

THE BIG IDEA: The quickest way to lose your way is by running away from God's way.

The Take-Off

Over the last 2 months, we've talked a lot about the ONE THING that we're called to do: make disciples.

In July, it was all we focused on: how can that be our resolve, how can we be reliable, find a rhythm and then respond to that ONE THING?

This month, we've talked about what that response looks like: about going deep with God so we can go wide for God, about making room for all types in the pool and then making sure they can swim, and about how sometimes we have to go Into The Water because people are drowning and need to be rescued.

By now, it isn't about should we respond, but how should we respond, right?

We know we were made to jump, and so this morning I want to wrap up this series by making sure we know how important it is to jump into the right places.

Just jumping isn't enough, because activity isn't the goal. Gospel-centered activity is the goal.

My goal this morning is to land this series by showing you how to take off on a lifetime journey of doing the ONE THING we're called to do well.

It all starts at the end of the first gospel: Matthew 28.

1. Last words are important

- a. These aren't the exact last words that Jesus spoke (see Acts 1 for those), but they're close.
- b. Not only that, but they were spoken by someone who had defeated death.
- c. I think the disciples paid attention, and we should, too.
- d. A couple of observations:
 - i. Remember how the importance of the mission makes it important to be reliable? Jesus said these words to 11 - even he had to cut one
 - ii. Our doubts don't stop God from calling us
 - iii. What Jesus tells them is backed by every bit of authority known to man anywhere; it carries weight
- e. What did Jesus say? "Go and make disciples"
- f. This morning I want us to see that there is a wrong way to go and a right way to go
- g. Don't think wrong way or right way in directional terms (where to go), but in attitudinal terms (how to go)

2. The wrong way - YOLO

- a. A few years back, YOLO got really popular
- b. It stands for "You Only Live Once" and it's all about, well, you
- c. It came to represent taking risks, doing things that maybe you wouldn't normally try, but hey, YOLO!
- d. But at it's heart, it's a phrase that loses sight of eternity and any sort of eternal mission, and it's selfish
- e. No one tweets out: Just gave all I have to the poor. #YOLO
- f. YOLO stories are more like the 21 year-old man who drove drunk and tweeted about it with the hashtag YOLO before running a red light, crashing into a wall and killing himself and the other 4 in the car.
- g. As long as we're ruled by that type of worldview, we'll never get the job done that God's required of us
- h. Need a Biblical example of going the wrong way? Check out Jonah:
 - i. Jonah 1:1-2 - he was told to go just like we've been
 - ii. Jonah 1:3 - and he did go - in completely the opposite direction
 - iii. Jonah 1:4 - a bumpy ride ensued
- i. Jonah lost his way because he was going the wrong way
- j. He was running from the Lord (verse 10)
- k. How do we go the wrong way? Do the opposite of make disciples, and that's make excuses and make the faith all about us instead of all about God
- l. That's our Big Idea: The quickest way to lose your way is by running away from God's way.
- m. God's way is the right way to go.

3. The right way - GOLO

- a. In Matthew 28:19-20, we find the right way to go
- b. Where do we go? Everywhere. How do we go? Full of the presence of God.
- c. Go make disciples, and go knowing that I'm with you.
- d. KJV - "Lo I am with you" NIV - "And surely I am with you always"
- e. LO is all about the loving, permeating, confidence-building presence of God
- f. That presence - that awareness of God's love for us - allows us to love others without fear or agenda

- g. It allows us to Go Outrageously Love Others - GOLO
- h. It allows us to GOLOve. Anytime, anywhere at any cost.
- i. Not because we're perfect or because we have it all figured out, but because we are perfectly loved by a God who does
- j. If Jonah was an example of YOLO, than Jesus is the example of GOLO
- k. John 13:3-4
 - i. Jesus knew who he was and whose he was
 - ii. That confidence in the love and presence of God allowed him to serve
 - iii. Ultimately, it allowed him to sacrifice his life for ours

The Landing

How do we know if we're going the right way or the wrong way?

How do we know if our activity is gospel activity or not?

Wouldn't it be great if there were obvious signs, like these?

[PICS OF WRONG WAY SIGNS]

I believe there just may be.

If we've been sent on a mission to make disciples - to GO and LOve - those around us, then wouldn't it be fair to say that if we can't find the gospel and disciple making in what we're doing, then we may be going the wrong way

Hosea 14:9 says that we're either thriving in the Lord's ways or stumbling.

Jonah stumbled the wrong way, and Jesus thrived the right way.

I want to close this morning - and this series - with an example from our own congregation about what it looks like to begin to walk the right way - to begin to GOLO.

[Video for Ben]

[Ben explains what God has placed on his heart]

When we begin to walk the right way toward disciple making, we worry less about doing it right and more about not doing it at all.

How do we go the right way?

We take steps toward everything that opens the door for the gospel to be preached and for disciples to be made.

And while it may be safer on the shore, neither of those take place there.

To walk the right way, you're going to have to jump into the water.