



Just One More

Acts 16:16-34

Sermon given on January 10, 2016



**Sunday Morning Services
@ Far Reaching Ministries**

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Just One More

Acts 16:16-34

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Acts 16**
- April 15, 2016 marks 104th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic
- Believed to be unsinkable, hit an iceberg and began to sink
- Had 20 lifeboats – only enough for about half the people on board
- Only 16 of the lifeboats were launched - about 2/3rds full
- About 1,500 people went into the frigid water of the North Atlantic Ocean
- There was room for about 300 more people in the lifeboats
- Only 2 lifeboats returned – only 9 people saved from water
- Most died of hypothermia within 15 minutes of entering the water
- Those lifeboats were the only hope those 1,500 people had
- There was no way they could have saved them all, but they could have saved many more than they did
- What would you have done – would you have tried to save some?
- **Let's Pray!**

Teaching

- **Just One More**
- In Acts 16 the apostle Paul receives a vision from God
- It is a call to go to the area of Macedonia – ends up in city of Philippi
- Spends time sharing with some women that were gathering for prayer
- Then things started getting weird
- **Acts 16:16-17**
- Slave girl is possessed by a demon – gives her ability to see spiritual things
- Proclaims that Paul and Silas are men of God
- Paul responds to her
- **Acts 16:18**
- Paul didn't want to associate the things of God with the things of Satan
- Also an act of mercy, freeing this woman from demon possession

- Her masters not too happy about it
- **Acts 16:19-24**
- First they beat Paul and Silas then send them to the jail
- Tell jailer to put them into the deepest part of the dungeon
- Reserved for the very worst criminals
- **Acts 16:25-26**
- With their backs bleeding and aching from the beating
- In a deep, dark dungeon with their feet immobilized
- They are praying and singing hymns
- Circumstances didn't determine their attitude
- Inner peace and joy, doing what they know is right
- And God hears their prayers and singing
- This is a problem for the jailer
- **Acts 16:27-29**
- Losing his prisoners would result in great pain and suffering
- To lose a prisoner, would very likely cost him his life
- Totally hopeless – rather take his own life, than suffer consequences
- **Acts 16:30**
- Jailer wondered - Something different about these guys
- Why didn't they run when the doors flew open?
- Could there be hope for me?
- **Acts 16:31-34**

Message

- **Just One More**
- The jailer was lost and had no hope
- When those prison doors flew open, his fate was set
- His ship had sunk and he wouldn't last long
- Only death awaited him – his family would also suffer
- As he stood there in the ruins of the prison and his life – all was despair and destruction
- Then suddenly out of the darkness came a voice
- Out of the rubble a ray of hope showed forth with the simple words 'we are here'

- As this man was drowning in a sea of trouble God used Paul to throw him a lifeline – to reach out to him with words of hope
- In his desperation, the jailer grabbed for it and was saved
- That salvation quickly spread to his whole family
- God’s desire is to save the whole world **2 Peter 3:9**

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- But to be saved they must come to Him
- Many in this world are as desperate as this Philippian jailer
- This world makes promises just like the builders of the Titanic did
- If you follow the pattern of the world, your life will never sink
- But then in the middle of the night, your life collides with an immovable object, and you are sinking into the frigid waters of hopelessness
- Many, all around us are adrift, helpless and hopeless
- They are lost, don’t know what to do **Matthew 9:36**

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

- God looks down from heaven sees humanity helplessly trying to save themselves – desperately trying to find love, peace, hope, and failing
- How it must sadden Him to see millions of people hoping in Powerball to save them
- There was nothing man could do to save himself – like a newborn baby, we are incapable of doing anything to save ourselves
- And nothing this world offers, no matter how big it is, will save us
- And so God made a way – Jesus **John 14:6**

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

- In the sea of suffering humanity Jesus is the rescue boat sent from the Father to save all of humanity
- If you are a Christian here today, if you have been saved by Jesus, you are in His boat
- You have been snatched out of the sea of lost humanity
- You are no longer lost – your sins are forgiven because of what Jesus did

- You are no longer helpless, as the Holy Spirit, the Helper from heaven lives in you
- You are no longer hopeless, because God has made great and precious promises to you
- You are saved, you are safe, but what about those around you
- Around us is a sea of humanity facing a worse fate than just dying

Ephesians 2:11-12

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

- No hope for this life, destined to spend all of eternity without God
- Jesus saved you from that destiny – you are in His rescue boat
- That rescue boat is still floating in the sea of suffering humanity
- But what does that mean to us?

- Why are you here? What is your purpose?**1 Timothy 1:15**

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

- Jesus commissioned those He saved to help Him save others**Jude 22-23 NLT**

You must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering. Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives.

- Can we actually call ourselves Christians and sit there safely in our seat in the rescue boat and do nothing while all around us are people right on the verge of spending all eternity in the flames of judgment?
- But there are so many, I can't save them all!
- That's right! God doesn't expect you to
- In fact, you aren't going to save any of them – God does the saving
- But He wants you to reach out to the one closest to you
- You can't reach them all, but you can reach out to Just One More

Vision

- **Just One More**
- It is my vision that this church would see itself as Christ's hospital ship

- That we would launch out into the community little rescue boats of hope called families that have a vision to reach just one more family for Jesus
- That we would see marriages shining out into the darkness with the brilliance of Christ's love – reaching out to touch just one more marriage for Christ
- That each and every person that calls this church home would have a vision to reach out to just one more person for Jesus
- To do that – we need to live out a Christian paradox **Matthew 16:25**
For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
- Living a life that glorifies God is not lived in the safety of the boat
- We glorify God when we live our lives reaching out of the boat
- You might say, 'But I don't know how!'
- That's where the church comes in **Ephesians 4:11-12 NLT**
Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.
- The main purpose of the church is to glorify God by helping people get ready to help Jesus reach those who are adrift around us
- Three things we are going to do:
 - **1 –Prepare your boat**
 - We will help you to put Christ at center of life, marriage, family
 - This is where some marriages and families are struggling
 - They are in Christ's boat, they are saved
 - But their rescue boat is so filled with junk from the world, they have no room for anyone else
 - They are so busy living in this world, that they have no time to reach out to anyone or to learn how to reach out
 - Or the frigid water of this world is getting into their boat
 - Their relationships are growing cold, both with God and with each other
 - And there is a growing sense of helplessness and hopelessness
 - You have a hard time thinking about reaching out to just one more, when you need someone to reach out to you

- You need to bring your boat, your marriage, your family, into the hospital ship, into the church and let it help you
- This is what discipleship is all about
- Discipleship is not about you learning about God and Jesus and Christianity
- It is about you becoming more like Jesus and getting involved in the work of rescuing the lost **Matthew 28:19-20**

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, 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.

- You can pretend that doesn't apply to you, but you aren't even fooling yourself
- As we put Christ first – changes our heart – also changes the way we see the world – start to see the lost as someone Jesus wants to rescue – and we see ourselves as someone Jesus wants to use to save them
- One of the ways you can reach out to just one more, is to point the people in your life that are having a tough time to the church
- You might not have all the answers, we might not even have all the answers, but the God we worship does

- **2 – Equip your boat**

- Done primarily by teaching Word **Romans 10:17**

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- Also help you with teachings about how to share your faith
- In verses 31 and 32 we see a key to reaching out to others
- Paul told them they needed to believe in Jesus, and then ‘spoke the word of the Lord to him’
- The better you know the Word, the better able you are to reach out to the lost
- And if you feel inadequate, keep reading your Bible, and bring them to a Bible study or to church

- **3 – Launch your boat**

- Church should help you to see the needs of those around us
- We will provide opportunities to go and reach out to those in need of a touch from their Savior

- God doesn't expect you to reach them all – but He does expect you to reach out to just one more
- If you were in a lifeboat which one would you reach out for?
- You would reach out to the one closest to you!
- Around all of us are people that need a touch from Jesus
- If they are around you, then you are probably the one that Jesus sent to be the one to throw the lifeline
- Who is closest to you? Who is the one that Jesus might want you to reach out to?
- Here we are early in 2016 – make a commitment that you will reach out to that person in 2016
- We often challenge people to read every day, to pray every day, to share Christ every day
- And that can be discouraging, because we don't usually do it every day
- Try something new this year, how about making a commitment to doing it just one more time
- Instead of committing to read your Bible every day, how about committing to reading it just one more time
- And then after you read it, what should you commit to do? Read it just one more time
- Commit to pray for that person that needs Jesus just one more time
- Ask God to give you an opportunity to share something with someone just one more time
- Ask God to open the door to invite someone to church one more time
- Wake up every morning and say to God, 'Just one more!'
- Just One More until they have all heard, until they all have the same hope you do, until every last one is saved – Just one more at a time!
- Let's pray & ask God to help us to do that
- **Sinner's Prayer**

Communion

- Ushers – come and pass out the elements of Communion
- Please hold the bread and the cup so that we can partake together

- Communion, or the Lord's Supper, or the Eucharist was given to the church to remind us of what Jesus did for each one of us
- This is for believers – all who believe in Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross
- If you are not a believer, I would ask that you allow these elements to pass you by
- Even as believers, we should take this very seriously
- The Bible teaches that by taking the bread and the cup, we are taking Christ's sacrifice into ourselves
- The cracker symbolizes His body beaten and crucified in our place
- And the cup symbolizes His blood shed so that we can have forgiveness of sins
- And so it is important that we examine ourselves before we partake
- And based on the word that was spoken today – where are you in Christ's rescue boat
- Are you committed to reaching out to the lost, right where you are?
- We are going to take a few moments, reflect upon these things
- If you realize that something is not right in your life, confess it to God right now
- If you lack the courage or knowledge, ask God to give it to you
- If you lack the faith, ask God to show you how you can grow it
- After a few moments, I will pray and we will partake
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- **1 Corinthians 11:23-24** – Let's partake of the bread
- **1 Corinthians 11:25-26** – Let's partake of the cup
- You are safe in the boat with Jesus – let's be a church with the faith to reach out to just one more to help them into the boat with us – Amen?!
- **Stand for last song!**
- **Come up for Prayer!**