

Born to Give
Born Ultimatum
Acts 1:1-9

Christmas is not a Holiday – Its and evangelist Advent!!!!!!

Today we are going to talk about giving our Christmas gift away!

And today we are talking about *Born Ultimatum*.

We're gonna be looking at the Last Will and Testament of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We've looked at a lot of different ways that we are to give.

The best thing, the best gift, the best way that we can give ... is to give the Good News of Jesus Christ

Now a lot of times we are intimidated to share our faith.

The devil comes and he lies to us, he tries to convince us that people don't want to hear, people aren't interested, don't say anything, you might offend somebody.

Well the reality is: what is better? Spending eternity in Heaven walking streets of gold where there are no more tears, no more sorrow, no more sickness, no more death ... or, spending eternity with weeping and gnashing of teeth and lakes of fire and hell and damnation?

Why are so embarrassed? Which is better? [Heaven!]

Going through life ridden down with guilt and sorrow and condemnation and habits and addictions and sin that ensnares and entangles?

Or ... which is better? Walking in the freedom and the liberty that Jesus Christ has paid for us to have all of our sins removed and washed and forgiven and forgotten for all of eternity, to walk in fellowship with the Creator of the Most High of Heaven and Earth, and to have the Loving God, a Living God, that is on our side and that we don't face this world on our own, we face it with the power and the presence of God that is equipping us and helping us.

Which is better? [Freedom!]

Then why are we so embarrassed to say, "I don't wanna offend but, um, maybe your miserable life you might wanna look at another option." [Laughter]

So we wanna talk about taking a bold step in our faith and presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ to our community and to the people around us.

The word 'ultimatum' means a final statement of terms made by one party to another.

And so today we're gonna look at the final words of Jesus before He departed this Earth and went and ascended into Heaven.

He's gone! Remember a couple of weeks ago in this series we talked about this moment in time when Jesus ascends and the disciples are looking and then they said, "Now what? Now what do we do? He's gone.

What do we do now?"

Well, if we're gonna follow the instructions of Our Lord and Savior, the first thing He said to do if you're taking notes with us today, is He said,

Ultimatum #1 "Be empowered by The Holy Spirit."

He said, "Don't do anything. Don't witness, don't go pray for anybody, don't start evangelizing."

He said, "Go to Jerusalem and wait for the promise of The Holy Spirit."

Now we all know that we understand that this is a two-step process.

Number One: We give and surrender our lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "When you yield your life to me, when you are born again, when you are saved, when you confess me as Lord," he said,

"I'm going to send the Comforter, the Helper, the Teacher, My Holy Spirit to abide and to dwell on the inside of you."

When Jesus met with the disciples they saw him and it says in John, Chapter 20, I believe it is ... they believed and Jesus breathed on them and the Spirit of God came within them.

What Jesus is talking about here in Acts, Chapter 1 is He commanded them, "Don't do anything.

Don't do it until you're equipped with power. Don't do anything without the power."

Now if you give me the option of a screwdriver or a power screwdriver, you give me the option of a hand saw or a power saw, I want the power baby!

And it does no good until you plug into the power.

So here at FFM we believe God's Word.

God's Word says, Number One: You're born again, you become a believer, the Spirit of God indwells you.

Number Two: Acts, Chapter 2, they were all filled with The Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

That doesn't need to be weird, spooky, or awkward.

That's an authentic Bible believing thing to let the Spirit of God on the inside come upon you.

Jesus said, "Out of your belly shall flow rivers of living water."

That it's the Spirit of God within you being released to come upon you.
Now watch this: Matthew 28:16 - *"Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, [listen to these words] 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"*

Jesus said, "All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to me.

Therefore, because I have all authority in Heaven and on Earth, therefore, go in my name.

Go and do the works that I did. Go and cast out devils. Go lay hands on the sick. Go and preach the Good News. Go and make disciples."

What was He saying? "Go in my power and my ability." Isn't that what He told us to do? "In my name you'll do the things that I did. Ask these things in my name and I will do it."

He is giving us authority to walk in His rights and His privileges as the Son of God He is saying, "You're a son of God, you're a daughter of God ... walk in the same rights and authority and privileges that I have as God's Son and you now have as God's son and God's daughter."

So what are we supposed to do?

Ultimatum #2: Go. Go! Get off our duff and go.

Do something with the gift of Christmas. Go out into the highways and the byways. Go.

But the purpose and the focus of church is not for sinners, heathens, agnostics, atheists, witches, hurting, Depressed

people to go, "Oh, I don't know what it is about that building. Oh, I will go there. I don't know why I'm here, but I just came." Okay?

Notice what Jesus said? "Go and make disciples."

Now I'm not talking about, "Go or I'm gonna beat the tar out of you." But I'm talking about go and make disciples.

That person you know who's been going through a hard time, difficult time? Go and make disciples.

"Hey, you really should come to church. "No, church isn't my thing." "Yeah, I think it is. You need to come." "No, I don't think so." "Yup. I'm gonna come by and I'm gonna pick you up at 8:30. We're gonna go to the 9:00 service." "Oh no, no, no. That's ... Sunday's my day to sleep in." "Okay, glad you said that. I'll be there at 10:30 ... you can sleep in, I'll pick you up at 11 and we're going to the 11:00 service." "I don't think so." "Dude, I'm gonna be at your house at 10:30."

You pull up, you text him, "Hey, look outside." And you're out there ... you know, you got a Starbucks waiting for him. "Look! Hey, come on!" And you get him to come outside, get in the car, bring him to church, show him around, help him check his kids in, have them sit with you, have them hear a Good News message, have them enjoy the music and the presence of God, and they'll get kinda Happy Feet!

They're like, "I don't know what it is. I just wanna move. I just feel ... I feel it. I feel the beat!"

And then we'll give an invitation and they accept Christ. Go and make disciples.

Don't ask ... "Well I don't wanna offend you but I just want you to know that maybe there's a better way."

Don't be shy. Don't be intimidated. Go and make disciples! Get out where the lost people are.

Church isn't about getting lost people coming in ... church is about save people going out.

Church is about believers gathering, recharging, edifying, and then going out into the streets.

Jesus ate with the sinners. Jesus talked with a prostitute.

Jesus had lunch with the tax collectors and all the rich people were like, "Oh. What's He doing?"

Jesus said, "I'm going to the sick who need a doctor.

I'm gonna go and I'm gonna reach out and I'm gonna touch, and I'm gonna impact people."

And that's what Jesus has called us to do.

A survey was done of multiple churches and the believers in the churches were asked this question: What is the number one priority and focus of church? What is the purpose of church?

Number one answer was: to meet my needs. Okay? A little bit selfish. That was the number one answer. To meet my needs.

Number two general answer was this: to reach and impact the world. Okay, that's not bad. Meet my needs and our goal as a church is to reach and impact the world.

But then later in the survey they asked the question: whose responsibility is it to fulfill the purpose that you have stated above of meeting my needs and reaching and impacting the world.

Ninety percent said it was the Pastor's role, responsibility, duty and obligation to meet all of your needs and reach the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Folks! I'm not that good.

What do we believe here at FFM? To be the people of God in the community to impact the community. You're empowered, you're equipped, you have the Good News, you go and share what God has given to you.

You can pray. Your family can pray.

You can pray for people and things will happen and miracles will take place.

And so we need to fulfill it, we need to go and find God's lost kids.

In Luke, Chapter 15 Jesus said, *"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them."* Doesn't He leave the 99 in the open country and go after the lost sheep until He finds it?

You know what? Do you know what my role as a shepherd is?

If it came down to meeting your needs or finding the lost sheep ... do you know what Jesus told me to do as a shepherd?

Leave you on your own and get you to feed yourself and can you choose on a little grass while I'm gone?

Can you handle that? Can you feed yourself during the week? Can you grow in Christ and read God's Word?

I'm gonna go find some lost sheep that are hurting and broken and don't know a way home. Amen?

That's our mission, that's our vision for our church.

Ultimatum #3: Broadcast the Good News. Broadcast the Good News.

Mark 16, Jesus said, *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."*

Matthew 28 *"Go and make disciples. Teach all nations."*

In Luke 24 Jesus said, *"And repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations beginning at Jerusalem. Go and make disciples. Go and preach the Good News."*

When most people hear the word 'preach,' it's a errr, errr.

here's what they hear: **"YOU SHOULD REPENT YOU SINNERS. TURN OR BURN! GO TO HEAVEN OR HELL. IT'S YOUR CHOICE."**

But that's the image that they have of preachers - a finger in your face get it right.

To preach means to proclaim, to share. I'm not asking you to go stand on a corner ...

I'm not opposed to the fiery preaching if there's a time and a place for that.

But I don't know that you're gonna go into your workplace and stand on your desk ... "Hey, everybody, turn or burn baby!"

No, but you're gonna share the life that is within you.

You're gonna begin to proclaim what God is doing in your life.

You're gonna begin to tell about how you prayed and how God turned this situation around.

You're gonna begin to let others know about the life and the Good News of Christ on the inside of you.

Romans 10:13-17 *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Proclaiming, sharing the Good News. "And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news! But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ."*

So it's in you sharing.....God's just gonna lead you and you're just gonna go and you're gonna give a dropper.

God's gonna say, "That's it. Don't say anymore."

You say, "How do I know what to say? How do I know what to preach?"

Remember what the first one was? Be empowered. Filled and equipped by The Holy Spirit.

Ultimatum #4: Bury the old sinful nature.

What does it say in Verse 19? *"Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

We're to preach the Good News and then what's supposed to happen?

They're supposed to get baptized.

Do you know what? You as a believer in Christ are supposed to be baptized ... water baptized.

Jesus said, "Get water baptized." It's not about salvation ... baptism doesn't save you.

Baptism is about identification. It's identifying with Christ that He was buried, died, buried and was resurrected.

And you leave the dead man there and you come out of that water, "I'm a new person in Christ Jesus.

The old things passed away, all things are new. I'm not that old man.

I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I am washed. Bought. Paid for. By the blood of Jesus Christ.

I'll live and I'll honor and I'll fulfill my life for Him." You need to get water baptized.

Ultimatum #5: Lead them to freedom. Matt 28:20 - *"And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*

Teaching them. We've gotta lead them to freedom.

It's not ... it's one thing to get them to say, "Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life ... I surrender my heart and

my love to God. I wanna be saved.”
That’s a good thing, but don’t leave the baby laying on the street.
We arrest women who give birth to their baby and leave them on the street or leave them on someone’s doorstep and abandon that baby.
We arrest them because it’s criminally wrong.
And it’s criminally wrong for us as a church to say “Oh, I led someone to Christ.
I led someone to Christ. That’s so good! And then, “See ya, have a good life.”
Okay? So what we encourage people to do is when they get born again we encourage them ... Come and grow.
Begin to read your Bible. Begin to grow in the things of God.
We begin to help them in their new walk and their new fellowship and relationship with God.

Now here’s the cool part: 2nd Timothy, Chapter 4, Verse 1 ... look what it says: “*In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: [Paul said, I give you this ultimatum] Preach the word [share God’s Word, share God’s love]; be prepared in season and out of season.*”

See don’t just, “I’m good. I’m going on Sundays.
I’m ready to preach the Word, ready to share the Word, ready to lead someone to Christ on Sunday.”
It’s not about Sunday. It’s about the other six days of the week too!
“*Correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.*”
What did Jesus tell us? He said, “*The harvest is plenty but the workers are few.*”
Ask the Lord of the Harvest therefore to send out workers into the church? No, into the harvest field.

You see the **Born To Give challenge** there?

I want you to write down the names of three people that you are not sure about their salvation.
Three people in your circle of influence.
You might not even know their name. You might put ‘girl with pony tail at Starbucks.’
You might put ‘elderly woman at WalMart door’ and she’s there all the time when you’re going in and out.
Write down three people that you wanna track with in 2015.

Now here’s our goal as a church – that every member of FFM would lead one person to Jesus Christ before Christmas 2015.

There’s 400 or more that call FFM their home.
Let’s alleviate the kids, let’s alleviate the babies, and let’s alleviate the people that they’re really not sure ... that leaves us maybe about 50% that say, “I’m here.”
Imagine this: A 200 adults who say, “God use me. Use me to lead one person to Christ.
I wanna do it this year, God. Use me. Help me to do it.”
And then what do you do for those people that you have on that list?

You begin to pray for them on a daily basis.

You call them out and begin to pray for them. Pray the prayer in Ephesians 1, the prayer in Ephesians 3; those two prayers that Paul prayed that the eyes of their understanding would be open.

Bless them by doing random acts of kindness.

Connect with them

Invite them to church. Eighty-two percent, if invited

Share with them as opportunity arises

Write down three names. Now you can stand.

Acts, Chapter 4 ... they pray: “*Grant unto your service all boldness that we might preach your word that signs and wonders would accompany your word.*”

And it says when they prayed, the place where they prayed, was shaken because of the power and the presence of God.

Here’s what I’m gonna ask you to do with every head up, every eye open, and everybody looking around: how many of you are willing to say, “God, send me into the harvest field. God, use me to lead someone to Jesus Christ by Christmas of 2015.”

How many of you say, “God, I’m willing to be used by You.” Amen? Alright. God sees it. I saw it.

The cameras have swept and your names have been entered.

But here’s what I want you to do when you do lead someone to Christ ... email the church office.

Send me an email. Let one of us know. “Hey, I just led someone to Jesus Christ.”

And we wanna track it for a year ... we wanna see more people born again this year than any year before.
This is our Christmas gift to our community this year!!!!!!

Father? I pray for my friends. I pray for my family. I pray for my brothers and sisters in Christ. Lord, grant unto us all boldness to proclaim, to share the Good News of the gift of Jesus Christ. I break all shame. I break all fear. I bind all insecurity and I release the boldness of God on Firm Foundation Ministries today in Jesus' Name. Upon every believer that calls this church their home, I pray for the supernatural power and presence of God, the boldness of God. Lord, fill us with Your Holy Spirit and power. May we be clothed with Your power and Your presence and that when we go into the highways and the byways, the hurting, the broken, the wounded ... some of them even look like they've got everything together, but inside they're in misery. God, help us to love those people and demonstrate the Good News. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen. Amen.