

Going out

Last week we talked about coming in. And going out. We got it from 1st Kings 3:7 Solomon said, *now the Lord my God, you have made your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child and I do not know how to go out or come in.* And we took this phrase coming in and going out and looked at it all through scripture, Old Testament and New Testament, and we saw that that is a military term. It refers to war, and we are all still in a war today, a spiritual war, and coming in refers to worship and going out refers to witnessing. And so we talked last week about coming into God's presence and as we talked about laying down burdens, we talked about worshiping God on a daily basis, but we not only need to come in, we need to go out. We not only need to worship, but we also need to witness.

Now I want to ask you a question. What would happen, do you think, to a person, which God designed to come in and go out? You are all designed this way, to worship and witness. What would happen if a person said, well, I'm going to spend the rest of my life just coming into God's presence?

It doesn't sound like a bad thing. I'm going to spend the rest of my life simply worshiping God. I'm going to worship God all the time. I'm just going to come in and I'm not going to go out anymore I'm just going to come into God's presence. That really doesn't sound like a bad thing, but it actually does have bad implications.

God designed you to be like a river, not a reservoir. If you've ever driven by some water that looked polluted and looked bad, and you look over at it and it's got that skin on top of it, you know, and you think, Ooh, I wouldn't want to swim there.

That is water, that's a body of water that has water coming in, but not going out. Listen, when it rains, when there's a runoff, water comes in, but the reason it's polluted because it doesn't go out. God designed us to receive and give, to receive and give. And when you stop giving when you stop ministering to people, you're in trouble.

We looked, last week Solomon said, I don't know how to do it, my father David did. He knew how to come in and go out. He knew how to worship and witness, but David, we know was a man after God's own heart. We know he was a great worshiper. We also know something else about David. This great man of God failed.

We know he had a moral failure.

Wouldn't it be amazing if the Bible told us why? Wouldn't it be great so that we could avoid this and wouldn't it be amazing if it had something to do with coming in and going out?

Does anyone have any idea where I'm going with this?

Second Samuel chapter 11. verse 1. *it happened in the spring of the year at the time when the kings go out to battle that David sent...* He didn't go. He stopped going. *He sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the people of Ammon and the besieged Raba.* But David went to church. David remained at Jerusalem. David continued to come in, but he stopped going out.

Verse two, the very next verse, then it happened, then is when it happened. *One evening that David arose from his bed, walked on the roof of the King's house and from the roof, he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.*

I have a very simple question for you today, it's really simple. Would David have ever even seen Bathsheba if he had been where he was supposed to be? David fell when he stopped going out. We took this phrase,

come in and go out and Solomon said I don't know how to do something my father knew how to do. He knew how to come in and he knew how to go out. But one day he stopped going out.

People may say I just don't understand how that would be bad? It's because God designed you to be a giver. He designed you to be someone where life is flowing out of you.

When you stop giving. You turn inward. Now it'd be great if you turned only upward, but you know, you turn inward and you began to want to get your own needs satisfied and meet, and the way you get your needs satisfied is by giving.

David began to look at his own needs, and here's the other thing, all of us have God-given needs. Here's the problem. Satan tries to tell us how to fill those God-given needs with the substitute that will not fill those God-given needs. That's exactly what happens because all of us have this tendency.

When we announce a type of service or sermon series, we kind of have a tendency, all of us as to, what am I going to get out of this? How's this going to help me? Oh, Tony's about to preach on my best friend, the Holy Spirit. That's good. What's the Holy Spirit do for me?

What about Coming in and Going out, hmm I don't like the sound of that much. Maybe it's something I'm going to have to do?

All right let's turn to Luke chapter 14 here's a New Testament picture of coming in and going out.

Luke 14 verse 15, *now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things. He said to him, Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God. Then Jesus said, a certain man gave a great supper and invited many and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, come. Or we could say, come in. Come in for all things are now ready, but they all with one accord begin to make excuses. The first said to him, I bought a piece of ground. I must go and see it. I asked you to have me excused, and another said, I bought five yoke of oxen and I'm going to test them. I asked you to have me excused. Still, another said I married a wife and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in the poor, the crippled, and the blind.* Do you know who that is? That's us. We're the ones that got invited to this supper that were not first invited. *The poor, the crippled, and the blind, and the servant said, master, it is done as you commanded, and still there's room. Then the master said to that servant, go out, go out into the highways and lanes, and compel them to come in. That my house may be full. For I say to you that none of those who were invited shall taste my banquet."*

Now, this is an amazing story. They're sitting around there and having dinner with Jesus one his disciple says it's going to be great to eat in heaven, and Jesus says, let me tell you about that supper. Remember, revelation tells us about the marriage supper of the lamb, let me tell you something about that. And he goes into this story and it's a parable.

Though for today let's give it another name. Let's call it the parable of the great excuses, and I've given each excuse a name.

Here's number one. Number one is the case of the missing ground. Here's the reason I say this. This guy said, I bought some ground and I need to go look at it. **Why?** it's not going anywhere. The ground has never gotten up and left. No one steals ground. Maybe you steal ownership to the ground, but you can't steal the ground. Never have you gone out to look at your ground and say, where's my ground? Someone took my ground. I bought a piece of ground and I need to go look at it. Well, it almost sounds like he bought it

without looking at it. I bought some ground and I need to go look at it. And why would you go out at night to look at it?

Here's the second one. The case of the glowing oxen. Now, here's the reason I say that. I bought some oxen and I need to go test them. It's at night. How are you going to plow at night unless these oxen glowed in the dark? Maybe he's going to plow the field of the other guy that was going out at night. Apparently, these two guys are best friends because they buy things without looking at them. I bought some ground and now I need to go look at it. I bought some oxen and now I need to go test them.

That's like saying I bought a car and I need to test drive it. You do the test drive before you buy it? So these excuses make no sense at all.

Here's the third one. The case of the killer bride. And here's why. These banquets were incredible. These banquets were over the top. We don't get as excited about a banquet as, as these people did. Because we can have just about any kind of food we want, except when you're on a fast, but we can have just about any type of food that we want at any time. But they couldn't, their diet consisted of a very bland diet, basically the same thing.

Sometimes you just had barely enough to feed the family. So when someone was throwing a banquet, it was all sorts of food and it was very generous and you could just go and just gorge, you can just feast.

No-one turned down banquets, that's why Jesus is using this because it was so foolish to hear these things. I wonder if they were just laughing while He was telling this.

Remember VALENTINES RESTAURANT? You paid one amount and you ate as much as you wanted.

Look at verse 18 it says, ***the first said to him, I bought a piece of ground. I must go and see it. Watch this. I asked you to have me excused. Another said, I bought five yoke of oxen and I'm going to test them. I ask you to have me excused. Another said, I married a wife, therefore I can't come.***

Here's the point. Here's what Jesus is trying to say, any excuse, not to accept Christ is foolish. It's crazy. And while people come with all sorts of excuses, I mean they're just crazy. Here's one. Here's a ridiculous excuse. I don't go to church because there are hypocrites there.

Well, there are hypocrites at the netball game. There are hypocrites at the card game. There are hypocrites at the rugby club. They're a bunch of hypocrites at the rugby club by the way. My dad who was a league player said so. There are hypocrites in anyplace.

A hypocrite is someone who professes to be something they are not. He or she professes to be a Christian, but they are not a Christian. To say, I'm going to throw my life away because I saw some counterfeit Christians. That doesn't make any sense.

Like if you saw me throwing my phone out the window and you say, what are you doing? Why are you throwing away your phone? Well, I saw some counterfeit phone just like mine, so I'm going to throw away my good phone. See for you to say, I saw some counterfeit Christians, so I'm going to throw my life away, doesn't make any sense. That's what Jesus was trying to say there's no excuse. There's no reason at all not to accept me.

Now go back verse 23 it says, ***since then, the master said to the servant, go out into the highways and lanes and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.***

This Greek word for compel is a very strong word. It means to constrain by force. It literally has the

connotation, and we've all seen this at some point or another, probably on a television show or something. It's like when you take a person's arm and you bend it around behind their back and you take them somewhere while they're up on their toes and they can't do anything about it. You just forced them to go where you want them to go. Now, here's the reason I want you to understand that. That's what Jesus said.

Jesus said I want you to go out and constrain people to come in with my love and my Word. I'm glad that you're coming in. I want you to come in, but while there is still time, I want you to go out also, and I want you to get others to come in. Think about this. They're sitting around the table eating with Jesus and one of the guys says, man, it's going to be so great when we get to eat in the kingdom.

And immediately, Jesus, his mind does not go to those who are **going to be with Him** at the meal. His mind goes to those who are not going to be there, and there's one reason that they're not going to be there. They haven't accepted the invitation. But there's another reason too when you think about it, maybe we didn't invite them.

Hear how strong this is. In essence, he says, get your feet.... out from under my table..... and go out and get them to come in while there is still time because there's going to be a day when the master rises and shuts the door and no one can come in. So go get them right now. See in the same way that lost people use excuses not to come to Christ. Christians use excuses not to witness. It's crazy. I mean, our excuses are just as crazy.

Here's a crazy one. You go to a shop and you're buying something and someone says to you, Hey, doesn't your son play on the same soccer team my son plays on? Hey, good to meet you. Where do you live? Just around the corner from you. You start talking and then you have this little thought, invite her to church and here's what we do on the inside, this is what we think, we say, God.... is that you? Lord, if I just knew for sure that, that was you leading me to invite her to our church, Lord, do you know me? The Lord says, yes, I know you. Do we say God is that you?

Satan is not going to tell you to invite people to church, and you say, well, I know it's not the devil, but it might be me. No, you're not that spiritual. That is not you. That's God. When you have that thought, it's God.

Well, what if they say no? It's okay, you planted the seed. You did what God told you to do. See, witnessing is really easy. It's very, very easy. As a matter of fact, it actually happens naturally unless you stop it. It happens naturally unless you stop it. Because here's what witnessing is. It's talking about someone you love. That's all it is. And think about this, we talked about coming in and going out.

When a man falls in love with a woman, a couple of things happen. He wants to spend time with her and he wants to talk about it. Think about it, all of a sudden this guy who's running around doing things with his mates and his friends and all of a sudden he's not there. What's he doing? He's spending time with her and then when he does get with his friends, what does he want to do? Talk about her. He just wants to spend time with her and talk about her.

From a guy's standpoint, all of a sudden we just know.... one of our guys went missing. We're just like, where's Rob? Anyone seen Rob? Where's Rob? You know, the next thing you know, two weeks later you see Rob, he's at the shops holding a bag. He never went to the dress shop before. Why? Because he wants to spend time with her. And when Rob is with his mates he talks about her. Do you know what he's doing? It's really simple. He's witnessing to them. He's witnessing to them about someone he's in love with. It's that simple.

I'm asking you to spend time with Him and I promise you if you spend time with Him you will want to talk about Him. Spend time, when you're coming in, and going out. Just spend time with Him and talk about it.

Now, there's another excuse that I want to take away, but I'm going to do it in a different way. I bought you all a gift. If some people come up and pass these around. Take one out of the basket. It's a little lead fishing weight. Take one out. Go ahead take one out and then pass the basket on. And this is one per person.

I want everyone to have one. I'm going to give you a moment so everyone can get one. I want everyone to get this, and what I'm going to do with this is I'm going to tell you something that's going to take away the number one excuse.... for the reason people don't witness, and this is what you can keep with you.

You can get them at the Warehouse. If you lose it, I want you to go buy one, as Mark would say, immediately, and they come in bags, you can get 12 so you can have them for years to come.

So here, here's the reason that I gave this to you. I know that you're probably thinking, okay, I'm holding in my hand a lead fishing weight. You're probably thinking, okay, he gave this to me to remind us to be fishers of men. I did not. I did it to take away an excuse that I've heard, which is a horrible excuse.

Here's the reason I did this. Many people have told me that they don't witness unless they feel led.

So from now on, if you're thinking about witnessing, I want you to reach in your pocket or your purse, feel lead and go ahead and witness.

Go out and impact your community with the reality of Jesus.