Jesus tells us very clearly what it is in Mark 16:15, "*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*" One translation says, "*Preach the Good News to everybody everywhere.*"

And I'm here today to challenge you, to stir yourselves up and get busy sharing the good news with the people that you know that God has put around you. There is no better time to share your faith than now people are searching for hope and truth and we have what they are searching for...

You need to understand something.../ God is counting on you and too often we say, God, as soon as you get me out of all my problems, as soon as you heal all my hurts, all my habits, and all my hang-up's.../ which everyone of us here have.../ then I'm going to witness to my family and friends and those you put around me. Then I'm going to really get on fire for you Lord.

But friends, if you're waiting for every single detail in your life to be perfectly in order before you step out in faith.../ and before you reach out to people in need, then you're going to spend your whole life just waiting around, wasting the precious witness of what Jesus has done for you in your life. We will always have challenges and struggles in this life.

Ask Edna-Wynne, my wife, and some of you may find this shocking but there's no such thing as the perfect husband. Or the perfect life, or the perfect boss or the perfect family or perfect situations. As long as there are mother-in-law you will have problems.

But friends, if we're not careful, we will allow the enemy to deceive us into waiting around and doing nothing for God until this so called problem free life exists.

Satan loves for God's people to procrastinate.

Friends, what we do for God, we must do now.

We are the body of Christ on the earth. God has no arms to love and hug except **your** arms. God has no voice to encourage and uplift except **your** voice. The only smile that God has here on this earth is **your** smile.

We are ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ. We represent Jesus while we're here on this earth. We've got to each do our part and reach out to our friends and family members that are in need. And we have such good news to share with the world. John 3:16. Think of the incredible scripture. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever would simply believe in him would not perish but have everlasting life."*

Think about what God's Word, the Bible, says in Romans 10. *"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."* See, the Good News is that your sins have already been forgiven. The price has already been paid. Jesus willingly died on that

cross and shed His own blood as a sacrifice for all your mistakes and all your failures and all your shortcomings. And now all you have to do is accept this free gift of salvation and make Jesus the Lord of your life. God made it so easy and friends that's Good News.

And we need to be out there telling people the truth, inviting others to come consider the claims of Christ.

And why do I say that? Because most people all they have ever heard about is religion with all its rules and regulations and do's and don'ts and all that gives people is a false idea of what God is really like.

But friends, here is what needs to be told to others. God is not mad at you. God is not out to get you. God is not standing over you with a snarl on His face and with a ball bat in His hand just waiting to knock you down into

hell for the next mistake you make. Don't ever think like that. God is a good God. God loves you and God has a purpose for each of us. The Bible says, "*God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world or to judge the world or to pass sentence upon the world; but God sent Jesus so that the world through him might be saved.*"

And friends, if anybody is judging you or passing sentence on you or condemning you, I guarantee you it is not from God. And when we go out of here, we've got to make sure we share the Good News with others.

People already feel enough guilt and condemnation and shame. They know what they're doing wrong. You don't have to tell them. You don't have to convince them.

They already know. Every one of us here deep down on the inside we know when we're doing right; we know when we're doing wrong. See you can fool a lot of people but you can't fool yourself. But see, God never called us to point out each other's mistakes. Jesus said in Luke 3:37, "*Judge not so that you will not be judged; and condemn not so that you will not be condemned.*" One of the few times God tells us to judge, He says, "*Judge yourself*".

See, the Bible says the Holy Spirit will convict the world of sin. You don't have to do it. Leave it up to God. We need to show people God's love and mercy and forgiveness this has a far greater impact than just continually beating people over the head for every single mistake they make. See, all of us make mistakes. We're

all human. Jesus said, "*Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.*" And I know some people when I talk like that, they say, "Bill, you make it way too easy. Nobody's ever going to get saved unless you dangle them over the fires of hell and scare them a little bit." Some people's main doctrine is to try to scare the "hell" of out people. And I know how that feels all you have to do is ride in the car with my daughter, Requelle. She does that perfectly well when I am with her and she is driving.

But seriously, some people think the only way to reach people is to point out all their faults. To shame them and to belittle them and to manipulate their emotions to where they feel so much condemnation and guilt that they finally feel like such a no good rotten

loser that they'll repent and turn to God. But friends, I believe just the opposite is true. The Bible says "*It is the goodness of God that leads people to repentance.*"

And if people can ever really see how good our God is, they'll come running to Him. If they can ever really see how awesome His love is and how unlimited His mercy is and how incredibly kind and compassionate and forgiving He is, they will want to serve a God like that. If we can ever really just show the world, what our God is really and truly like, people will come running.

I know some people, you think, Bill, this sound too good to be true. What about all the terrible things I've done in the past? I've cheated a lot of people. I've stolen. I've cursed God's name. I haven't been faithful. I had an affair and on and on and on we can go. (PAUSE)

But friends, I'm here to tell you today, no matter what you've done, no matter how many mistakes you've made, no matter how big of a mess you have made in your life, I want you to know today that God is still not mad at you. Jesus is standing before each one of you right now with His arms held open wide. He's got a smile on his face and He's saying, Come unto me. Give me a chance with your life. You've tried it on your own. Let me show you what true peace and true happiness and true fulfillment is really all about. The world needs to here this message about Jesus is standing there with his arms wide open for you.

And see, friends, this is the good news we have to share with the world. People are sick and tired of the same old dead religion that condemns you and tells you

what a lousy rotten person you are. Nobody wants to be in bondage like that. Religion tells you if you make any kind of mistake, especially if you go through some kind of divorce or some kind of moral failure or lived some kind of unbiblical life style that you might as well just go to the back of the line. Forget it. God's through with you. You are all washed up. Friends, that couldn't be any further away from the truth. The first person Jesus ever revealed Himself to as the Messiah as the savior was a woman that had been married five times and was now living in adultery with the sixth man. (PAUSE)

And the pity is that woman would not even be accepted in many of the churches of our day. And all these religious man made rules and regulations, they're cold and they're hard and they're mean. And they're just

the opposite for what our God is like. Maybe the original intent was good, but all they really do is drive people away from God. We have to go out and tell people of the real God and His love for them. AMEN!

See, religion tears you down, but Jesus builds you up.

Religion tells you what you can't do. But Jesus tells you what you can do.

Religion brings bondage, but Jesus brings life and freedom and liberty.

Don't be lazy and don't get negative and don't get critical. Today God's going to enlarging our vision. These are bold times and it's going to take people with a bold vision to really shake this area. Jesus said in John 4:35, "*Don't say there are still four months and then*

comes the harvest. Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look around, for the fields they are white already to harvest."

And my prayer is that God will birth in each and every one of us a new passion and a new fire and a new enthusiasm to win our friends and family members to the Lord. We have already been empowered. God has given us everything we need. We are well able to do what He called us to do. It's time to get in the race. And let's everybody get busy and do our part and share this good news with everybody everywhere. And I believe if we do this, this will usher in one of the greatest moves of God that has ever been seen.

See friends the answer to today problems is not found in politics. It's not found in programs, rules and

regulations. It not found in the Republican Party or the Democratic Party. It's not found in sending more troops to the Middle East or bring them home. It's comes in changing the hearts of men and women. It will change when we reach out to those around and to the world tell the Good News of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the true King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Amen. Let's give Him praise.

Special Guest Speaker: