

Empire Church of the Brethren
Sunday Service Sermons

04 February 2024

Go Out Quickly

Text: "Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame." *Luke 14: 21*

The Bible opens with a picture of God as the life-giving Spirit whose breath causes a pile of dust to become a living human being.

In the Psalms God is pictured as a good and great shepherd who ministers to his sheep.

In the New Testament we find God described as the compassionate Father who loves and wants to relate to his children.

In Jesus' parable of the marriage feast, he describes the Father God in terms of his being a generous and gracious host who has prepared a great banquet for those who will respond to his invitation.

Let us lift a phrase from the instructions of the householder to his servants and use it as an appropriate text and title for today's message.

The host said to his servants, "Go out quickly . . ."

The years are slipping away, and time is running out for many of us and also for many around us.

What we would do for our God and for our neighbors and friends needs to be done quickly.

We need to go out quickly because God's banquet is ready.

Did you ever arrive home to hear your mother or wife say, "Dinner will be ready in thirty minutes."

Or, "Dinner will be ready when the rolls are done".

The banquet that God has prepared is always ready for those who are willing to respond to him by faith and faithfulness.

God is ready to do business with you today.

The Savior lives as the conqueror of death in order that he might become your savior, friend, and teacher today.

The Holy Spirit is present to do God's work in your heart and life today.

The angels in heaven are ready to rejoice over decisions that are made by those who need to become believers in and disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We need to go out quickly because of the swift passing of opportunity.

Time does not stand still.

Yesterday is gone.

Tomorrow has not arrived.

Today is all we have.

We must seize our opportunities quickly.

Opportunity does not wait for us to extend this invitation on behalf of God.

The night will come when no one can work.

The night will come when no one can respond.

No invitation is extended for a response to be made tomorrow.

The prophet said, "Come now". *Isa. 1:18*

The apostle said, "Behold now." *2 Cor. 6:2*

The psalmist prayed and encourages us to pray that we might number our days and that we might give our hearts to the ways of wisdom.

We need to go out quickly because of the helplessness of outsiders.

Many church members don't seem to recognize the spiritual helplessness and hopelessness of those who do not know God.

They exist in the grip of spiritual death.

They are in the grip of the enemy of God and the enemy of their own souls.

The god of this world, that old serpent, the Devil, has placed spiritual blindfolds on their minds lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ should shine in so that they could be saved.

They live in a state of nonbelief and non commitment.

They will remain in this sad condition if they are never invited and persuaded to respond to God's gracious invitation to the banquet that has been prepared.

We live in a world of unsaved people who are helpless and hopeless apart from the witness and the testimony, and the help of those who already know God through faith in Jesus Christ.

This means that it is urgent that we be about our Father's business.

We need to go out quickly because of the command of Christ.

Christ gave many helpful suggestions concerning how we should face life.

Christ gave many gracious invitations to which we should respond.

Christ gave one supreme command with reference to the needs of the world.

It is contained in what we call the "Great Commission".

Our Lord would have each of his disciples go out quickly into their individual world and share the good news of the blessings they have experienced through faith.

He would encourage us to invite those who are hungry for the bread of life and the water of life to come to the feast that has been prepared.

We need to go out quickly because of the compassion of the Father God.

Our Great God is not a cold-hearted creator who is unmoved by the needs of this world.

God so loved us that he gave his Son Jesus Christ.

We need to recognize what all that involves.

God so loved us that he saves us in order that he might use us to save others.

We are not free to loaf or shirk or procrastinate. We must recognize the urgency involved in our being what our Lord would have us to be.

We need to go out quickly and do what God wants us to do.

We need to go out quickly because of the needs of those around us.

Today let us go out quickly and say to those around us that a feast has been prepared for them.

God offers the blessing of acceptance.

God offers the blessing of forgiveness that is full and free.

God offers the blessing of spiritual renewal and restoration.

God offers peace and joy and hope and help and heaven.

Everyone is invited to the banquet.

Remember the quote a few years back.

"You just might be the only Jesus someone might meet".

Then there is our plea to God.

Father you must do something about the condition of the world today.

His answer is, "I did, I made you and equipped you, through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, to be a witness to me and my love for mankind."

Do we care enough to act?

Father God hopes so!