

## 2009-2010 WORLD MISSIONS SERMON OUTLINE

### DON'T GET TOO COMFORTABLE

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#### TEXT

*To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings (1 Corinthians 9:22-23).*

#### INTRODUCTION

Every year, Alaska holds the Iditarod, a dogsled race of more than a thousand miles. Modern dogsledders race for prizes and money, but the race actually commemorates a real race for life.

In 1926, a diphtheria epidemic broke out in the small town of Nome. The local doctor realized the cause of death, and he also realized that it had the potential to wipe out the entire town's population. The doctor began to immunize the citizens with a new anti-diphtheria serum, but quickly ran out of his supply. The nearest supply of serum was a thousand miles away.

When the doctor's cry of help was heard, a group of trappers and prospectors decided to do the impossible — to traverse the snow-covered landscape by dog sleds, racing to bring life-saving serum to save the town. Operating in relays, they traveled the frozen wilderness, through minus 50-degree windchill, arriving back in Nome after 144 hours.

The town was saved. The racers sacrificing their comfort gave an entire town the gift of life.

Transition: Paul's words were ... "by all possible means."

*We are called to reach this world — every country, every tribe and every language — by using all possible means! We are called to bring the gift of life to a dying world.*

All possible means ...

- I. Paul understood what was truly valuable (Luke 15:1-31).
  - A. Value determines our decisions.

We constantly make decisions on value. We trade money for food, clothes, entertainment, houses and cars. Each decision is an assessment of value. Is this item worth me giving up my money for it?

When we prioritize missions, we understand that true value is found in reaching the world with Christ's love.
  - B. Value is found in the eternal.

Paul made an assessment on his mission. Salvation is priceless.

Illustration: In the heat of an auction, you need to know what that item is worth to you.

*Paul says that eternal life is worth bidding as high as possible.*

The life of each person from the various world religions, each atheist, each soul is invaluable, worth our sacrifice to see them come to Jesus Christ. Eternal souls are of more value than our comfort level.

*What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul (Mark 8:36)?*

II. Paul was putting his money where his mouth was (Philippians 3:7-14).

*Values are shown in action, not simply in words.*

Paul's actions matched his words. If he said something was valuable, he showed it by his actions.

*If I believe the most important thing is salvation, I will be willing to get uncomfortable to see people find salvation.*

It is not always comfortable to sacrificially give to missions, to pray for people you have never met or to care for those that are quite unlovable.

III. Adjusting does not equal compromising.

Q: Does this mean we compromise?

A: No, but it means that we are the initiators to build the bridge.

We are not called to be chameleons, adjusting to look like sinners in order to share Christ. We are called to be holy. BUT we do all that we can to relate and connect to those we are trying to reach.

Illustration: Missions — it will do no good to stand on the street corners of Moldova, preaching about Christ *in English*. We must do all we can to learn the language, *so that we may reach them for Christ*.

IV. Do not hold back in reserve.

Are we called to give out of our excess?

Are we to pray only when we have extra time?

Are we to go only if it fits our agenda?

If we believe as such, we then need to retranslate the first to “by all affordable means ...” Too often, we only sacrifice our excess, what we can afford.

*God is not concerned with how many zeroes are on your check. He wants to know if you've done what you could. He is not concerned whether you have every spiritual gift or many natural talents. He wants to know if you used the talents and abilities you do have for Him.*

APPLICATION

- A. Am I willing to become uncomfortable to reach the world?
- B. Am I willing to sacrifice so others can hear about Jesus' love?
- C. Am I willing to give time, money, energy for the Kingdom?

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