

Mission: Rescue Souls – Week 8 – By All Means – Bible Study Helps

Title: By All Means

Sermon Summary: This sermon challenges believers to move beyond merely preparing for evangelism to actually engaging in it. Using 1 Corinthians 9:22 as the foundation, the sermon emphasizes that the greatest obstacle to evangelism is not lack of knowledge but lack of intentionality. The message stresses that while God doesn't ask believers to do everything, He does ask everyone to do something. The sermon provides practical steps for sharing the gospel through living it, speaking it, sending it, sharing it, and leaving gospel tracts everywhere. The ultimate motivation is the reality that believers will stand before Christ's judgment seat and give account for what they did with the opportunities God placed in their path. The call is to make gospel witness a daily, intentional practice rather than an occasional activity.

Key Points:

- Compassion for souls must become action, not just intention or preparation
- Paul's declaration "woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel" shows the urgency of evangelism
- God uses ordinary believers to provoke people to think about Jesus Christ
- Every Christian can do something with the gospel, even if not everyone is gifted in conversation
- Practical ways to engage with the gospel: live it, speak it, send it, share it, and leave it
- Gospel tracts are powerful tools that never get tired, never have bad days, and can go places we cannot
- The judgment seat of Christ provides eternal motivation for faithful witness
- Everyday life presents unlimited opportunities for gospel witness
- Small acts of faithfulness can produce eternal results
- Believers should take at least one gospel action each day

Scripture Reference:

- 1 Corinthians 9:16-22 (primary focus, especially verse 22: "I am made all things to all men that I might by all means save some")
- Romans 11:13-14 (Paul's desire to provoke Jews to salvation)
- Jude 22-23 (having compassion and pulling people from the fire)
- 1 Corinthians 3:9-15 (the judgment seat of Christ and rewards)
- Acts 8:26-28 (Philip's obedience and the Ethiopian eunuch)

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Stories:

- The illustration of a fire station where firefighters never leave to rescue people, comparing it to churches that prepare for evangelism but never evangelize
- A personal story of buying gospel tracts and being asked by a disciple how many people he had witnessed to, revealing he hadn't given any out yet despite being prepared
- The encounter on the street in Dover where an angry man was provoked to think about Christ simply by their presence
- The story of discipling children by having them write notes and include gospel tracts in postage-paid envelopes from junk mail
- The grocery store encounter where the cashier actually stopped and read the gospel tract, surprising the person who wasn't expecting immediate engagement
- The testimony of leaving Bibles and gospel notes in hotel rooms for cleaning staff to find
- References to Biblical examples: Peter's fear before Pentecost versus his boldness after, Jonah's selfishness nearly causing Nineveh to perish, and Paul's endurance through persecution

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Discipleship Questions

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:22 that he became 'all things to all men' to save some. What does this look like in your own life, and where might you need to adapt your approach?

The sermon challenges us that 'the greatest obstacle to evangelism is often not a lack of knowledge, but one of intentionality.' What practical barriers prevent you from being more intentional about sharing the gospel?

When Philip received instruction from God to go toward Gaza in Acts 8:26, he 'arose and went' immediately. How much flexibility do you leave in your daily schedule for God to interrupt you with divine appointments?

The sermon mentioned that we often prepare extensively for evangelism but never actually evangelize. What is one specific action you can take this week to move from preparation to action?

Reflecting on 1 Corinthians 3:9-15, how does the reality of standing before the judgment seat of Christ and giving account for your life motivate or challenge your current evangelistic efforts?

The sermon states that 'temporary embarrassment or eternity in hell' should reframe our fears about witnessing. Which of your personal fears about evangelism is actually rooted in selfishness rather than legitimate concern?

The sermon noted that gospel tracts 'never get tired, never have a bad day, and never forget scripture.' How could incorporating gospel tracts into your daily routine expand your witness beyond your personal limitations?

When you consider the people God has placed in your life for years—family, neighbors, coworkers—what would you say to Jesus if He asked, 'What did you tell them about Me?'

The challenge was given to do one gospel action each day. If you committed to this for a year, how might your life and the lives of those around you be different?

The sermon emphasized both living the gospel and speaking it. Which of these two aspects is stronger in your testimony, and how can you develop the weaker area?

Small Group Discussion Guide:

"By All Means"

Based on 1 Corinthians 9:16-22

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to His calling for evangelism and to give courage to act on what is discussed.

Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when someone unexpectedly shared the gospel with you or gave you Christian literature. How did it impact you?

Key Scripture Review (5 minutes)

Read aloud together: 1 Corinthians 9:22 - "I am made all things to all men that I might by all means save some."

Discussion Questions (30-40 minutes)

1. From Knowledge to Action

- The sermon stated: "The greatest obstacle to evangelism is often not a lack of knowledge, but one of intentionality." Do you agree? Why or why not?
- What are the biggest obstacles that keep YOU personally from sharing the gospel regularly?

2. Personal Inventory

Reflect honestly on these questions from the sermon:

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- Who have I intentionally tried to reach this week?
- When was the last time I initiated a gospel conversation?
- Have I become satisfied with simply attending church, or am I doing the work He's given us to do?

Group sharing: If comfortable, share your answers with 1-2 people in your group.

3. Living vs. Speaking the Gospel

- The sermon emphasized we must both LIVE the gospel and SPEAK it. Which comes more naturally to you? Which is more challenging?
- How can living the gospel without speaking it fall short? How can speaking it without living it undermine our witness?

4. The Eternal Perspective

- Discuss 1 Corinthians 3:9-15 and the judgment seat of Christ. How does knowing we'll give an account of our lives motivate (or challenge) you regarding evangelism?
- The sermon asked: "What is worse, temporary embarrassment or eternity in hell?" How does this perspective shift your fears about witnessing?

5. Practical Methods

The sermon listed several ways to share the gospel:

1. **Live it** - Christ-like testimony
 2. **Speak it** - Personal conversations
 3. **Send/Share it** - Mail, email, text, social media
 4. **Leave it** - Gospel tracts everywhere
- Which of these methods feels most doable for you right now?
 - Which method stretches you the most?
 - Share any creative ideas you have for getting the gospel out.

Key Takeaways (10 minutes)

Three Main Points to Remember:

1. **Compassion must become action** - It's not enough to care about lost souls; we must DO something.
2. **You must do something with the gospel** - Everyone can do SOMETHING, even if it's simply having gospel tracts and leaving them places.

3. **Eternal motivation matters** - We will stand before Christ and give an account. Our temporary discomfort is nothing compared to eternal consequences.

Practical Application (15-20 minutes)

Individual Commitment

Take a few minutes of silent reflection and commit to ONE specific action this week:

The Daily Gospel Action Challenge:

- **Monday:** Give away at least one gospel tract
- **Tuesday:** Invite someone to church
- **Wednesday:** Share your testimony with someone
- **Thursday:** Pray for someone and send them a verse
- **Friday:** Start a gospel conversation
- **Saturday:** Witness to a stranger
- **Sunday:** Follow up with someone you talked to previously

Write down: Which day(s) will you commit to this week, and what specifically will you do?

Group Accountability

- Share your commitment with one other person in the group
- Exchange contact information to check in mid-week
- Consider starting a group text thread to share gospel tract stories and encourage one another

Practical Preparations

Before you leave today:

- **Take gospel tracts home** - Put them in your car, purse, wallet, and anywhere you'll have them available
- **Identify locations** - Where will you leave tracts this week? (Library, restroom, restaurant table, store, etc.)
- **Prepare a simple gospel presentation** - Review the gospel so you're ready if someone asks questions

Prayer Time (10-15 minutes)

Prayer Requests

- Share specific people you want to reach with the gospel
- Pray for courage to overcome fear and selfishness
- Ask God for divine appointments this week

Group Prayer

Go around and have each person pray for the person on their right, specifically:

- That they would have boldness to share the gospel
 - That God would bring someone across their path this week
 - That they would see opportunities and act on them
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Before Next Week

Personal Challenge:

1. Do at least ONE gospel action every day this week
2. Keep a simple journal of what happened (who you talked to, where you left tracts, etc.)
3. Be ready to share one story with the group next week

Group Follow-up:

- Send encouragement texts to your accountability partner
 - Share victories (and struggles) in your group chat
 - Come prepared next week to share how God worked through your obedience
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Closing Thought

"Your small acts of faithfulness can produce eternal results. Someone's eternity is worth your inconvenience."

Final Question: What would change in your daily life if you truly believed that every person you encounter might be a divine appointment from God?

Additional Resources

- Gospel tracts available (specify where your church keeps them)
- Recommended gospel presentations to memorize
- Church evangelism training opportunities
- Online resources for creating personalized gospel tracts

"Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel." - 1 Corinthians 9:16

5-Day Devotional:

By All Means, Save Some

Day 1: From Compassion to Action

Reading: James 2:14-26

Devotional: Faith without works is dead. We can have all the compassion in the world for lost souls, attend every church service, and know all the right answers, but if we never act, we accomplish nothing for the kingdom. The apostle Paul said, "Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel." He couldn't imagine life without sharing Christ. Today, examine your life honestly. When was the last time you intentionally tried to reach someone with the gospel? Compassion that doesn't move your feet is merely emotion. God isn't asking you to do everything, but He is asking you to do something. What will that something be today?

Day 2: Prepared and Ready

Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-16

Devotional: Peter instructs us to always be ready to give an answer for the hope within us. Preparation matters. You wouldn't expect a firefighter to rescue people without equipment, yet many Christians go through life unprepared to share their faith. Today's challenge is simple: get gospel tracts. Put them in your car, your purse, your pocket. Place them where you'll have them when God opens a door. The greatest obstacle to evangelism isn't lack of knowledge but lack of intentionality. Stop waiting for the perfect moment or the perfect words. Prepare yourself now, and trust that God will provide opportunities. Remember, a gospel tract never gets tired, never forgets Scripture, and can go places you cannot.

Day 3: Divine Appointments Everywhere

Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Devotional: Philip received divine direction and immediately obeyed. "He arose and went." No hesitation, no excuses. God orchestrates divine appointments daily, but we must be spiritually alert and schedule-flexible enough to recognize them. That person in the checkout line, your coworker going through difficulty, the delivery driver at your door—these aren't coincidences. God is preparing hearts while preparing you. The question isn't whether opportunities exist; it's whether you're watching for them. Today, pray for eyes to see the divine appointments God places in your path. Make room in your schedule for Holy Spirit interruptions. When God says "go," will you arise and go like Philip, or will you be too busy with your own agenda?

Day 4: Eternal Perspective

Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:9-15

Devotional: One day soon, you'll stand before Jesus Christ to give account of your life. Every work will be tested by fire. What you built with your life as a believer will either remain or burn up. Imagine Christ asking, "I placed that person in your life for eight years. What did you say to them?" This eternal perspective should radically change our daily priorities. What's worse—temporary embarrassment or someone's eternity in hell and the lake of fire? Our fears about evangelism reveal a troubling truth: we're more concerned about ourselves than about souls. When we focus on "me" and "I," we miss the urgency of "them" and "Him." Today, let eternity motivate you. Your small acts of faithfulness produce eternal results.

Day 5: By All Means

Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Devotional: Paul declared, "I am made all things to all men that I might by all means save some." By all means—do everything and anything you can. Live the gospel through Christlike character. Speak the gospel in personal conversations. Send it through texts, emails, and social media. Share it by leaving tracts everywhere. The opportunities are unlimited; the methods are countless. Starting today, commit to one intentional gospel action daily. Monday: give away a tract. Tuesday: invite someone to church. Wednesday: share your testimony. Thursday: pray and send a verse. Friday: start a conversation. Saturday: witness to a stranger. Sunday: follow up. Imagine looking back after a year of daily faithfulness—thousands of seeds planted, countless conversations started, numerous souls pointed to Christ. What will you do today?