

SERVE LIKE JESUS

**A 7-DAY JOURNEY TO SERVING LIKE
JESUS IN THE EVERYDAY PLACES OF LIFE.**



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Introduction

SERVE LIKE JESUS

*Serving isn't something you do in a FARAWAY place,
it's something you do in the EVERYDAY places of life.*

For too long we've relegated serving to the mission trips we take or the projects we do on the "other side of town," but Jesus served everyone he encountered in the everyday places of life. He used his eyes and ears to notice the one. He stopped what he was doing to help those in need, and most of all, he felt compassion for those who were lost.

*Serve Like Jesus is a 7-day journey to
serving others in the everyday places of life.*

Together we'll learn how to serve, see, listen, speak, go, give, and love like Jesus did. Are you ready to serve like Jesus? Let's go.

Day 1

SERVE LIKE JESUS

"It's my turn!" "No, it's mine!"

The disciples of Jesus were acting like two-year-olds. Arguing and fighting over who was going to sit next to the Rabbi in the "Kingdom of Heaven."

The crucifixion of Jesus was less than 24 hours away, and his "top-of-the-class" students, James and John, were fighting about who was the greatest. They had totally missed who Jesus was and what he came to do!

Jesus didn't come to set up a Kingdom of Power, a Kingdom of Prominence, or a Kingdom of Earth. Jesus came to establish the "Kingdom of Heaven" . . . a kingdom that loves, gives, and serves. Jesus came to set up a Kingdom for the

poor, the sick, the oppressed, the captive, and those who were dead in their sins. Jesus came to serve, not to be served. To give not to take. Jesus was not going to let this opportunity pass him by. This was the perfect time to teach his closest disciples what was closest to his heart - **SERVING OTHERS!**

Let's listen in . . .

Mark 10:35-45 - NLT

Jesus Teaches the Disciples about Serving.

³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do us a favor." ³⁶ "What is your request?" he asked. ³⁷ They replied, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left." ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?"

³⁹ "Oh yes," they replied, "we are able!" Then Jesus told them, "You will indeed drink from my bitter cup and be baptized with my baptism of suffering. ⁴⁰ But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen."

⁴¹ When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were furious. ⁴² So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people,

and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ⁴³ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Jesus came to SERVE and to GIVE.

The Son of God came to show us the Father by serving and giving. He entered the world as a meek and humble servant, a baby King that would take away the sins of the world. He intentionally left his position in Heaven as Son of God, to take on the humble position of a servant. He came to free us from the pursuit of pride, greed, and selfishness.

Jesus came to dismantle the Kingdom of SELF and establish the Kingdom of GOD.

Jesus isn't like other Kings. He doesn't lead like other Kings. He doesn't abuse his power and ignore the powerless. He doesn't dominate the weak and celebrate the strong.

He doesn't demand others to serve him -

Jesus is the King that SERVES OTHERS.

He is the King that got his hands dirty by touching the leper, his reputation dirty by eating with sinners, and his spirit dirty by taking away our sins. Jesus is the King that serves. But here's the twist . . . we're quick to celebrate Jesus giving his life away for us, but the point of the whole story was that Jesus was showing his disciples how to give their life away to others.

This was his last night as their teacher, and he didn't want to tell them about serving - Jesus took off his robe and showed them how to serve.

John 13:1-17

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet.

¹ Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.

² It was time for supper . . .

³ Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. ⁴ So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, ⁵ and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

¹² After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing?" ¹³ You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord' and you are right, because that's what I am.

¹⁴ And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. ¹⁵ I have given you an example to follow. **Do as I have done to you.** ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them."

How about you?

- Are you serving others or waiting for them to serve you?
- Are you fighting for power, position, or recognition?
- Are you too busy advancing your career to notice the people around you?
- Are you ready to get your hands dirty . . . like Jesus did?

Come On. Let's do this together!

Day 2

LOVE LIKE JESUS

When was the last time you cried?

I don't mean a *misty-eyed-could-have-been-the-pollen* cried... but, really CRIED. The kind of tears that make your eyes burn and your heart heavy. The kind you can't hold back even if you wanted to. How long has it been since you cried like that? Maybe it's been awhile. Maybe it was last night. Either way, you're not alone.

Jesus WEPT too.

If you're a parent, you know why Jesus cried - his children were in trouble. Jesus came to Earth for the sole purpose of rescuing his children back to their Father, but they had refused to recognize him as their Messiah.

Jesus came to bring hope to the hopeless, sight to the blind, and life to the dead. And as of right now - his children were hopeless, blind, and spiritually dead. His children were lost and he came to find them.

Jesus was full of emotions, but his primary emotion was love. His actions were motivated by LOVE - not duty, guilt, or pride. Jesus was moved with compassion.

Compassion is LOVE in ACTION.

Matthew 9:35-38

The Need for Workers.

³⁵ Jesus travelled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he was moved with compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. ³⁸ So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."

Chances are, you've heard this verse before. Me too. I'm an old-school preacher's kid from south Georgia, so I've heard this verse a thousand times. In fact, this was the "theme verse" for every missionary I knew growing up. They'd come to our

church for a Sunday evening service (*remember those*) and pull out a janky old projector with slides from a far-away land. Then they'd pass the offering plate for me to drop in the last few dollars that I had to my name. Don't get me wrong, their slideshows often moved me to tears and sometimes lulled me to sleep, but I was never sure what to do with this passage. I wasn't going to Africa as a missionary . . . I was just a regular old kid, living a regular old life.

*I never understood how God could
use ME in the everyday places of Life.*

Years later, I began to understand this scripture in a whole new way. I was a 38 year-old church-planter that had just moved my family to a brand new city, and was way out of my comfort zone. I walked out of a neighborhood party that got a little uncomfortable for a church kid like me. The language was rough, the jokes were off-color, and the guests were over-served. I was seeing and hearing things I had never seen or heard before. That night, I came home and burst into tears.

They were tears of compassion.

*God was breaking my heart for the people that
HE LOVED - one party and one conversation at a time.*

What about you? When was the last time you cried over your city? Your community? Your family? When was the last time you put aside progress to notice a person? Tabled your agenda to sit at the table? When was the last time you went out of your way to help others find their way?

The phrase, *"Jesus was moved with compassion,"* is recorded twelve times in the scriptures. When was the last time you cried over the things that made Jesus cry?

***When was the last time you
were MOVED by your LOVE?***

Mark 6:30-34

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand.

³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and taught. ³¹ Then Jesus said, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile." He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat. ³² So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. ³³ But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them.

³⁴ Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped off the boat, and he was moved with compassion toward them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

I'm just beginning to understand what breaks God's heart. I'm a freshman student at seeing what God sees and feeling what God feels. But here's what I know to be absolutely true . . .

*God will never **USE** you greatly
until he **BREAKS** you deeply.*

Are you ready to step out of the boat of your comfort zone and move towards the crowd with a heart of compassion? Ask God to break your heart for your city, your family, and your co-workers.

Ask him to give you eyes to see what he sees, ears to hear what he hears, and a heart to feel what he feels.

*Ask God to send **YOU** into **HIS** Harvest!*

Day 3

SEE LIKE JESUS

The world had been waiting for centuries for the Messiah to come, and he was finally here! The time had come for him to do what the Father sent him to do . . . “*save the world.*”

But not quite yet . . .

*On his way to save the WORLD,
Jesus stopped to save the ONE.*

Jesus and the disciples were on their way to celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem, yet his closest followers still didn't know that they were walking with “*The Lamb of God.*” Little did they know that Jesus would be crucified in less than a week. The promise of God was standing right beside them and they still didn't see it.

The caravan of disciples had turned into a full-on crowd, and the momentum of the processional was rising with every step. Everybody wanted something from Jesus, and they'd do anything to get to the front of the line. But the streets were packed, and the odds were slim. Especially, if you're a short guy! But Jesus was looking for sinners.

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus and Zacchaeus.

¹ Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. ² There was a man named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. ³ He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said, "Quick, come down! I am going to your house today."

⁶ Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great expectation and joy. ⁷ But the people were displeased, "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. ⁸ Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" ⁹ Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this house today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man (Jesus) came to SEEK and SAVE those who are lost."

Jesus sees the ONE.

The ONE who feels alone.

The ONE who doesn't measure up.

The ONE who can't seem to get it together.

The ONE who thinks they're better than everyone else.

*Sometimes in our quest for MORE,
we overlook the ONE.*

We focus on the masses, the crowds, the numbers, the quarterly reports - everything except the ONE person that God has placed right beside us. The neighbor who's a single parent. The daughter who struggles with depression. The wife who feels unnoticed. The son who didn't make the team. The friend who can't seem to "stay on the wagon."

The boss you don't like.

No one expected Jesus to stop, but he did. And he didn't stop with a pitiful nod or a "*hope-things-are-ok*" glance. No, Jesus stopped the entire party. He halted everything that he was doing to look up. No one would have judged him for moving ahead, after all - he was Jesus and he was on his way to save the world. But the story doesn't stop there.

*Jesus left the RIGHTEOUS
to go with the SINNER.*

Zacchaeus wasn't just a short guy, he was a bad guy! He's the kind of guy your momma warned you about. He was the "chief tax collector" and he was notorious for his cruelty and deceit by over-collecting the required tax. The Romans had incited heavy taxation on the Jewish people, and they used crooked Jews to collect the taxes from their own people. Zacchaeus was the worst kind of person - he was a traitor. His contact list was a sorted bunch and his parties were the talk of the town. But that didn't stop Jesus from going to his house!

*Jesus didn't come to LOOK good,
He came to DO good!*

Jesus didn't care about his religious reputation because he was secure in his father's approval. He didn't care about the hype, he came to help. He didn't come to be served - *Jesus came to serve others*. And in this encounter . . .

Serving started with SEEING.

Jesus didn't see Zacchaeus the way others saw him. He didn't see him for what he had done, he saw him for what he would

become. He didn't see him as a project to be fixed, but as a friend to be loved. He didn't see him as an outcast, he saw him as a child of God that was lost.

Jesus came to SEEK and to SAVE the Lost.

So he went to the party! And somewhere in the middle of the drinks, dinner, and dancing - Zacchaeus stood up and declared to God and everybody else that he would *"give half of his wealth to the poor, and pay back everyone he had cheated four-fold."* Wow. Talk about about coming clean!

Zacchaeus was ready to change everything.

Why? Because Jesus, the Messiah, the Savior, the *"Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world,"* saw him in a tree and was seated at his table. Jesus saw the ONE.

How about you?

- Do you notice the needy?
- The hurting?
- The lonely?
- The sinner?

Do you see others the way God sees them? Ask God to open your eyes today to see the hundreds of opportunities that surround you every day!

Matthew 25:35-40

³⁵ Jesus said, "For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me."

³⁷ Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? ³⁹ When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

⁴⁰ And the King will say, "I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the LEAST of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to ME!"

Day 4

LISTEN LIKE JESUS

"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." - Mark 10:47

The voice of a blind beggar rose above the noise of the crowd. *"BE QUIET!"* was the instant reply of the in-crowd. They didn't say it out loud, but we all know what *"BE QUIET"* really meant . . . *"You're the last person in the world who belongs in our party. You're an outsider, a beggar, a problem that we wish would go away!"*

*The crowd saw him as a PROBLEM,
but Jesus saw him as a PERSON.*

When Jesus heard him, he STOPPED.

*"Really Jesus? We're on a mission. We're just getting started.
Our crowd is growing. Your approval ratings are off the charts.*

This is not the time to be stopping. We don't have time to listen to . . . HIM. Come on, let's keep it moving!"

We rarely stop.

We're busy. We're movers and shakers. We certainly don't have time to stop what we're doing to listen to someone we don't even know.

But Jesus STOPPED.

And he LISTENED.

Mark 10:47-52

Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus.

⁴⁷ When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, "Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸ "Be quiet!" Many of the people yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁹ When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, "Tell him to come here." So they called the blind man. "Cheer up," they said. "Come on, he's calling you!" ⁵⁰ Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked. "My rabbi," the blind man said, "I want to see!"

⁵² And Jesus said to him, "Go, for your faith has healed you." Instantly, the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road.

*If you want to be great at SERVING
you've got to be great at STOPPING.*

There's no way of getting around the truth that Jesus stopped. A lot. He was always stopping to heal the sick, speak to the children, have a meal with a friend, or teach an impromptu sermon on a hillside. The one person who had the most important agenda of anyone stopped to serve the ONE. Jesus stopped to listen.

How about you?

- Do you stop to ask your spouse about their day?
- Do you listen to the stories of your children?
- Do you hear the concerns of your co-worker?
- Do you pause the negotiations to pray for a client?
- Do you stop what you're doing to help a stranger in need?

Jesus stopped and he listened. He didn't ignore the cry for help. He intentionally heard the voice that others were trying to silence.

When others said "QUIET!"

Jesus said "COME!"

Healing begins when we come to Jesus. We're never too bad to come. Never too far gone. Never too messed up. Never too dirty. Jesus says "*COME TO ME.*"

So the blind man abandoned his stuff and shuffled his way towards the voice that said "*COME TO ME.*" There he was - in all his messiness - standing in front of the holy Son of God. What an encounter! It's the ultimate showdown between the *perfect God* and the *outcast beggar*.

What would Jesus do now?

Rebuke him for the sin that caused his blindness? Give him a lecture about having more faith? Tell him to clean up his stuff and go to church this Sunday?

Nope.

*Jesus asked a QUESTION
and waited for an ANSWER.*

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked.

"My Rabbi," the blind man said, "I want to see!"

Jesus said, "Go, for your faith has healed you."

"Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus on the way" (Mark 10:51-52).

Instantly.

Just like that . . . years of blindness, rejection, shame, and humiliation were gone. The greek word "sozo" that was translated "healed" in the passage above is the same word for "Salvation."

The literal translation of the verse says . . .

"Go, for your faith has SAVED you."

Saved. Rescued. Delivered. Years of blindness were reversed in a moment. The man named Bartimaeus would never be the same again. His days of begging were replaced with days of following Jesus. Why? Because Jesus stopped to LISTEN.

How about you?

- Whose voice have you been ignoring?
- Who's waiting for you to stop, ask, and listen?

Ask God to open your ears and your heart today to those around you!

Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus Says Come.

²⁸ Jesus said, "COME TO ME, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

John 6:37

³⁷ Jesus said, "Those the Father has given to me will COME TO ME, and I will never reject them."

Jesus says, "COME - TO - ME."

Day 5

SPEAK LIKE JESUS

Jesus said . . . *"Stop CRYING."*

Oh sure, I'll just stop crying right away.

Tears - stop flowing!

Heart - stop hurting!

Face - pull it together!

You and I both know that tears come from deep within and don't dry up just because someone told us to *STOP CRYING*. In fact, the more demanding the request to stop . . . the more we feel like crying.

Imagine entering a funeral home and demanding that everyone STOP CRYING!

But that's exactly what Jesus did in today's reading . . .

Luke 7:11-17

Jesus Raises a Widow's Son.

¹¹ Soon afterwards Jesus went with his disciples to the village of Nain, and a large crowd followed him. ¹² A funeral procession was coming out as he approached the village gate. The young man who had died was the widow's only son, and a large crowd from the village was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. "Don't cry!" he said.

¹⁴ Then he walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. "Young man," he said, "I tell you, GET UP!" ¹⁵ Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother. ¹⁶ Great fear swept the crowd, and they praised God, saying, "*A mighty prophet has risen among us, and God has visited his people today.*" ¹⁷ And the news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding countryside.

It's easy to read the stories of Scripture like a fairy tale. A make believe story. . . with make believe characters . . . and make believe emotions. But these stories are real. They involve real people, with real feelings, and real hurts.

*The widow had lost more than her SON,
she'd lost her only HOPE.*

In ancient cultures, your only hope for survival in your old age was your family. They were your retirement plan. They were

your caretaker. They were your pension. Your safety net in your final years. The woman's son was dead and so was her husband, and for all practical purposes, so was SHE.

These are the moments in life that it's difficult to know what to do. You've been asking God to break your heart for those who are hurting, and then when he does - you don't know what to do!

*Serving sounds EASY
until you actually DO it.*

Serving is messy. And tiring!

You stand face-to-face with anger, depression, addiction, poverty, and all types of immorality. You're in the deep end of situations you never thought possible and actions that are down-right deplorable. The honeymoon is over, and you're tempted to throw in the serving towel. You're torn between serving and quitting.

I wonder if that's what happened to Jesus on the way into the city. I wonder if he heard the cries of the widow and the voice of the Father at the same time. I wonder if the Father whispered to him,

"SPEAK to her.

Don't rush by.

Don't ignore her.

*Don't pretend you don't
see her and hear her.*

SPEAK to her."

Jesus saw the woman.

Jesus heard her cry.

Jesus felt compassion.

Jesus spoke words of LIFE.

Do you see the pattern?

SERVING = Seeing + Hearing + Feeling + Doing

Sometimes, we're tempted to stop with seeing, hearing, or feeling. We deceive ourselves into thinking that's enough. That we've done what God requires of us by merely seeing, hearing, or feeling compassion for the lost and the least. But that's just the beginning.

Compassion is LOVE in ACTION.

Jesus walked over to the coffin and touched it. That's a serious problem for several reasons. For starters, touching a coffin made Jesus "unclean" and therefore "unfit" to do what he came to the city to do. On the other hand, speaking to a woman was a cultural taboo. Certainly not an acceptable practice for someone in his position. Jesus was a Rabbi. A teacher. A leader.

*But Jesus didn't come to LOOK good,
he came to DO good.*

Jesus spoke to the dead son . . . **"Get Up!"** (Luke 7:13).

And with two words, the process of death and decay were reversed. With two words, the funeral procession turned into a full-on party. With two words, the widow with "No Hope" - had her son back!

Jesus used his words to SPEAK . . .

HOPE to the hopeless.

LIFE to the lifeless.

JOY to the joyless.

How about you? Are you using your words to speak life to your family? Your marriage? Your co-workers? Your neighbor? Have you ever considered that your words can actually be an "*instrument*" of service to God?

Ask God to fill your mouth with the words of LIFE today!

Proverbs 18:21

²¹ Death and Life are in the power of the tongue.

Romans 6:13

¹³ Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

Day 6

GO LIKE JESUS

Jesus said, "Come . . . FOLLOW me." (Luke 9:59)

We've heard that verse so many times it's lost its meaning. Don't overlook what Jesus was telling his disciples to do - Jesus was inviting them to follow him, but following Jesus means going where Jesus goes.

*You can't FOLLOW Jesus
and STAY where you are!*

It's impossible to do both. Following Jesus means leaving everything else behind. Family, friends, career, you name it.

Not just some things - but EVERY thing.

You might think it's easy for me to preach these words because I'm a pastor of 28 years, but I can assure you my friend, the hardest words I ever heard from Jesus were:

"Your duty is to GO." - Luke 9:60

I remember those words like it was yesterday. I was serving as a student pastor in Knoxville, TN and things were good. In fact, they were great. My job was fulfilling, my co-workers were my best friends, and our family felt loved and supported by a congregation like we'd never felt before.

But God was nudging us to GO.

I walked into the sanctuary that Sunday morning, and prayed this simple prayer, *"God, if it's time for us to GO . . . let me know."* And within minutes of praying that prayer, our pastor asked us to open our Bibles to this passage:

Luke 9:57-60

The Cost of Following Jesus.

⁵⁷ As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head."

⁵⁹ He said to another person, "Come, follow me." The man agreed, but he said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father."

⁶⁰ But Jesus told him, "Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to GO and preach about the Kingdom of God."

Your duty is to GO!

That's about as clear as it gets.

I knew in that moment that if we stayed . . . we disobeyed.

"Hold up J.! Are you telling me that if I don't move my family to share Jesus with the nations of the world that I'm being disobedient? Don't some of us need to stay so we can support those who are going? If we all move away - who's left to share Jesus with our neighbors? I want to be obedient, but God hasn't told me to move!" That might be true, but . . .

Don't assume that GOING, always means MOVING.

In fact, most of the time, going doesn't involve moving. You see, the problem is that we've pigeon-holed missionaries as those who go, and the rest of us as those who stay. But what if we changed our definition of mission?

*Mission isn't something you do in a FARAWAY place,
it's something you do in the EVERYDAY places of life.*

Luke 10:1-3

Jesus Sends Out His Disciples.

¹ The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places he planned to visit. ² These were his instructions to them: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields. ³ Now GO, and remember that I am sending you out as sheep among wolves."

Mission isn't something you do at a designated time or place - mission is about going into each and every day with the mindset of Jesus. It's about seeing, hearing, feeling and doing what Jesus would do . . . right here and right now!

The key to living on mission isn't about adding more things to your schedule. It's not about making a "to-do list" for the Kingdom of God, but rather "doing everything you do" for the glory of God. It's about living out the message of peace, hope, and love in the everyday places of Life.

*Living on MISSION is taking the
Kingdom of God everywhere you GO.*

But he's not just sending me . . . Jesus is sending YOU too!

The call of Jesus isn't for the elite, or full-time pastors, or the missionaries. The call of Jesus is for everyone - the rich, the poor, the educated, the simple, the professional, and the amateur. It's for YOU!

The last thing Jesus told us to do . . . was GO!

Matthew 28:18-20

The Great Commission.

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, GO and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach them to obey all the commands that I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the ends of the age."

Remembering the final words of Jesus will help us live on mission every single day - not just on Sundays. The final words of Jesus will change the way we treat others. It'll change what we say and what we do. It'll change the way we spend our time and our money. It'll send us to people and places we would normally avoid. And, it'll fill every day with passion and purpose. Jesus said GO! Are you GOING?

Day 7

GIVE LIKE JESUS

Today is our last day together, and we find ourselves right back where we started this journey . . . *at the TABLE with Jesus*.

Jesus had less than 24 hours until his crucifixion and he spent his last night alive sharing a meal with his friends. Centuries later we refer to this meal as **The Last Supper**. This is the meal that he told his Disciples that he would GIVE his life away so that everyone could find eternal life in him.

Mark 10:43-45

Jesus Teaches the Disciples about Serving.

⁴³ "But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to *SERVE* others and to *GIVE* his life as a ransom for many."

Jesus came to GIVE his life away!

Far too often, we get wrapped up in the miracles, or the parables, or the teachings of Jesus - but the primary reason Jesus came to earth was *"to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Jesus didn't come to be a good teacher. Or a good role model. Or a good storyteller. Jesus came to be our SAVIOR. Jesus came to serve you and me, by giving his life as the payment for our sin.

Who would you give your life for? Your family? Your spouse? Your best friend? How about your enemy? Or the person who hated you the most? Would you die for them? Would you sacrifice YOUR life for THEIRS? Probably not . . . and I wouldn't either.

But - Jesus came to GIVE his life away!

For you - and for me - and for anyone who'll receive his gift.

The ultimate act of SERVICE that Jesus performed was GIVING his own life as the payment for our sin.

Let's get back to the meal with Jesus and his friends . . .

This was a special evening. It was the first night of Passover, and this meal started a 7-day celebration for all of God's people. The meal was a reminder of the first passover night centuries ago in the land of Egypt. The children of Israel were instructed to paint their doorposts with the blood of "an innocent lamb" as a sign of their faith in Yahweh God - the God of the Bible. And on that dreadful night, the Angel of Death would "PASS-OVER" any house that displayed the sign of faith.

Passover was the last night that God's people would live under the oppression of Egypt. Passover was a celebration of freedom - both physically and spiritually.

Tonight was their last night with Jesus, but they still didn't get it. They still didn't understand why Jesus wasn't setting up his Kingdom like all the other Kings. They didn't understand why he kept talking about his death and resurrection. They didn't understand that Jesus was a different kind of King. They didn't understand that Jesus came to GIVE his life away.

Everyone at the table had celebrated this meal their entire life, but tonight was going to be different. Tonight they shared ***THE PASSOVER TABLE*** with ***THE PASSOVER LAMB***.

Luke 22:14-20

The Last Supper.

¹⁴ When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table. ¹⁵ Jesus said, "I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. ¹⁶ For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God." ¹⁷ Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come."

¹⁹ He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people - an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you."

Jesus came to GIVE his life away - and if you want to serve like Jesus, you have to be willing to give your life away too.

Serving like Jesus means giving your time, your money, your emotions, and yourself to those around you. Serving like Jesus will cost you relationships, friendships, promotions, and the comforts of life. Serving like Jesus will consume your calendar, your conversations, and your aspirations. Serving like Jesus will be tiring, messy, and costly.

So why bother? Why should we Serve Like Jesus?

Why should we give our life away to serving others?

Because Jesus said,

Matthew 10:39

"If you cling to your life you will lose it;

but if you give up your life for me you will find it."

Jesus made a promise to every disciple who ever lived that
GIVING away your life was the only way to FINDING true life.

Are you ready to Serve Like Jesus? Are you ready to make an
eternal difference with your everyday life? Are you ready to
give yourself to something that really matters?

It's time to stop talking and start SERVING. Let's GO.

Conclusion

IT'S YOUR TURN

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So, now what? You've followed Jesus into the everyday places of life for the past seven days, and now it's your turn to DO what Jesus DID. Chances are, you're all ready to go, but aren't sure how to get started.

Here are a few questions to help you find your way:

1. Who in your life needs you the most right now?
2. What type of serving brings you the most joy?
3. What gifts, skills, and abilities do you have that others need?
4. What have you done that others say you're really good at?
5. What is one problem that you'd like to solve in your lifetime?

Are you ready to Serve Like Jesus? You can't do everything, but you can do something. It's YOUR TURN - start today!