

## Go!

**Sunday Morning, July 17, 2016**

*(Youth and Young Adults are playing "Pokemon Go!" in the Sanctuary and are all excited about it. When they exit building...)*

As you could tell they were playing "Pokemon Go!"  
There is a lot of excitement about this game.

One game player wrote this FB post:

"How can anyone think Pokemon Go is a bad thing?  
Today we went to Wynnum and walked along the water and then South Bank where we stumbled upon a completely unplanned Poke-party full of every nationality and age group, every person we passed smiled and recommended good spots, strangers were chatting comparing stats and honestly I have never seen our city so united or active, it's such an amazing atmosphere and I love it!"

What if Christians got as excited about go out in to the streets of their cities and sharing their faith in Jesus with others as the players of "Pokemon Go!" are about going out and playing? Wouldn't that be wonderful! Pokemon Go is driving youth, college students, and young adults to go out into the streets. They are happy to meet new people and play the game with them. They aren't afraid to go new places, strange places, and dangerous places. They aren't afraid to talk to strangers and share tips even. What if Christians were the same way with sharing our faith out in the streets of our cities?

I say, let our streets and city come alive as this FB Post said about Pokemon Go, but instead with Christians sharing Jesus.

How many of you, in particular between the ages of 13 and 24 are having fun with this new internet game? Think of all the new people you come in contact with as an opportunity to share your faith and truly make a difference in lives and in the world around us!

Now this is one creative way that our millennials a make a difference in the world for Christ! But what if that is not for you or what if you've taken the challenge before to "Go" out in to the World and reach out to people for Christ, but it doesn't seem to work? Remember, the old saying "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!" This is truly a Biblical principle let's look at it.

First of all, Jesus told us to go in **(Matthew 28:19 - 20)** as he was ascending to Heaven.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Before that Jesus taught a parable about going out in to the world in **(Matthew 22:1-5)**

1 And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said:

2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,

3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.

4 Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.”’

5 But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.

A parable is not to be taken literally in its entirety. We need to discover the intent of the parable first.

In this parable God desires all people to know Him and one day to celebrate their salvation through faith in Christ in Heaven! This is the wedding invitation.

First the Jews and the Nation of Israel as a whole rejected Jesus as their Messiah. (Note: they are still loved by God and a vital part of His purpose.)

Then in response to their rejection of salvation through faith in God’s Son – making them unworthy of the honor of attending the wedding ceremony in Heaven – phase 2 was put into action!

**(Matthew 22: 8 – 10)**

8 Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.

9 Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’

10 So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

God sent the servants to invite those who normally don’t have the truth of God’s Word, i.e., the Gospel of Christ!

The extended plan was to go beyond the initial guests to be invited to the unexpected guests (vs. 10), both bad (evil) and good (socially).

Dr. Luke in Luke 14 in the “Great Supper” reflects the same message to “Go”. Look at **(Luke 14:21-23)**

21 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 here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’

22 And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’

23 Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

God desires His house to be full. We are to “Go” wherever the opportunity takes us to share the way of salvation.

**(Acts 4:12)**

12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

For example, in the devotional book “From This Verse” there is a story of Eva J. Alexander who was born to believing parents in Chennai, India.

She was born again at age 12 during a Billy Graham meeting. In 1963, she married R.D. Alexander, and the two took positions with the Indian government. Eva’s job exposed her to the plight of women in her country, and she began speaking out about their status and suffering. For awhile, she became so socially active that her spiritual life suffered. Politics became more important than religion.

But the Lord sent a serious illness that brought her to her knees. “God, if you’re real,” she prayed, hovering near death in the hospital, “do not allow me to die. I will serve you.” Returning home, Eva began reading her Bible again and two words in Matthew 21:31 tore through her mind like torpedos—*and harlots*. Jesus wanted to bring harlots into His kingdom.

A week later, a nearby pastor told her of a prostitute who had run away from the brothels, and he asked Eva to provide a room for her. “I can’t,” said Eva. “You keep her.” Eva had a husband and four children at home, including two teenage sons. But the Lord again brought Matthew 21:31 to mind, and Eva relented.

Her family was aghast: “What is this? You’re turning our house into a brothel!” But their attitudes soon changed, and they accepted this ministry as coming from God. Other girls began showing up, and the Alexander home became a rehabilitation center. Police officers and prisons referred troubled women to Eva, and today up to 15 women live in the Alexander home at any time. The Alexanders provide medical treatment, job training, and a strong gospel witness. Eva has started a home for the children of prostitutes where 60 children, age 12 months to 13 years, find refuge. Her husband and children joined her work, and, spurred on by Matthew 21:31, they are bringing many harlots into the Kingdom.

As you can tell by that story, God can direct us in different ways to go out in to the world and share the good news of Jesus. Jesus loves everyone and wants to reach everyone. So, if “Pokemon Go!” is not going to be the method you are going to use to go out and meet people, then ask God to give you His plan for you to witness to others. Maybe He has something unique for you to do, or maybe He wants to use you at one of the church’s upcoming outreach events in August for example. We have a the “End of Summer Blast” for Kids on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> and the “August Rush” Youth and College Outreach event on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Those are a month out and we will need lots of help before the event, during & after. We need supplies and workers. So check with Cathy & see how you can help.

The main point is: Use your interests and God’s directions for you, to “Go” & share your faith in Jesus.