

One More

Selected Passages

SERIES “Fight”

Jarrett Stephens

It thinks it’s appropriate on a day like this with it being Memorial Day Weekend that the subject we are covering within our *FIGHT* series for the morning is: “Fighting for the lost”.

Now, we’ve established the fact that the Christian life is described as a fight...a war...an intense battle. Paul even told Timothy to “fight the good fight of faith” and to be like a “good soldier of Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 2)

Not only is it Memorial Day Weekend, but it is also *The International Day for the Unreached*. Think about this: There are around three billion people in the world have no church, no Bible in their language...they’ve never even heard the name of Jesus before, and we are called as believers in Christ to go and reach the unreached.

We are fighting for what matters in this series and I don’t know of anything worth fighting for MORE than for a soul that doesn’t know Jesus. Part of being a good soldier is answering the call to go behind enemy lines and rescue those who are lost and broken by sin.

I’m calling the message today: **One More**

When we fight for the lost, it is a fight to reach “one more” for Jesus. This has become a theme in our church. You’ll see signs in various places around the church that say, “One More” or “Uno Mas” – some of our volunteers have shirts with this branding.

In our newly renovated worship center (show you some pictures next week!), right where I will stand or our preaching team will stand to preach will be small little placard if you will set within the stage with those words on them: “One More”.

“One more” is the heartbeat of our church and it is the heartbeat of God.

C.T. Studd was a professional cricket player and had a bright future as a professional athlete, but God’s call to be a missionary gripped his heart. He did missionary work in China, America, India and ultimately set up his work in Africa.

He loved Jesus and was extremely motivated to tell the world about him. As it related to getting the gospel to the lost and getting behind enemy lines, he had a passion to reach and rescue “one more” for Jesus:

C.T. Studd – “Some wish to live within the sounds of a church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell.”

“one more” – this is what the message is about today, so let’s get after and talk about fighting for the lost and doing whatever it takes to reach “one more” for Jesus.

I want us to begin our time by answering the “WHY?” question. Why is this so important? Well, I say we just start here with this statement...I’ll put it in bold for you:

The lost matter to God.

Illus. First Sermon – The “lost are a priority to God”

It’s true...and we have all of the Bible to back this statement up. This is WHY Jesus left the confines of heaven to come to earth. It was for the sole purpose of coming on a rescue mission to fight for and save the lost.

Luke 19:10 – **“For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.”**

It would begin with the lost sheep of Israel (i.e. the Jewish race) but it would extend to the whole world. This is the mission of God - it’s that the lost would be found! It’s that those who don’t know God would come into a relationship with God.

John 3:16 – **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”**

The lost matter to God. This is a statement that can’t be denied and it’s not up for debate. The real question is NOT “do the lost matter to God?”, the real question is do the lost matter to me and you?

And this is the point of the message today – they should! I want us to feel the weight of a lost soul today.

The word “lost” that is used in Luke’s gospel is the same word as the word “perish” in John’s gospel. It’s a word that means to “destroy” or to “decimate”. It’s to be in a state of ruin.

This is important because if we are ever going to get a burden for the lost and really care about them...if we ever want them to matter to us like they matter to God:

- We have to see them as God sees them!
- We have to be aware of what truly awaits them should they die in their sins - and that is to be forever separated from God!

This is the “lot” assigned to the lost. They are perishing...they are in a state of ruin.

Now, they might not feel this way...they could be living it up and having a great time. Could be healthy, wealthy, and everything going right for them! Their thought could be, “I don’t need God or see a need for God...”

But here's the deal...regardless of their feelings or perceived needs, there is a spiritual truth of scripture and that is sin must be atoned for!

It's why Jesus came to shed his blood (because our blood doesn't work! Has to be the spotless blood of the unblemished Lamb of God) – and if anyone tramples on that blood – i.e. says “No” to the sacrifice of God “in Christ” they are in a state of ruin on their way to eternal destruction – they will perish in a first death (physical death) and but they will also perish in what scripture calls the “second death”.

Rev. 21:8 – “But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, (THE LOST) their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

The lost matter to God. He doesn't want anyone to perish...to experience the “second death”.

In fact, it's what is delaying his return to the earth and holding back the consummation of history – he desires the lost to be rescued and saved!

2 Peter 3:9 – “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

Look at the life and ministry of Jesus! His desire to see the lost found was on constant display!

- It's why he went after tax collectors like Matthew and Zacchaeus...
- It's why he crossed ethnic lines to speak to a Samaritan woman by a well...
- It's why he carried on conversations with the Pharisee, Nicodemus who came to Jesus in the middle of the night asking questions about the nature of his ministry and Jesus boldly and forthrightly told him, “You must be born again.”
- It's ultimately why he performed miracles like healing the lame, causing the blind to see, and raising the dead – it was ALWAYS to point to a greater miracle of a soul being saved!

It's not just his life and ministry though, look specifically at the teachings of Jesus! Just read the red letters – so much of it was about this:

- showing the lost matter to God...
- showing the heart of God toward those who thought that God didn't care about them or want anything to do with them...

Jesus was constantly in his teachings attempting to rewire people's brains regarding WHO the Kingdom of God was for and HOW someone could be a part of it – and at the heart of it all was an emphasis on the lost being found.

Think about the parables he told highlighting this truth. There are three of them in one chapter – Luke 15. Talk about the lost mattering to God!

- You have a lost sheep that a shepherd leaves 99 others just to go find the one that is missing...
- You have a lost coin, that a woman turns the house upside down – puts everything on hold until she finds it...
- You have a lost son – the father constantly on the lookout for when that son will return home and runs toward him when he sees him a “long way off”...

Commentator, **William Barclay** – “**No Pharisee had ever dreamed of a God like that. This is the one absolutely new thing which Jesus taught about God – that he actually searched for us. A Jew might have agreed that those who came crawling home to God in self-abasement might find pity, but he would never have conceived of a God who went out to search for sinners.**”

BTW – it was ONE sheep...ONE coin...ONE son...the infinite value of ONE being found. The lost ONE matters to God!

They matter SO MUCH that his closing words to his disciples were about going and finding them. We are to be like that shepherd...like that woman...like Jesus himself.

John 20:21b – “**...As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.**”

Matt. 28:19a – “**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...**” You can't make a disciple until you make a convert!

Acts 1:8 – “**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**”

When we become followers of Jesus, we are commissioned as “fishers of men”. I know I'm mixing metaphors here (fishing and fighting), but you get the point.

We fight for the lost. We go after the unsaved. We are to be intentional about doing whatever it takes to rescue and bring home the lost. Let me add to our statement earlier.

The lost matter to God (and I'll add this here), **so they should matter to us.**

I'll just pause right here and let this sit.

- Do the lost...those that don't know Jesus do they matter to you?
- Does it break your heart that there are three billion people in the world today that have never heard the name of Christ? And they die entering an eternity separated from him.
- Does it bother you that within a 20-minute drive of our church there are 560,000 people – MANY of whom do not know Christ in a personal way. These people represent someone's neighbor...a co-worker...a classmate...a family member.

The lost matter to God, the question is do they matter to you?

So practically speaking, "What does it look like to go behind enemy lines to fight for and find the lost?" Let me share three ways:

1. Pray for the lost

Of course, I start here because this is where it all starts! This is a spiritual battle we are in. And at the end of the day, you and me...we can't save anyone! God alone does the saving.

2 Cor. 4:4 – "In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

See, Satan has blinded those who are lost and only God can remove the veil that is blinding them. We can serve them in love...share with them the gospel...and I'll talk about all this in just a moment, but at the end of the day, ONLY Jesus can save them.

And so, we MUST pray. We pray, we pray and we pray some more. Let me get real specific with you:

- Pray for them by name – Who's your one?
- Pray for them to have soft and open hearts.
- Pray for the Spirit to work and woo them to God.

John 6:44a – "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him..."

- Pray for God to get their attention any way he desires.
- Pray for your role in the process (may be to speak, share a verse, silent, pray, 1-10)
- Pray for revelation – God unveil their eyes

Corrie ten Boom – "We never know how God will answer our prayers, but we can expect that He will get us involved in His plan for the answer."

Illus. Eric coming to Christ (point back to process)

Prayer is the primary weapon have for going behind enemy lines and fighting for the lost. This is where it begins.

2. Plant seeds with the lost

Jesus told a parable in Matthew 13 likening the hearts of men and women to soil. There was hard soil (almost rocky), there was shallow soil, there was okay soil, and there was good soil.

He talked about a farmer planting a seed and where that seed fell AND how well the soil (i.e. the hearts of men and women) was cultivated determined whether or not grow occurred and fruit was produced.

Planting seeds and cultivating soil - this is one of the very best ways we can “fight for the lost”.

We plant seeds by loving people and serving them with “no strings attached. We listen to people and love them for who they are. Isn’t it amazing how it was lost people that enjoyed being around Jesus?

The super spiritual people didn’t like Jesus – he was a threat to their control and their perceived power. But, the drunk...the tax collector...the sinner – They loved being around Jesus.

Just a question to consider – would/do lost people enjoy your company? Do you know people/have a relationship with people who are lost? How can you fight for them if you don’t know them?

It’s a fact that the longer you are saved the less lost people you tend to know. And I get it...it’s the community of faith that we are close to and should be...that’s family.

However, we can’t neglect the very people Jesus died for, and the single greatest evangelistic tool any of us have is a real, genuine friendship with someone that doesn’t know Christ.

Illus. Rosaria Butterfield - Rosaria Butterfield, a former tenured professor of English and women’s studies at Syracuse University, converted to Christ in what she describes as a “train wreck”. Her memoir, *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert: An English Professor’s Journey into Christian Faith* chronicles her conversion..

Raised and educated in liberal Roman Catholic settings, Rosaria loved books and philosophy. In her late twenties, allured by feminist philosophy and LGBTQ+ politics, she adopted a lesbian identity. She earned her PH.D. from The Ohio State University, then served in the English department and women's studies. Her primary academic field was critical theory, specializing in queer theory. Her historical field was 19th-century literature, informed by Freud, Hegel, Marx, and Darwin, with a special interest in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. She advised LGBTQ+ student groups, co-authored Syracuse University’s domestic partnership policy for same-sex couples, and actively lobbied for LGBTQ+ legal advancements alongside her lesbian partner.

In 1997, while Rosaria was researching the Religious Right “and their politics of hatred against people like me,” she wrote an article against The Promise Keepers.

There was a local Reformed Presbyterian pastor Ken Smith responded to that article, and Rosaria regularly met with Ken and his wife, Floy, over dinners in their home. Ken and Floy became a resource on the Religious Right and the Bible they loved. Eventually, they became her confidantes.

In 1999, after reading through the Bible multiple times under Ken and Floy’s care, Rosaria converted to Christianity. Rosaria has written four books: [*The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*](#) [*The Gospel Comes with a House Key*](#) chronicles how the Lord used a humble couple’s simple invitation to dinner to draw her - a radical, committed unbeliever—to himself. Inviting readers into her house, Rosaria shows how we can use hospitality in evangelism in a world that increasingly despises Christianity.

This is what planting seeds looks like! It’s being a good neighbor...it’s genuinely loving and caring for people.

You don’t have to embrace their lifestyle or choices, but loving them (which of course includes speaking truth to them IN A CONTEXT of relationship) is fighting for them.

Illus. Salt and light – (salt flavors...it irritates...it preserves...light exposes...it brightens up rooms – the lost shouldn’t see you coming and run out of the room!) Salt is plural!

Planting seeds is being great at what you do! Makes people ask why and opens doors to plant more seeds! Let’s plant seeds with the lost.

3. Plead with the lost

Look, there is a sense of urgency in this...lost people are in a state of destruction! And so we plead with them!

2 Cor. 5:20 – “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

Jude 23 – “Save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.”

That word “snatch” there is a violent word. It implies force, speed...total commitment of the effort and the tense in which it’s written implies continuous ongoing action.

This is our posture as followers of Jesus. We are doing whatever it takes to snatch people out of a fire and bring them to Jesus! And we are to do it over and over and over and over again.

As **Fanny Crosby** wrote in her great hymn,
Rescue the Perishing:

**Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save.**

The best illustration I have of this is the story of Desmond Doss. It was made famous in the movie *Hacksaw Ridge*. Doss was a private in the Army during World War II. He was a Seventh-Day Adventist, and did not believe he could take a life and so he refused to carry a weapon into battle.

He eventually became a combat medic and in the Battle of Okinawa saved an estimated 75 men behind enemy lines. He was awarded a *Bronze Star* and a *Medal of Honor* for his heroics.

During the rescue – as he went behind enemy lines to looking for those wounded, he suffered a left arm fracture from a sniper's bullet and had 17 pieces of shrapnel embedded in his body after kicking away a grenade that had landed near his fellow soldiers.

He was motivated as *Hacksaw Ridge* shows to get “one more”. What the clip **(Show Clip)**

Champion Forest, let's be a people that fight for the lost.

Let's pray for them...plant seeds with them and plead for them to come to Jesus. Let's commit to doing everything it takes to bring “One More” to Jesus.

Will you pray with me?

Please Note: This document is not meant to be a published, cited, annotated research paper. It is simply a transcript of a spoken message, provided as a resource. Many commentaries, articles, and other sermon helps were likely studied and contributed to the forming of this message.