



In any and every evangelism conference I have ever been to, the main passage of scripture used is found in Matthew 28...

[18] And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] 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, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

It's the GO word. The church has to be constantly reminded to GO, because her natural bent seems to be to stay. The context of these verses is remarkable. Jesus didn't wait till conditions were perfect. He didn't wait till His disciples had overcome all of their doubts and personality flaws. Jesus sent them out even while they were wrestling through their unbelief. How incredible when you think about it! If you are waiting for the day that you have got this spirituality stuff all figured out, you are doing this all wrong. Just obey. Obey when you feel like it. Obey when you don't. Obey when you understand it. Obey when you don't. Set your heart to do what Jesus says.

As for us, we are setting our heart to obey the command of Jesus to GO. We are going to go and then we are going to teach them, specifically we are going to go and teach them to OBEY. Sometimes I think we would like to separate our teaching from actual obedience. But this is really a huge mistake.

2 Corinthians 10

[5] We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...

It's not enough to take every thought captive. We take every thought captive to obey Christ. Last week we started talking about the 50 commandments of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. We went through the first 6 together, and over the following weeks we are going to touch on each one and ask the Lord for His grace on our lives to do them.

I. BE RECONCILED

Matthew 5

[21] "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' [22] But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. [23] So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, [24] leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. [25] Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. [26] Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

- A. Jesus wants us to be proactive about reconciliation. When we have sinned against another person, we rationalize our sin by citing his sins—whether real and imagined—against us. (To rationalize a sin is simply to offer a "rational lie" for it.) We then wait for him to ask our forgiveness before we ask him



to forgive us. Alternatively, when we have sinned against another person, we feel so ashamed that we are too embarrassed to ask him for forgiveness. It is hard to admit that we are wrong, after all, and even harder to wait for another's mercy. The way of Jesus demands that we overcome both our rationalizing pride and our embarrassed humility. It requires that we take the lead in reconciliation, whether we are the sinner or the sinned against.

- B. **Reconciliation is more important to Jesus than religion.** Notice exactly how proactive Jesus encourages us to be. He encourages his hearers to leave their offerings at the altar if they need to be reconciled to a brother or sister. This is like saying, "Therefore, if you are listening to the Sunday sermon and suddenly remember that your brother has something against you, stand up and leave. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come back and finish the sermon." Obeying Jesus' commandments is more important than hearing a sermon, although a sermon should help you obey Jesus' commandments.
- C. So, does someone have something against you? Do you have something against him? Go and seek reconciliation, right now—whether you are wrong or right! That is the way of Jesus Christ. Why is it preferable for Christians to quietly resolve conflicts rather than battle over them publicly?

II. DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

Matthew 5

[27] "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' [28] But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. [29] If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. [30] And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

Adultery, n. (Websters 1828 Dictionary)

- 1. Violation of the marriage bed; a crime, or a civil injury, which introduces, or may introduce, into a family, a spurious offspring.**
- 2. In a scriptural sense, all manner of lewdness or unchastity, as in the seventh commandment.**
- 3. In scripture, idolatry, or apostasy from the true God. Jer. 3.**

Adultery (Dictionary.com, 2012)

Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than his or her lawful spouse.

- A. We are in a real dilemma here, aren't we? Yesterday, we hosted a pastors and leaders prayer meeting here at Resound and one of the prayer points was for the family. And I listened as a pastor



cried out for God to help us. The attack on life, and the attack on family are really a veiled attack on God Himself. He created covenant and commanded fruitfulness. There can be no more excuses in this area. If you are not married then you should not be sexually active. Period. If you are married, you should be faithful to your spouse. Let me speak into this, if you are flirting with someone who is not your spouse whether it be at work, online, through facebook or at walmart... You are wrong. And you are putting yourself in harms way. You need to stop it. You need to make yourself accountable.

1 Peter 5

[8] Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

B. I want to address the issue of pornography. We must guard our eyes and hearts in every way. You must resist the devil. Let me give you some practical wisdom. Are you ready? Get the computer out of your bedroom. Give your spouse access to your searches. If you really want to be free, you need to be accountable. Let me speak into accountability... you need people further along in the faith and in life experience to mentor you. If you are going to your brother or sister who struggles with the same exact thing that you do, you are fooling yourself to think that you are going to walk into freedom anytime soon. We need to become the kids of friends that help one another on the road to freedom!

C. Here's two websites I found that can help us on our way: www.bsecure.com and www.x3watch.com. Sign up. And let's be free.

1 Peter 5

[9] Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. [10] And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

The following statistics are from www.Purehope.net:

- 70% of 18 to 24 year old men visit pornographic sites in a typical month. 66% of men in their 20s and 30s also report being regular users of pornography. (First-person: the culture of pornography, R. Albert Mohler, Jr., Baptist Press, 28 December 2005)
- 40 million U.S. adults regularly visit Internet pornography websites, and 10% of adults admit to Internet sexual addiction (Internet Filter Review, 2006).
- 20% of men admit accessing pornography at work (Internet Filter Review, 2006).
- The number of television sexual scenes has almost doubled since 1998. 70% of all shows have some sexual content — averaging 5 sexual scenes per hour compared to 56% and 3.2 scenes per hour respectively in 1998. (Sex on TV 4, a Kaiser Family Foundation study, November, 2005)
- 56% of divorces involve one spouse's continued use of Internet pornography (Family Research Council, The Effects of Pornography, 2009)



Christians and Pornography

- According to pastors, the 8 top sexual issues damaging to their congregation are: 57% pornography addiction, 34% sexually active never-married adults, 30% adultery of married adults, 28% sexually active teenagers, 16% sexual dissatisfaction, 14% unwed pregnancy, 13% sexually active previously married adults, and 9% sexual abuse. (More Sex, Please, Christianity Today International, Winter 2005)
- 53% of Promise Keeper men viewed pornography in last week (http://familysafemedia.com/pornography_statistics.html#anchor5)
- 47% of Christians say Internet pornography is a problem in the home (http://familysafemedia.com/pornography_statistics.html#anchor5)
- 50% of all Christian men and 20% of all Christian women are addicted to pornography. (Market Wire. August 7, 2006. ChristiaNet.com. December 7, 2006 http://www.marketwire.com/mw/r...e_html_b1?release_id=151336)
- 51% of pastors say cyberporn is a possible temptation. 37% say it is a current struggle (Christianity Today, Leadership Survey, December 2001). 4 in 10 pastors have visited a porn site (Christianity Today, Leadership Survey, December 2001).

Youth Statistics

- 93% of boys and 62% of girls are exposed to Internet porn before the age of 18 (The Nature and Dynamic of Internet Pornography Exposure for Youth by Chiara Sabina, Janis Wolak, and David Finkelhor from Cyber Psychology and Behavior, 2008)
 - 11: the average age of first exposure to Internet pornography (internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com/internet-pornography-statistics.html)

D. My desire and goal for us as a community is for us to be free. Free to love the Lord. Free to be about His business. Free to be fulfilled in life and not condemned. Free!

Acts 17

[30] The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, [31] because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

E. Because our standard are so low in this area, and because impurity is so prevalent, we can think that Jesus will wink at what we wink at. I believe this will prove to be the gravest of mistakes. We need to think like Jesus. He didn't lower the standard from the Old Testament. He raised the standard. He made adultery an issue of the heart and mind, not just the body. If there is anything you need to make right today... then let's get it right today.

III. KEEP YOUR WORD



Matthew 5

[33] “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ [34] But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, [35] or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. [36] And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. [37] Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

- A. Do you say one thing and do another? Do you make huge proclamations to the Lord about what you are called to do and be and then not follow through. I listen very carefully to how people say things. When everything that comes out of someone’s mouth is God said, and God proclaimed... I look to see if that person has regard for what they say they heard from the Lord. You see my job as a pastor here is to help you discern the will of the Lord through testing and practice, to be a reminder to you of what you’ve heard, and to help you remain faithful. I’m not here to tell you personally what the Lord is saying for your life. But to me one, there is nothing worse for a believer than not regarding your own words from the Lord. A key passage for me has been Jeremiah 23... read it and see what you think.

Judges 11- Jephthah’s Tragic Vow

[29] Then the Spirit of the LORD was upon Jephthah.... [30] And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD and said, “If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, [31] then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the LORD’s, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.” [32] So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them, and the LORD gave them into his hand...

[34] Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah. And behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. She was his only child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter. [35] And as soon as he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, “Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I have opened my mouth to the LORD, and I cannot take back my vow.” [36] And she said to him, “My father, you have opened your mouth to the LORD; do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, now that the LORD has avenged you on your enemies, on the Ammonites.” [37] So she said to her father, “Let this thing be done for me: leave me alone two months, that I may go up and down on the mountains and weep for my virginity, I and my companions.” [38] So he said, “Go.” Then he sent her away for two months, and she departed, she and her companions, and wept for her virginity on the mountains. [39] And at the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to his vow that he had made. She had never known a man, and it became a custom in Israel [40] that the daughters of Israel went year by year to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in the year.

- B. The purpose of this story is certainly not that we start killing daughters after making bold proclamations. The purpose is that we stop making boasts! We are missing a real key understanding about the Word of God (Jesus) and our own word. God is always trying to elevate us... to bring us up. There is nothing God says that He doesn’t accomplish. And this is who we are called to be beside Him. Let your yes be yes and your no be no. In this new season you may need to say no to some things...because there are some bug things coming to say yes to! Get ready!!



Resound Community Church

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE IT ALL TOGETHER TO MAKE DISCIPLES FOR JESUS: PART 2

Leah Ramirez