

Ziss Family to the Philippines – Bible Study Helps

Title: Go Where God Says: The Mission-Minded Call to Every Believer

Sermon Summary: This missions-focused sermon emphasizes that every born-again believer is called to be a missionary, not just to distant lands but to their immediate sphere of influence. Pastor Eddie Ziss shares his personal journey from reluctance to obedience in missions work in the Philippines, demonstrating that missions begins with surrendering to God's plan rather than our own. The message challenges the congregation to understand that missions is not about geography but about the heart—God's heart for the lost and our willingness to obey. Using the pattern of Scripture, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the urgency of reaching the lost, the sermon calls believers to three mission-minded actions: go to the Scriptures, go to the Source (God), and go to the streets. The powerful illustration of Lot's failure to reach even his own family serves as a sobering reminder that our mission field starts with those closest to us and extends to the strangers we encounter daily.

Key Points:

- Missions is God's way of working His plan through His Word and people since the beginning of time
- God is an active, moving God who seeks personal relationship with all mankind across the world
- Every born-again believer is qualified and called to missions—it's not limited to pastors or professional missionaries
- The Great Commission has three parts: teaching salvation, baptizing, and continued discipleship (Matthew 28:18-20)
- Mission-Minded Action #1: Go to the Scriptures—the Bible is our foundation and pattern for missions
- Mission-Minded Action #2: Go to the Source—God must have hold of your heart before He can guide your mouth and move your feet
- Mission-Minded Action #3: Go to the Streets—preach the gospel "there" wherever you are right now
- Obedience to God is the blessing, not just receiving blessings from God
- Your mission field starts with your family, then extends to your community and beyond
- Silence kills eternally—people will perish in hell if we remain quiet about the gospel
- Three practical ways to participate in missions: pray, go, and give
- The urgency of now—people need to be saved right now, not tomorrow

Scripture Reference:

- Matthew 28:18-20 (The Great Commission)
- Luke 19:10 (Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost)
- Acts 14:7 ("And there they preached the gospel")
- Romans 10:14-15 (How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel)
- Luke 12:34 (Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also)
- Romans 8:14 (As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God)
- Romans 15:6 (One mind and one mouth glorify God)
- 1 Corinthians 15:45 (The first Adam and the last Adam)
- Philippians 3:14 (Pressing toward the mark)
- Isaiah 6:8 (Here am I, send me)
- Acts 13 (The pattern of being sent out by the Holy Spirit, a church, and a pastor)

Ziss Family to the Philippines – Bible Study Helps

Stories:

- Personal testimony of Pastor Eddie Ziss' salvation at age 30 and his initial resistance to ministry calling
- The airport conversation in Davao, Philippines, where the plan to send a missionary family was conceived, leading to God calling Eddie himself
- The story of Eddie's daughter (8-9 years old) leading a Filipino girl to Christ shortly after arriving in the Philippines
- The illustration of meeting a man who had been praying for Eddie since February 2009, before his salvation
- The detailed illustration of Lot in Sodom—demonstrating how Lot failed to reach his wife, his married daughters and their husbands, his single daughters, and two strangers, resulting in only "just Lot" being saved while his entire family and the city perished
- The journey of Freedom Baptist Church in Tagum City from teaching 12 adults in a house to constructing a two-story building with a 250-person sanctuary
- Eddie's humble beginnings in ministry cleaning the church and serving in the nursery despite being newly saved

Ziss Family to the Philippines – Bible Study Helps

Discipleship Questions

Pastor Eddie mentioned that obeying God is the blessing itself, not just the outcomes of obedience. How does this perspective change the way you approach difficult decisions or callings in your life?

The sermon emphasized that missions isn't just about geography but about the heart. What does it mean practically for your mission field to be 'right where you are' in your daily life?

Reflecting on the story of Lot, how might focusing only on your own spiritual life while neglecting your family and those around you lead to spiritual failure? What does faithfulness to your 'first mission field' look like?

The message stated that most churches get two parts of the Great Commission right but miss the third part about ongoing teaching and discipleship. Why do you think the discipleship component is so often neglected, and how can we prioritize it?

Pastor Eddie said 'silence kills' in the context of sharing the gospel. What fears or obstacles keep you from speaking about Jesus to those in your everyday life, and how can you overcome them?

The sermon challenged the idea of 'following your heart,' calling it deceitfully wicked. How do you discern between your own desires and God's leading when making important life decisions?

When God has your heart, He can guide your mouth and move your feet. What practical steps can you take to ensure God has full control of your heart rather than just outward religious activity?

The illustration showed that Lot needed to reach only two more people to spare an entire city, yet he failed. Who are the 'two people' in your life that God has placed in your path who need to hear the gospel?

Pastor Eddie emphasized that every born-again believer is qualified to do missions without needing special training or credentials. What is holding you back from seeing yourself as a missionary in your current context?

The message described missions as a pattern involving the Holy Spirit, a church, and a pastor working together. How does being sent out from a local church body provide accountability, support, and effectiveness that independent ministry efforts might lack?

Small Group Guide: Go Where God Says

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Icebreaker Question: Share one place you've traveled to (near or far) that left a lasting impact on you. What made it memorable?

Sermon Overview (5 minutes)

Pastor Eddie Ziss shared about missions being at the heart of God's plan—not just about geography, but about the heart. He emphasized three mission-minded actions: Go to the Scriptures, Go to the Source, and Go to the Streets. Through the sobering illustration of Lot, we're reminded that everyone has a mission field right where they are.

Key Scripture References

- **Matthew 28:18-20** - The Great Commission
 - **Luke 19:10** - Jesus came to seek and save the lost
 - **Acts 14:7** - "And there they preached the gospel"
 - **Romans 10:14-15** - Beautiful are the feet of those who preach
 - **Luke 12:34** - "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"
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Discussion Questions

Part 1: Go to the Scriptures (15 minutes)

1. **Pastor Eddie mentioned that missions comes from God's Word, not just our good ideas.** When have you had a "good idea" that God redirected? How did you respond?
2. **Read Matthew 28:18-20 together.** Most churches focus on salvation and baptism but miss verse 20 (teaching them to observe all things). Why do you think the "teaching" part is often neglected? What does complete discipleship look like?
3. **The sermon stated, "We are not all God's children" (Romans 8:14).** How does this truth change how we approach evangelism? Why is this an unpopular but necessary message?

Part 2: Go to the Source (15 minutes)

Ziss Family to the Philippines – Bible Study Helps

4. **"When God has your heart, He can guide your mouth and move your feet."** What currently has the majority of your time, talent, and treasure? Is it aligned with God's heart for missions?
5. **The message challenged us to avoid the "F-word" (feelings) and "N-word" (never).** Share a time when you said "I'll never..." but God had other plans. How did that experience grow your faith?
6. **Pastor Eddie said, "Obeying God IS the blessing."** How does this differ from the cultural Christianity message that focuses on comfort and prosperity?

Part 3: Go to the Streets (15 minutes)

7. **Acts 14:7 simply says, "And there they preached the gospel."** Where is your "there"? Who are the people in your everyday life who need to hear the gospel?
8. **The sermon emphasized that every born-again believer is qualified for missions.** What excuses have you made for not sharing your faith? How does tonight's message address those excuses?
9. **Discuss the Lot illustration.** Lot needed to reach only 10 people to save an entire city, yet "just Lot" made it to heaven. Who are the people in your immediate circle (family, coworkers, neighbors) that you're responsible to reach?

Personal Reflection (10 minutes)

Silent Reflection: Take 3-5 minutes of silence for each person to consider:

- Am I living as "just Lot," worried only about my own salvation?
- Who are the 2-10 people God has specifically placed in my life to reach?
- What is one specific action I can take this week to be obedient to the Great Commission?

Share (Optional): Invite 2-3 people to share what God revealed during their reflection time.

Key Takeaways

✓ **Missions isn't just geography—it's about the heart.** God's plan involves His Word and His people working together.

✓ **The mission model requires three participants:** The Holy Spirit, a local church, and a pastor. Biblical missions follows God's pattern.

✓ **Everyone has a mission field.** You don't need special training to share the gospel—you need obedience and a testimony.

Ziss Family to the Philippines – Bible Study Helps

✓ **"There" is wherever you are.** Your mission field is your family, workplace, neighborhood, and community—right now.

✓ **Don't be "just Lot."** Lot made it to heaven alone while everyone around him perished. We're called to reach our circles of influence.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge: Pick ONE action to implement

PRAY:

- Start a daily prayer list for 2-5 unsaved people in your life
- Commit to praying for them by name every day this week
- Ask God to give you opportunities to share with them

GO:

- Identify your "there"—where do you regularly interact with lost people?
- Initiate one gospel conversation this week (at work, the store, the gym, etc.)
- Serve in a ministry at church that you've been avoiding (nursery, cleaning, greeting, etc.)

GIVE:

- Research a missionary your church supports and commit to monthly giving
- Give sacrificially to missions this month—skip one luxury to invest in eternity
- Sponsor a child or support a specific missions project

Group Accountability

Pair up with another group member and exchange contact information. Text or call each other mid-week to:

- Share how you're praying for the lost people in your life
 - Report on gospel conversations or ministry opportunities
 - Encourage each other to obedience
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Closing Activity (10 minutes)

"My Mission Field" Exercise:

1. Each person takes a piece of paper and draws a simple diagram with themselves in the center
2. Draw circles around yourself representing: immediate family, extended family, coworkers, neighbors, and community contacts
3. Write names of specific unsaved people in each circle (aim for at least 10 names total)
4. Put a star next to 2-3 people you commit to intentionally reach this month
5. Share one name with the group and how you plan to reach them

Group Prayer: Go around the circle and have each person pray for the person on their right, specifically asking God to give them boldness and opportunities to reach their mission field this week.

Closing Prayer

"Father, forgive us for being 'just Lot.' Thank you for saving us and giving us a mission. Help us to go to Your Word, to be filled with Your Spirit, and to go to the streets—wherever our 'there' is. Give us courage to open our mouths, move our feet, and invest our lives in reaching the lost around us. We don't want to stand before You having reached no one. Use us for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen."

For Next Week

- Memorize Acts 14:7 - "And there they preached the gospel"
 - Come prepared to share one story of how you engaged your mission field this week
 - Consider: Is God calling you to deeper involvement in missions (short-term trip, long-term support, going yourself)?
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"Everyone has a mission field. The question you need to ask yourself today is, where will I go?" - Pastor Eddie Ziss

5-Day Devotional: Go Where God Says

Day 1: God is Always Moving

Reading: Genesis 1:1-5; Acts 13:1-5

Devotional: From the very beginning, Scripture reveals that our God is not distant or static. Genesis 1:2 shows us that "the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Our God is an active, moving God who has always been working out His redemptive plan. Just as He moved in creation, He continues to move today through His church and His people. The pattern in Acts 13 shows us that missions begins with the Holy Spirit, a local church, and obedient servants. God doesn't need our plans—He needs our obedience. When we surrender to His movement in our lives, He guides us to exactly where He wants us to serve. The question isn't whether God is moving, but whether we're willing to move with Him. Where is God calling you to go today?

Day 2: Beautiful Feet, Willing Hearts

Reading: Romans 10:9-15; Isaiah 6:1-8

Devotional: "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace." What makes feet beautiful? Not their appearance, but their willingness to go. Isaiah's response to God's call echoes through the ages: "Here am I; send me." This wasn't confidence in his own abilities—it was surrender to God's purpose. You don't need special qualifications to share the gospel. You simply need a transformed heart and a willing spirit. Every born-again believer is qualified for missions because we all have the same Holy Spirit dwelling within us. Your mission field isn't necessarily across an ocean; it's wherever you are right now. At the grocery store, the workplace, your neighborhood—these are your "there" places where God wants you to preach. Stop waiting for perfect circumstances and start walking in obedience today.

Day 3: The Heart of Missions

Reading: Luke 19:1-10; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Devotional: Jesus came "to seek and to save that which was lost." This wasn't just about rescuing individuals—it was about restoring the image of God that Adam lost through sin. Missions flows from God's heart, not human strategy. When God has your heart, He will guide your mouth and move your feet. The problem isn't that we lack resources or opportunities; it's that we allow our feelings to dictate our obedience. Your heart is deceitfully wicked when you're in control, but when surrendered to Christ, it becomes a fountain of life-giving ministry. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. What captures your time, talent, and treasure reveals what you truly love. Make Christ your treasure, and watch how He transforms not just your eternity, but your everyday impact on those around you.

Day 4: Unity in Mission

Reading: Romans 15:1-7; Matthew 28:18-20

Devotional: "That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God." True missions happens when believers unite around God's Word and God's purpose. The Great Commission isn't complete with salvation and baptism alone—it requires the third element: teaching others to observe all that Christ commanded. This is where reproduction happens. This is where disciples make disciples. You may never baptize anyone, but you're called to invest your life in teaching someone else. Your first mission field is your own family, then your local church, then your community. Don't despise small beginnings. Cleaning the church and serving in the nursery may seem unglamorous, but they're often where God develops humble, faithful servants. Stop looking for the spectacular and start being faithful in the ordinary. God doesn't need your abilities; He needs your availability and your unity with His purposes.

Day 5: Just Lot or Faithful Witness

Reading: Genesis 19:1-29; 2 Peter 2:6-9

Devotional: Lot's story is a sobering warning. He had everything he needed to spare an entire city—a relationship with a godly man, knowledge of God's ways, and a family to influence. Yet he only reached himself. "Just Lot" made it to heaven, but everyone else perished. He needed to reach just two strangers to spare Sodom, but he was too comfortable, too compromised, too silent. His daughters, sons-in-law, wife, and countless others went to hell because Lot worried only about Lot. This is the tragedy of silent Christianity. You have a mission field—your family, your coworkers, your neighbors. Those two people you see regularly need to hear the gospel from you. Silence kills, and in this context, it kills for eternity. Will you be "just" saved, or will you be a faithful witness? Today is the day of salvation—for you to obey and for others to hear. Go where God says.