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Reasons to Say, "Here am I, Send Me."

Acts 8:1-8

"Two little lines I heard one day, Traveling along life's busy way;
 Bringing conviction to my heart, And from my mind would not
 depart;

Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will
 last."

By Missionary C.T. Studd

"Only one life, so soon it will pass; only what's done for Christ will
 last; only one chance to do His will, So give to Jesus all your days,
 it's the only life that pays when you recall you have but one life."

***God can use uncomfortable circumstances
 to get you to _____ to do His will.***

1. Persecution – Leave your _____.

There was joy in Samaria, but there was sorrow in Jerusalem.

v. 1 - Persecution forced the Christians out of Jerusalem to flee to Judaea and Samaria, Acts 1:8. What Satan intended for great suffering, God used to bring salvation to thousands of people.

Sometimes we have to become uncomfortable before we will do something good for God. Sometimes discomfort may be the best thing for us. Do you believe God is Sovereign and can work through your hurts? God can work through difficult seasons.

We are tempted to complain about pain. We are tempted to grumble about difficult circumstances.

Here is something we can do... stop and ask God...

Lord, this is hard...what are you teaching me?

Lord, I don't like this... are there some changes You want me to make in my life?

Lord, this situation has stolen my peace... please teach me to find my peace in You and not in my circumstances!

Philip is the Deacon who became an Evangelist!

Philip said, "Here am I, Lord, send me..."

A. _____ took Philip to Samaria.

The Jews and the Samaritans hated each other intensely.

Five things Jesus Did to Conquer Prejudice:

1. He said everyone is equal and we are equally loved by God.
2. Jesus went to Samaria (John 4) and led to Himself the woman at the well – the most immoral woman in town.
3. Jesus taught a story about a _____ Samaritan.

This was shocking in the eyes of the Jews as they did not view any Samaritan as "good."

If you have any prejudice in your heart today it is there because of pride. To be prejudiced means we consider ourselves better than someone else.

4. Jesus saved Gentiles who Jews considered to be unclean.
5. God gave Peter a _____ of a sheet filled with animals and said, "Peter, rise, kill and eat." The message was "Do not be prejudiced against Gentiles." Dietary restrictions are removed. Food is declared clean... if you eat with thanksgiving, 1 Tim. 4:4. All people are also declared clean!

B. Uncomfortable Circumstances help us _____.

"And He said to them all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

Luke 9:23

Taking up a cross and dying to self are not "comfortable" actions. God calls us to step outside of our comfort zones.

What does it mean to step outside of "our comfort zone"?

Jesus said...

- * Stop seeking earthly riches, Matt. 6:19.
- * Do not worry about the future, Luke 12:22.
- * Live sacrificially to help others come to Christ, Matt. 22:39.

* Boldly share your faith with others, Matt. 10:22-23.

2. The _____ of the Holy Spirit, v. 26

Peter and John were sent to confirm that the Samaritans were really saved.

In the middle of this great revival the Holy Spirit of God prompts Philip to leave Samaria and go to a lonely desert road to meet the Ethiopian Eunuch. God is pursuing Him.

What does this teach us?

- A. God is seeking everyone, 2 Peter 3:9.
- B. God wants us to witness to people we know AND to people we don't know.
- C. God is the only One who can save, but He has chosen to use you and me to share the message, Romans 10:17.

3. _____ them out of the Fire

"And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."

Jude 22-23

Two Kinds of People, Matthew 7:24-27

- Those who build their life on the rock (Faith in Christ)
- Those who build their life on the sand (Faith not in Christ)

Two Roads, Matthew 7:13

- Narrow Road
- Broad Road

Two Destinies, Matthew 7:14, 25:46

- Eternal Life
- Eternal Destruction (everlasting pain)

Jesus taught more about the topic of hell than anyone else in the Bible. Why? Hell is so horrible that God chose the teaching of hell to come from the lips of the only One who can save us from it.

Only some will go overseas and tell others, but everyone can give! We call that missions gift a "Faith Promise Missions Offering,"

2 Corinthians 8-9. This financial gift is after we give our tithes and offerings to support our local church.

Jesus gives all of us a call,... "Follow Me" - Matthew 4:19.

But He also gave us a command, "Go into all the world," Mk. 16:15.

Jesus identified 4 Primary Locations to witness in Acts 1:8.

Jerusalem: Their immediate local city.

All Judea: Their surrounding region.

Samaria: The _____ People.

The ends of the earth: All _____.

Will you be a part of changing the world?

Will you be a part of building God's kingdom?

Will you be a part of giving financially and holding the ropes for those who will help us go to reach people around the world.

Come meet our missionaries this week. Come and encourage them. They need to know that we are not going to quit supporting them or praying for them. They need to know that we are not going to drift from God or split the church to get our way.

Satan wants to discourage and divide us so we are unable to send the Gospel to the front lines of battle.

Won't you give your life to Christ today and be saved?

Won't you give your life to Christ in service?

Won't you pray today...Here am I, Lord, Send me? If it's across the street, or across the sea, the answer is the same, YES.

One day soon our lives will be over. In the parable of the rich fool Jesus told us that all we have _____ will be left behind and it will be divided and given to others. Jesus gave many strong appeals that we should give our time, our treasure, our talent... to Him and to His Work.

"Lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven... for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Matthew 6:20-21