

# Compelled to Reach the Lost

**Sermon in a Sentence:** We are compelled by Christ, by the Spirit, and by the need of the world to take the gospel to the lost.

**Sermon Purpose:** That believers will be filled with the Spirit and commit themselves to reaching the lost with the gospel.

**Text:** Acts 20:22: “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there” (NIV).

## Introduction:

1. In our text Paul describes how he was compelled by the Spirit to finish the task that Christ had given to him.
2. His God-given task was to “testify to the good news of God’s grace” (v. 24).
3. This message: Four things that compel us to reach the lost today:

## I. We Are Compelled to Reach the Lost Because **WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A COMMAND FROM ABOVE.**

- A. We have received a commission from the highest authority.
  1. When Jesus gave the Great Commission, He reminded His disciples that “all authority in heaven and earth has been given to me” (Mt. 28:18).
  2. Therefore, we have been commanded by the One who has all authority to “go and make disciples of all nations...” (vv. 19-20).
- B. Christ compels us to reach the lost at home and around the world.
  1. He tells us to “Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled” (Lk 14:23).
  2. He commands us, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation” (Mk 16:15)
- C. We must obey our Commander-in-Chief.

## II. We Are Compelled to Reach the Lost Because **WE HAVE HEARD THE CRY FROM BELOW.**

- A. If you will listen with your heart, you can hear the cry from the very corridors of the damned.
  1. Once, Jesus gave us a glimpse into hell (Luke 16:19-31).
  2. In hell, the rich man begged Abraham, “I have five brothers. Let

[Lazarus] warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment" (v. 28).

- B. The only way people can avoid hell is through faith in Jesus Christ (Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12).
- C. It is our responsibility to tell them before it is eternally too late!

### III. We Are Compelled to Reach the Lost **BECAUSE WE CAN HEAR A CALL FROM WITHOUT.**

- A. Those who have never heard the gospel are pleading with us, "Come and help us."
  - 1. Tell the story of Paul's "Macedonian Call" (Acts 16:9-11).
  - 2. In Africa there are more than 900 tribes who have not had an adequate witness of the gospel.
  - 3. We must hear their cry, and we must take the gospel to him.
- B. We can reach the unreached in three ways:
  - 1. We can pray for them.
  - 2. We can go to them with the message of Christ.
  - 3. We can support others who will go to them.

### IV. We Are Compelled to Reach the Lost **BECAUSE WE FEEL A COMPULSION FROM WITHIN.**

- A. All who have been truly saved, have the Holy Spirit living within.
  - 1. They have been "born of the Spirit" (Jn 3:6-8).
  - 2. If they will listen, the Spirit will talk to them (Ro 8:16).
  - 3. He compels us go to the lost and tell them about Jesus.
    - a. In our text Paul said, "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there" (Acts 20:22).
    - b. The reason he was going was "to testify the gospel of God's grace" (v.24).
    - c. Peter had the same experience with the Spirit (Acts 11:12).
- B. Not only will the Spirit send us to the lost, He will give us the power to reach them.
  - 1. Jesus promised, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).
  - 2. We receive this power when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5).

3. This is what happened to Peter and the other disciples on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).

### **Conclusion**

1. Christ compels us to take the gospel to the lost.
2. Come now and commit yourself to reaching them before it is too late.
3. Come now and receive the power of the Holy Spirit.