

*Go, Go into the world
Tell them I'm alive
Go into the streets
Tell them that I live, that I live in you*

Our scripture passage seems a little harsh. But there is always more to the story when Jesus is involved. When the person asks to bury his Father, it is helpful to know the customs and culture of the day. Based on Jesus' response, it is apparent that the young man's father was not dead and awaiting burial. Rather, the young man had employed a common saying of the day which in essence meant, "Let me wait until I receive my inheritance," then I will follow you. The young man was deferring his obedience to Christ until it was convenient and economically feasible for him. How often have we made excuses? "Once I finish school, I will serve you." "Once I get married, I will commit my life to your work." "Once my kids get older, I will go and serve you." "Once I get settled in my career, I will serve you." "As soon as the kids graduate, I will serve you." "When I get some bills paid, I will serve you." or "When I have more vacation time, I will serve you." Jesus is calling us to Go rather than making excuses.

This leads us to Bishop Curry's podcast about Going. He tells some heart-warming stories of people who heard God's call to service and began it without hesitation.

I frequently wonder what the Church will look like following this pandemic.

I wonder what Go will look like.

I wonder.

What would Church be if we gathered to worship and then took lunch to health care workers to show our gratitude?

What would Church be if we gathered to worship and then took dinner to the guards and other employees at our local jail to show our appreciation for a challenging job?

What would Church be if we gathered to worship and then went to do yardwork and odds and ends for people in the community?

What would Church be if we gathered to worship and then went to an assisted living facility to share God's love?

Jesus is calling us to Go. Simply Go.

My favorite thing about the story of the feeding of the 5,000 is that there were no committee meetings. No one responsible for porta-potties. No RSVPs for the caterer. No audio-visual gurus so that Jesus' voice would carry. Jesus simply went. God provided everything else often with our help. When Becca Stevens was here last year, she said that often the Holy Spirit goes to die in the committee meeting. It is important to have a plan but we don't have to have all the answers before we Go.

What is Jesus calling you to do? What excuses are you giving Him? What do you want Church to look like? What do you want your life to look like? Be prayerful and ask God for direction.

Bonus: When I was serving St. Peter & St. Paul in Mission, Texas, we used to sing this song every other week during Church. You can click on the lyrics below to be taken to a version of the song sung by Jim Bailey.

[I give you now all I have](#)
[I give to you my everything](#)
[You have the power inside of you](#)
[To overcome all the hosts of darkness](#)

[Go, Go into the world](#)
[Tell them I'm alive](#)
[Go into the streets](#)
[Tell them that I live, That i live in you](#)
[Go go into the world claim it for your king](#)
[go into the streets dry those peoples tears](#)
[make the old things new](#)

[Be not afraid I am near your not alone](#)
[We stand with you](#)
[He's not a fool to risk a thing](#)
[He cannot keep to gain what he can't lose](#)