

Four Sunday's from now we will be starting a new year. It's the Church's new year, Advent. All through the story of Christmas there are accounts of people going out, and that's exactly what we are called, well, actually, commissioned to do, is to go out.

Before we get to the going out I want to talk about coming in.

Coming in, this is a phrase in the Bible that's actually repeated many times in the Bible.

And I'll show you what it means in a moment. But let me ask you this. What two questions did Solomon ask God? Wisdom, right?

Here's the second question. Why?

He actually gives the reason. He's talking to God and the Lord said, ask anything you want. and he gives the reason why he asked.

He actually phrase's it like he said, I want an understanding heart. God said I'll give you a wise and understanding heart. We know that was wisdom.

Look at first Kings chapter three verse five. First Kings three verse five ***at Gibeon, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, ask what shall I give you? And Solomon said, you've shown great mercy to your servant, David, my father, because he walked before you in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with you. You've continued this great kindness for him, and you have given him a son to sit on his throne as it is this day. Now, Oh Lord, my God, you have made your servant king instead of my father David.***

But, here's the reason *I am a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in.* I don't know how to go out and come in. And he goes on to say in verse eight your people are numerous, and verse nine, therefore, give your servant an understanding heart. All right, here's what Solomon said. I don't know how to come in. And I don't know how to go out.

My father knew how to do this. I don't know how to do this, and that's the reason I'm going to need wisdom.

When we go back to numbers chapter 27. And this is where Moses is talking to God about a new leader for the children of Israel.

I want you to notice what he says. Numbers chapter 27 verse 15 ***then Moses spoke to the Lord saying, let the Lord the God of the spirits of all flesh set a man over the congregation who may go out before them, and go in or come in before them. Who may lead them out and bring them in? That the congregation of the Lord may not be like sheep, which have no shepherd.***"

Basically here's what Moses says, okay, God, we need a new senior Minister.

But there's one thing that I want the senior Minister to know how to do. I want him to know how to come in and go out. I want him to know how to lead the people out and how to bring the people in.

Solomon when he becomes the leader says, there's one thing that my father, who was a great leader knew how to do that I don't know how to do. I need to know how to come in and how to go out.

Let me read you just a couple more scriptures. Deuteronomy 31 verse one says, ***then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel and he said to them, I am 120 years old today. I can no longer go out and come in.***

Here's his retirement message to the church. He says, I'm retiring, but there's only one reason that I'm retiring and you're getting a new Minister it's because I can't come in and go out anymore. If I could come in

and go out if I could still do this, I could still be your leader, but because I can't do it, and I've already talked to God to make sure the new leader can do this.

Deuteronomy 28 verse six says, *blessed shall you meet when you come in. Bless shall you be when you go out.* Again, we might just think that meant coming and leaving our house.

John chapter 10 verse nine Jesus said *I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture.* Here's the New Testament, He will come in and go out through me.

We go to Joshua chapter 14. and let's see what this means. This is Caleb now speaking to Joshua. Joshua 14 verse 11 *as yet I am a strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me. Just as my strength was then, so now is my strength.*

Here's what it's for. *For war, both for going out and for coming in.*

Coming in and going out were military terms, they refer to warfare. Here's what Moses said, we need a leader that knows how to lead the people out, to war, and how to bring them in, from war. Solomon says, God, my father, David knew how to do this. He knew how to go out and he knew how to come in, that's what I don't know how to do that, I'm going to need wisdom.

So in the context of these readings and time, they were military terms. Now remember everything in the Old Testament happened, literally, but it's a spiritual picture to us today. So I have a question for you. Are we still in a war spiritually? Yes, we are, so we need to know how to go out to war and we need to know how to come in from war. And we're going to talk about going out next week, but I want to talk about coming in.

Let me give you a word for coming in and going out to kind of bring it up to the spiritual term. The spiritual world we live in, **coming in refers to worship** and **going out refers to witnessing**. The reason that they would come in from war is to be refreshed and they would always go to the house of God first and offer sacrifices to God They would always come in to the house of God and worship God, and sometimes if a war continued for a long time, they would actually take many of their warriors that were tired and send them back to where the altar was so that they could offer sacrifices and they could relax and be refreshed in the presence of God. So refers to worship.

And the reason they went out in the first place was that they went out against nations who had refused God, and they went out to show that God is the God of all the world. And if these nations would have repented, then they could've lived with harmony many times with the people of God, but they didn't repent.

So they went out as a witness to the whole world, that the God of Israel was the true God. So now go to 1st Samuel, chapter 18. Now remember Solomon said my father knew how to do this, but I don't know how to do this. This talks about his father David.

First Samuel 18 verse 12, now, *Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him, with David, but had departed from Saul. Therefore, Saul removed him from his presence and made him as captain over a thousand and he went out and came in before the people, and David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him. Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely. He was afraid of him, but all Israel and Judah loved David because he went out and came in before them.*

He was a leader that showed the people how to come into the presence of God.

Obviously, David's one of the greatest worshipers of all time, but he was also a great warrior.

There are three things I want to tell you about worship. Coming in I believe refers to worship.

Number one, worship brings God's presence in our lives. Remember, these verses in First Samuel 18 verse 12 says, *Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him* verse 14 *and David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him.*

David understood what it was to be with God. When we talk about coming in and going out, when I'm talking about coming into the presence of God and hear this, but not **going out from** the presence of God, but **going out with the presence of God.**

You see, the preposition here is very important. The statement **for the Lord was with David.** The reason Saul was afraid of him was that the Lord was with him and had departed from Saul. The reason God was with David was that David came into God's presence, met with God, and then when he would go out, he didn't go out from the presence of God. He went out with the presence of God.

This is very important for us to get. There is no reason for you to go out without God. There is no reason to go out until you come in because you have nothing to go with. Jesus said to the disciples, go into all the world, but before you go stay in Jerusalem until you're imbued with power. Because if you go out without the Holy Spirit, nothing's going to happen. You need to go out with the Holy Spirit.

We need to learn how to come into his presence, but then we need to go out with his presence also.

All right, let me read you one more verse on this. Jeremiah 17 verse 19 says, *then the Lord said to me, go and stand in the gate of the children of the people by which the kings of Judah come in.* See this exists, it's just all through scripture *and by which they go out. And then all the Gates of Jerusalem and say to them, hear the word of the Lord you, Kings of Judah and all Judah and all inhabit, or Jerusalem who enter by these Gates, thus says the Lord. Take heed to yourselves and bear no burden on the Sabbath day, nor bring it in by the Gates of Jerusalem. Nor carry a burden out of your house on the Sabbath day, nor do any work, but halo the Sabbath day as I commanded your fathers.*

Why did God talk about this so much? I don't want you carrying any burden on the Sabbath day, and sometimes people think, well, the Sabbath is Sunday.

The Sabbath was actually Saturday, but we know Colossians tells us the Sabbath was a picture of the REST that he wants us to enter into. So listen to me very carefully. Here's what I think God was saying: *I want at least one day a week when you admit to me you can't carry it on your own. I'd like at least one day a week where you lay down what you're carrying. You lay down the burden of your family. You lay down the burden of your job. You lay down the burden of your business. You lay down the burden of your kids. You lay down the burden of your sickness. You lay it down, and you come to me and just meet with me at least one day a week. I want you to worship before me.*

The word worship, by the way, you get in the Greek, it's **Proskuneo, Proskuneo.** It's where we get the word **prostrate.** It literally means to put your face to the ground. Here's the amazing thing too. In Hebrew, it means the same thing and the Hebrew, the word is like Shachah.

In the old testament, it means to put your face to the ground. If we did this one day a week, literally bowed down before God, laid our burdens down and admitted to Him, I can't do it without you now. It is amazing how Satan doesn't want you to do that. It's amazing how, if you remember when Satan tempted Jesus, he didn't just say, if you worship me, he said, if you'll bow down and worship me, if you will, prostrate yourself, if you'll put your face to the ground in front of me, and obviously Jesus didn't.

But it's amazing how when you began to learn to express your worship, you need to remember people, when the worship team up here, and when more join them, they're called the worship team, not the song team. They're not leading us in songs. They're leading us in worship. Isn't it amazing how many times we go through our worship service and don't worship? How we get distracted and we're thinking about something else that we need to be doing and we miss worshipping God. We need to come into his presence, and I can remember when I first started learning to lift my hands to Him, and lifting hands is all through the scripture. Your children lift their hands to you, your grandchildren lift their hands to you. How come? They want to be in your presence.

All of a sudden we can't lift our hands to God in church? And I remember when I first began to really enter into worship. I can remember how Satan would attack me, I'd start to lift my hands and he would say, now, you know, you met those visitors before the service, and if you lift your hands, you're going to scare them off. And so I can remember one time wanting to kneel down. I want to get on my knees and you probably had this, and here's what you think. They're going to think you're crazy and I remember thinking, well, I'm just going to do it anyway. And so I got down like this and I just bowed down. I thought I'm just going to just bow down like this. What I'm saying to you is God has called us to go out, but we can't go out until we come in. Don't be afraid of worshipping Jesus. It's the best thing you can do. It brings the presence of the Lord. It brings the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Here's the second thing. Worship brings God's fear in our lives. Now, I know we have a lot of people that don't understand the fear of God. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. It talks about awe and honor, respect of God. But I want to show you a part of the fear of God that a lot of people miss. **Verse 12** says Saul was afraid of David. Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him and had departed for himself.

Verse 15 *therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him.* Do you know why he was afraid of him? Because God had departed from him. But you have to remember at this time, Saul represents David's enemy. Matter of fact, the Spirit of the Lord, had not only left him, but an evil spirit had come on Saul. Do you remember what they did to get the evil spirit off of Saul? David brought his harp and worshiped, and it drove the evil spirit away. I mean, if you've got any problem with any bondage in your life, here it is, you get in the presence of God through worship, but he was afraid of Him. Why? Because the enemy was controlling Saul at this time. I'm telling you, the enemy is afraid of Jesus. He's not afraid of you. He's afraid of you with Jesus. He's afraid of Jesus with you.

Have you ever seen in a movie or a TV show, there'd be a small guy kind of scrawny, you know, and these three or four guys will come and they'll, they're, you know, they're going to bully him and they're going to pick on them and they may kind of grab his coat like us, and they're just about to beat him up and then the scrawny guy normally has a, a good friend? There's like a really big, you know, and the good friend to walk up, you know, kind of behind and say, well, what's going on here? And they say, Oh, nothing. We were just straightening this coat, you know, and, and the bullies run away and you have ever seen a scene like that?

Okay. That's exactly what it's like when the enemy comes to beat up on you, and Jesus walks up. I'm telling you, he will leave. I promise you, the best thing you can do each day is to spend time with God. Get in God's presence. Come into his presence so that when you go out, you go out with him and the fear of God comes on all of your enemies. Your thoughts, sickness, doubts, anxiety, depression, lies, the words spoken against you. I'm not talking about people, we don't wrestle against, flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers. The fear of God comes on the enemy when the presence of God is on you.

Now here's the third thing. Worship brings God's wisdom in our lives. Verse 14 says, *And David behaved wisely in all his ways and the Lord was with him.* Have you ever needed God's wisdom? You ever had a

situation in your home or if one of your kids, grandchildren, friends where you needed the wisdom of God? You ever had a situation in your workplace where you needed the wisdom of God. It's the presence of God that brings the wisdom of God.

Solomon says I don't know how to do this; my dad was great at this. My dad understood worship and warfare. He understood this. If I could just understand this, then I could be the leader that you want me to be God. And so God said, well, because you asked for this and not for riches or honour or fame, I'm going to give you those things too, and I'm going to give you wisdom. God's presence brings the wisdom of God.

Think about it this way. Who was the wisest man that ever lived? Solomon, and we know why, because he said to God, I don't know how to do these two things. If you'll help me do these two things.

Think about this. I am not a smart person. I'm not smart, but I am wise and I'm wise because I know God. I know how to come into his presence and meet with God and go out empowered with his presence. Wisdom comes from the presence of God.

We read that passage about Solomon's wisdom.

Second Chronicles nine verse one says, *now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon. She came to Jerusalem to test Solomon with hard questions, having a very great number of camels that bore spices, gold in abundance and precious stones. And when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. So Solomon answered all her questions. There was nothing so difficult for Solomon that he could not explain it to her.* Obviously, that's the wisdom of God. *And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon.* Now hear this list: *the house that he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his servants.* In other words, she saw the organization of God in his life also. *The service of his waiters and their apparel. His cupbearers and their apparel.* Now hear this last part *and his entryway* that word introduced in the Hebrew means upper room, *his entryway by which he went up to the house of the Lord. There was no more spirit in her.*

I'll say it another way. There was no more argument. There was no more suspicion. See the Queen of Sheba came very suspicious. Here's the reason why. At that time, the queen of Sheba was reputed to be the wealthiest queen in the world, not just the wealthiest queen, the wealthiest monarchy. And when she came to visit him, she brought this gold in abundance. Most of the theologians say it would have been about 4,000 tons of gold. She brought all these precious stones, notice she brought her wealth. It was also believed all in when she had the wealthiest monarchy in the world, but she was also the smartest.

Where she came from they just thrived on wisdom. They thrived on riddles. They thrived own all sorts of ways to ask these questions that only smart people can. It's a matter of fact, she probably came from the same place that the wise man came from to worship Jesus. So she comes from this area that is very wealthy and very intelligent and they actually worshiped those two things wealth and intelligence. Then she hears about this guy that's wealthier than she is, and smarter than she is. I don't think she came simply out of curiosity. I think she came, and why was she even bringing 4 tons of gold with her except to show him how smart and how wealthy she was.

And so she comes with all these hard questions to test him, not to find out, but to test him. And he answers all her questions and then she sees how God's blessed him. But here's what turned her heart, when she saw Solomon come into the presence of God when she saw Solomon who had all of the things that the world says you need, go in and prostrate himself before the Lord and put his face to the ground.

.... No more questions left in her.

We're going to talk about going out. We're going to go out, but we're going out with a purpose. We're going out to reach some people, but here's what reaches people. It is the way we come in. The way we enter the presence of God.

I'll read you one more verse. Remember, everything in the Old Testament represents, has a spiritual principle in the new. Ezekiel 46 verse nine says, ***but when the people of the land come before the Lord on the appointed feast days. Whoever enters*** this is the same Hebrew word in first Kings and all the rest of the places. Number 17, Deuteronomy 31, Joshua 14, all of them, it's the same word, that means comes in so they could have translated, comes yet, ***whoever comes in. By way of the Northgate to worship, to prostrate himself before the Lord shall go out by way of the soundscape and whoever enters or comes in by way of the South gate shall go out by way of the North gate. He shall not return by the way of the gate through which he came but shall go out through the opposite gate.***

Now here you can go out the same door to get to your car, but you can also come in one way and leave another way. But here's what God says if you come in this door, Mansel Ave Northside if you entered through this way when you leave, I want you to go out the South door, even though your car is parked on the Northside and it's raining or it's 30 degrees, I want you going out the South door. And if you come in the Northside and when you leave the service, I want you to go out of the South door. Why would God say that? Very simple, very simple. Here's what he's saying. Anytime you come into my presence, you will leave different.

You will leave different from the way you came in if you come and worship and come into my presence. So my encouragement to us is let's make a commitment that we are going to come into the presence of God so we can go out with the presence of God.