



SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 12, 2026 | PASTOR JONATHAN BARBER

MESSAGE TITLE: GO AND TELL

MESSAGE SERIES/OCCASION: GOSPEL OF MARK SERIES/EASTER SUNDAY

MESSAGE TEXT: MARK 16:15

INTRODUCTION:

Last words are important. As we've heard said so many times, "Christ's last command is our first priority." But if this is the case, how effective have we been in fulfilling Christ's command?

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

We dare not celebrate the resurrected Lord while disregarding His final command.

Let's break it down:

- **The Command**

- Go

- Active rather than passive
- We are not merely to wait for people to come to us (1 Peter 3:15), we must be actively taking the Gospel to them

- o Preach
 - To publish or proclaim as a herald
 - Public declaration
 - To announce openly; to noise abroad
- **The Compass**
 - o Everywhere – “into all the world”
 - o Everyone – “every creature”

- **The Constraints**

Mark 16:11-14 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not. ¹²After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. ¹³And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them. ¹⁴Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

- o **Their problem**

- Unbelief
- Hard hearts

- o **The manifestation of that problem**

The devil works very hard to keep Christians from obeying the great commission.

- **Daily Defeat**

2 Timothy 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

- **Doctrinal Deviations**

- **Any doctrinal position that discourages evangelistic fervor is not of God!**

- **The commands in Scripture are clear!**

- o **Mark 16:15** Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

- o **1 Corinthians 9:16** For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!
- o **Acts 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- **The example of the apostles is compelling**

Any doctrine that discourages or dismisses evangelistic responsibility is a deviation from Bible truth.

- **Dubious Distractions**

- Christians must beware of those causes that hijack our energy, time, focus and resources
- **1 Timothy 1:6** From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;
- **Ephesians 4:14** That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
- **Hebrews 13:9** Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines...
- **1 Timothy 1:4** Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

- **1 Timothy 4:7** But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.
- **2 Timothy 4:4** And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
 - The world is flat
 - We never landed on the moon
 - George W. Bush brought down the Twin Towers/Israel brought down the Twin Towers
 - There was no Holocaust; it was invented by the Jews
 - Israel killed Charlie Kirk/Erika Kirk killed Charlie Kirk
 - And if you listen to Crazy Candace, Charlie was a time traveller and he speaks to her in her dreams
 - Her podcast was #2 on Spotify—people love it
 - Aliens, UFO's, and other extra-terrestrial phenomena are being suppressed by the US gov.
 - Jeffrey Epstein, Charlie Kirk, and Jimmy Hoffa are still alive! They're all hanging out at Elvis Presley's house!
- Problems with conspiracy chasing?
 - Robbed of energy, time, focus, zeal, ambition.
 - Robbed of joy; robbed of peace; always agitated and worked up.
 - Robbed of the ability to trust anyone; truth itself seems to be unknowable.

- o Robbed of credibility

Illustration: Ambassadors for Christ

2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

If the US Ambassador went over to the Middle East to try to negotiate peace, would he be taken seriously if he started off making small talk about a bunch of conspiracy theories?

- There is ONE conspiracy worth your time, energy and devotion!
 - o Jesus died, was buried, rose again the 3rd day, appeared to His disciples, ascended up into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God, and He is coming again one day to receive His own!
 - o Spread *that* all social media!
 - o Stay focused on the Gospel! Lock in!
 - o **2 Peter 1:16** For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.
- **Doubtful Disputations**

"Doubtful disputations" in Romans 14:1 refers to quarreling over personal opinions, scruples, or non-essential matters where Scripture is not specific. While we all must land somewhere, we have to be ready for the fact that there will be

some variance among sincere believers, and we should have grace for that.

Illustration: I've worked on the FMC when the conditions were dry. The work get done quickly. But when it's wet, the mud slows the progress down to a crawl. Productivity decreases by probably 80% at times.

Doubtful disputations can have the same effect. The work of God slows waaaaay down as we have to trudge through the mud. It is slow and it is exhausting.

Illustration: Church Plant in Fort Wayne, IN

John 17:15, 18 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. ¹⁸As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

Romans 14:1-5 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. ²For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. ³Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. ⁴Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. ⁵One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

- Concerns of the conscience
- Disproportionate prioritization of peripheral matters

- o Cosmetic differences vs. Substantial differences
- o Associational concerns vs Intrinsic concerns
 - Facial Hair vs. Long Hair on men
 - **1 Corinthians 11:14** Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?
 - **2 Samuel 10:5** When they told it unto David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed: and the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and then return.
 - **The irony? I've been questioned as to why I have facial hair even though the Bible explicitly affirms its validity.**

I could not grow facial hair while in evangelism because of how many churches would not have me in if I had it.

The associational issue had been actually elevated above the Word of God.

The fear of the “wrong association” was so powerful, that the explicit texts of Scripture were ignored.

Conscience issues over preferences and personal applications must never be elevated to the place of absolute truth.

Mark 7:7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

- These matters often make the work of God similar to trudging through mud. The going is slow, exhausting, and inefficient.
- **Deadly Divisions**
Separation is not a measure of spirituality. And yet, Christians often derive much spiritual satisfaction from how much separation they have achieved.

2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you...

This passage is intended to help us understand our relationship with unbelievers, not with brothers and sisters in Christ.

I know of some churches in the Midwest ravaged by division. Brothers separating from each other. Parents separating from children. Churches divided.

- Not everything is a separation issue
- Leaving a church is not a light matter, there must be clearcut biblical grounds
- The misuse of separation among Christians is one of the key factors that cause Christian children to leave the faith.
- You must have more to show Jesus than what you've left.
 - What about where you've gone?
 - What impact have you made for the Gospel?
 - Jesus' last words were not, "Separate from your brothers who do not see things the way you do." It was "Go and preach the Gospel!"

Christ's commission is simple:

- **We have our Command**
- **We have our Compass**
 - Everywhere - "into all the world"
 - Everyone - "every creature"
- **But what about the Constraints?**
 - Is the Gospel your priority?
 - Are you exhausted from sidetracks, distractions, and misplaced zeal?
 - Will you put personal preferences aside for the cause of Gospel advance?

Good morning and welcome to Ann Arbor Baptist! We're so glad you're here, and to those joining us online, welcome!

You may have noticed that the choir looks a little different the past couple of weeks. Well, I've asked the choir to step forward a bit and we've dropped the choir folders and added some amplification. All of this is in an effort to bridge the gap between the Choir and the Congregation for the purpose of reinforcing a "participation-oriented" worship philosophy.

Worship is not to be a spectator sport. While we'll still have special music and various ensembles and such, we will primarily be focusing on corporate (participation-oriented) worship. In short, you're the choir now! The Book of Revelation tells us we'll be singing for all eternity, so you might as well get a head start!

If you like singing parts, the four choir members who are mic'ed will be singing parts, and you're welcome to follow along. If you don't know a particular song, don't sweat it, just make a joyful noise unto the Lord. You'll be fine! Our desire is that we would worship the Lord together to the praise of His glory!

This morning, we're declaring that Jesus is Lord, He is reigning, and He is King. Would you stand with us as we worship together?

Song 1: Jesus Is Lord

Revelation 19:12 gives us this picture of our reigning Christ.

It says, "His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns."

Would you sing with us as we crown Him together?

Song 2: Crown Him with Many Crowns

How do we respond to a King who is worthy? Psalm 95:6 answers this question. It says, "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker."

He is worthy of every song we sing.

Song 3: Worthy of Worship

Giving Moment

He is Worthy of honor, worthy of glory, and worthy of all the offerings we bring.

He is the King who is worthy of everything, yet He chose to give everything.

So when we give this morning, we're not just contributing to a good cause. Really, we're responding to a King who held nothing back. We're saying, "You are worthy of all that I have."

Before we give, let's pray.

[Prayer]

You may be seated.

Birth Announcements

Message

Prayer

Invitation

Our commission is to go and tell the world about the Good News of Jesus Christ. That task is still unfinished. There are still unnumbered souls who have never heard His name. And He has called us, you and me, to go and tell.

Let's sing together as we consider the task He has called us to.

Song 4: Facing a Task Unfinished