

## Let's Go Places

by John Isaac Edwards

If you're familiar with Toyota's advertising, you've probably heard or seen the slogan, "Let's go places." I'd like to make spiritual application of this in our study. The Lord has always called upon His people to go places. For example, "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went..." (Heb. 11:8). If you had been Abraham, would this have been said of you? Let me bring to our attention some places we need to go.

### 1) *Go And Be Reconciled.*

From time to time, brethren disagree. What must be done when your brother has ought against you? The Lord said, "Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Mt. 5:24). God will not accept our worship when we are at odds with our brother.

### 2) *Go The Second Mile.*

The mountain sermon teaches, "And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain" (Mt. 5:41). Some seek to do the bare minimum with the thinking, "What is the least I can do to get by?" How about having a second-mile religion?

3) *Go And Learn.* Christ told some fault-finding Pharisees, "But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Mt. 9:13). Others can teach, but it's up to you to learn!

4) *Go And Tell.* What is the protocol when a brother sins against you? Jesus instructed, "... go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother" (Mt. 18:15). By the way, it does not say, "Go and tell his fault"! Some may tell everyone but the brother involved, he may not even know about it, and it all may be a BIG misunderstanding! Only two people should be involved, right? You and the brother — ALONE. How about resolving things the Lord's way?

5) *Go Work.* Matthew 20 relates the Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard with the householder telling his laborers, "Go ye also into the vineyard..." (vv. 4, 7). A vineyard is a place of work! A man told his sons, "... go work to day in my vineyard" (Mt. 21:28-30). Paul wrote, "... always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).

### 6) *Go Teach And Preach.*

The Lord commissioned the apostles, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..." (Mt. 28:19). Mark's account puts it this way, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15). First-century disciples recognized this work didn't belong to the apostles exclusively as they "... went every where preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). Great things will happen today, when we go teach and preach, just like then!

7) *Go And Do.* Remember the story of the compassionate Samaritan? He saw a man stripped of his raiment, wounded, and left half dead. "...when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee" (Lk. 12:30-35). Jesus said, "...Go, and do thou likewise" (Lk. 10:37). This is the second commandment in A-C-T-I-O-N! (Mt. 22:39). Christianity is a D-O-I-N-G religion! (Mt. 7:21; Lk. 6:46; Jas. 1:22-27).

8) **Go And Bring Forth Fruit.** The Lord used agricultural terms to teach about our relationship to Him. He said, "... that ye should go and bring forth fruit..." (Jn. 15:16). To be fruitful, we must have the proper relationship with the Lord as verse 4 teaches, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." Fruit-bearing also requires the proper soil conditions as seed that "... fell into good ground... brought forth fruit..." (Mt. 13:8).

9) **Go And Visit.** Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do" (Acts 15:36). Thus began the second preaching trip which lasted about 3 years! Suppose a preacher announced, "We're going to visit our brethren in every city where we have preached; we'll be back in about 3 years"? I decided in light of that and everything else the Bible teaches about the work of an evangelist, that I wouldn't be critical or complain when a gospel preacher does the work of an evangelist. I would be

thankful others want to hear him, thank the Lord for the doors of opportunity He has opened for the gospel to be heard, believed and obeyed, pray for him, and assist him in whatever way I can. By the way, have you gone visiting lately? (Mt. 25:31-46; Jas. 1:27).

10) **Go On To Perfection.** The better book exhorts us, "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God" (Heb. 6:1). Some brethren are like a foundation with no house! They remain babes and never reach full age! (Heb. 5:12-14). We need to grow up! "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things..." (Eph. 4:15).

Christ is "...the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Heb. 5:9). We can't stay put and obey the Lord. We must go places! It's always been that way. Naaman the leper was told, "Go and wash in Jordan seven times..." (2 Ki. 5:10). A man blind from his birth was instructed, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (Jn. 9:7). Saul was

told, "Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do" (Acts 9:6). In the city, "...arise, and be baptized..." (Acts 22:16). While studying with a young couple recently, when they recognized their need to obey the Lord, they said, "Let's go!" As Moses said to Hobab, "We are journeying unto the place of which the Lord said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good" (Num. 10:29). Will you go?

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