

**One More for Jesus**  
**Pastor Joe Oakley**  
**GFC – 6-18-17**

The movie Hacksaw Ridge is a true story about a World War 2 soldier named Desmond Doss. Desmond was a strong Christian who was a conscientious objector because his church believed it was wrong to kill – even in war.

Most conscientious objectors were released from any obligation to serve in the armed forces. But Desmond cared about his fellow soldiers and wanted to serve as a medic so he could save people rather than kill them. So, he went into battle refusing to carry weapons of any kind. He was ridiculed, mocked, beaten up and shunned at first – but his heroic actions saved the lives of 75 men and resulted in him being the first conscientious objector to receive the Medal of Honor.

One scene in the movie recounts the battle of Hacksaw Ridge in Okinawa, Japan. In this scene the army had to retreat because they were overrun by the Japanese. All the dead and wounded were left behind on Hacksaw Ridge. But Desmond did not retreat!

He stayed behind alone – braved enemy fire – and singlehandedly dragged men to the edge of the ridge where he lowered them to safety. He kept praying all through the night as he lowered injured soldiers to safety: “Please Lord, help me get one more.”

When I saw that scene – it brought me to tears. It reminded me of what Rick Warren – author of *The Purpose Driven Life* - said about what motivates him to reach others for Christ.

Rick’s father pastored small, rural churches for over 50 years. He took many mission’s trips and built over 150 churches around the world. Rick’s father died of cancer in 1999. In the final week of his life he was in a semi-conscious state nearly twenty-four hours a day. As he dreamed, he’d talk out loud about what he was dreaming. He said over and over – “Got to save one more for Jesus! Got to save one more for Jesus! He said the phrase probably a hundred times. “Got to save one more for Jesus!”

As Rick sat by his bed with tears flowing down his cheeks, he bowed my head to thank God for his dad’s faith. At that moment, his dad reached out and placed his frail hand on Rick’s head and said, as if commissioning him, “Save one more for Jesus! Save one more for Jesus!” And that has been the theme of Rick’s life ever since. I invite you to consider it as a focus for your life, too, because nothing will make a greater difference for eternity.

That’s why I’m preaching a message today entitled One More for Jesus.

This image of a soldier saving another soldier is something I want to stay with you forever. Men of God – Fathers – God wants to use you to enter into the battle to save your marriage, your family and your friends. This is something He wants all believers to do.

Yes – Jesus is our Savior – but He uses us to reach others for Him. And if we don't do it – it won't get done!

This is an amazing truth, but God who is unlimited in His attributes has chosen to limit Himself in certain ways. For instance, God had limited the plan of salvation to one way – Jesus. In John 14:6 Jesus said I am the way, not a way.

God has also chosen to limit the extending of His kingdom on earth to us – the body of Christ. We are the limiting factor in God's plan.

- Things don't change if we don't pray.
- People won't be healed if we don't pray for the sick.
- People won't be set free if we don't cast out demons.
- People won't be saved if we don't preach.

God has chosen to limit the spread of the Gospel to what He calls the foolishness of preaching. Who does the preaching? Not God. We do. If we don't preach the good news it won't get done. Romans 10:13-14 says:

*Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?*

If you want to be used by God, you must care about what God cares about – and what He cares about most is the redemption of the people He made. He wants His lost children found! Nothing matters more to God; the Cross proves that.

I pray that you will always be on the lookout to reach “one more for Jesus” so that when you stand before God one day, you can say, “Mission Accomplished.”

When I was a teenager we sang a musical Good News and one of the main songs was Do You Really Care? I want to ask you that question – Do you really care?

We are surrounded by people who are lost and dying and headed for eternal hell – do we really care? There are over 7.5 billion people on earth, and Jesus died for all of them. 151,600 die every day in the world. That means that in the next 365 days, 55 million people in the world will die and most of them will go into eternity without Jesus Christ.

Those numbers are almost too difficult to understand. But, if we care, we must share. 2 Peter 3:9 says:

*God doesn't want anyone to be lost, but He wants all people to change their hearts and lives!*

God is not willing that any should perish. And as long as there's one person on earth who doesn't know the Good News, God says we've got to keep reaching one more for Jesus! We have to care because God cares.

Take it out of the realm of numbers and think of those around you who don't know Christ – do you care about those family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers? Are you reaching them for Christ?

We know God cares and we know how much God cares. How do we know how much He cares? By what He was willing to do about it. John 3:16 says:

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

We've all heard that verse many times. God loves people and He gave His only Son to save us. That's good news, but there's also bad news. John 3:18 says:

*He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

I wonder if we really believe that Jesus is the only way or if we buy into the worldview that all roads lead to God – that Jesus is one of many options. I wonder if we really believe in heaven and hell and that the saved go to heaven and the lost go to hell. Maybe we believe there is no hell, or if there is one, only the really bad people like Hitler or Timothy McVeigh or Saddam Hussein go there. What does the Bible say? 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 says:

*This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with His powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power.*

I wonder if we really believe these Scriptures.  
 I wonder if we really believe that we are God's plan to reach the world.  
 I wonder if we believe that we have the only message of hope in the world?  
 I wonder if we really believe God wants to use each one of us?

Do we really care? Not caring or wrong beliefs keep us from having a sense of urgency about people's eternal destinies. It's only as we truly care about those around us that we can reach them for Christ.

We know God cares about people because 1 Timothy 2:4-5 says God *wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

We know biblical people cared. Paul said in Romans 9:1-4:

*I speak the truth in Christ - I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit- I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel.*

Now that's caring. Paul said he would die and go to hell if it would save his people. Paul did whatever it took to win people to Christ. 1 Corinthians 9:20-23 says:

*To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. ...To those not having the law I became like one not having the law ... so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel.*

God cares about lost people. Jesus cares about lost people. He cared so much He gave His life to save those who were lost. We are being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ and what did He do? Luke 19:10 says:

*The Son of Man has come to seek and to save those who are lost.*

There are people all around you who are lost and headed to hell. Joel 3:13-14 says:

*Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow — so great is their wickedness! Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.*

This harvest is the most valuable harvest in history because it represents people. Jesus said the harvest is ready, but the workers are few. We need to pray for workers and then be the answer to that prayer!

You might think someone else can reach people for Christ, but there are people you know that only you can reach! We might hope and pray they get saved by watching Christian TV or some other means, but it takes people to harvest people!

I've seen the statistics about how people come to faith in Christ: Less than 1% are saved through TV or a Crusade. The vast majority - 74% - are saved because someone they knew – family or friend – cared enough to share Jesus with them.

We are surrounded by people who are lost and dying and headed for eternal hell – do we really care? We say we do, but the statistics show that 95% of Christians have never led another person to Christ. God help us. God change us. God give us a heart for the lost so we can reach 1 more for Jesus!

Not caring or wrong beliefs keep us from having a sense of urgency about people's eternal destinies.

That means that for most Christians – the Great Commission has become the Great Omission. Jesus said GO and people are saying NO.

This may shock you – but not sharing your faith is a sin. What do I mean by that? Well – did Jesus say to tell others the good news of salvation? Are you obeying?

Is sharing your faith a good thing? James 4:17 says:

*To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.*

Sins of commission are sins we commit by doing wrong things.  
Sins of omission are sins we commit by not doing right things.

If you are walking down a street and see a house on fire and you find out there are people still inside – it would be wrong for you to do nothing. You should call 911 and see if there's anyone you can rescue from the fire. To not do so would be criminal.

Yet many of us walk by people every day who are not believers in Christ – they are lost and headed for the fires of Hell – and we don't do a thing to help them. We just walk on by.

Yet we serve a good God who does not want anyone to end up in Hell. That's why He sent Jesus to die for our sins. God wants you to share that good news with others. Jude 22-23 says:

*Try to help those who argue against you. Be merciful to those who doubt. Save some by snatching them as from the very flames of hell itself. And as for others, help them to find the Lord by being kind to them, but be careful that you yourselves aren't pulled along into their sins. Hate every trace of their sin while being merciful to them as sinners.*

Are you doing everything you can to reach one more for Jesus? If not, maybe you have a lack of love for lost people. Many Christians justify themselves by saying, "I don't know what to say. I haven't been trained. I'll leave it to the professionals."

Well – think of it this way. Imagine you were on a cruise ship that started to sink.

You happened to be up on deck and saw the situation, but you just shrugged your shoulders and said, “I wish I had some training on what to tell people when the ship is sinking. I don’t have any experience in this, so people probably won’t listen to me.”

That would be absurd. You don’t need special training to let people know the ship is sinking. The fact that you know of the disaster and the impending doom is enough to run from room to room yelling, “The ship is sinking, run to a lifeboat!” You just need to care enough.

Likewise, if you care for lost people, you know enough to say, “Your life is falling apart, run to the savior.”

Or suppose you were a research scientist dying of cancer and you discovered a cure. You took it and it saved your own life. Would you not be obligated to share that finding with the world?

Would you worry about what to say? How about, “Try this. It saved my life and can save yours.”

Likewise, we know the cure for sin and spiritual death. And we are obligated to share it.

It’s only as we truly care about those around us that we can reach them for Christ. People do not care what we know until they know that we care.

We will all stand before God someday. I believe He will ask us three things:  
 What have you done with my Son who died for you?  
 What have you done with the gifts, talents and resources I gave you?  
 Who’d you bring with you?

I don’t want to be guilty of having said and done nothing. I want to reach one more for Jesus!

The Great Commission is your commission. So let me ask you, who are you praying for, believing for, investing in, inviting in? This is about caring enough for those who are perishing without Christ to do something about it.

There is a true story that encapsulates what I’ve taught on caring for the lost so much that you live to reach one more for Jesus.

The movie *Schindler’s List* is the true story of one remarkable man who outwitted Hitler and the Nazis to save 1200 Jews from the gas chambers during World War II.

In those years, millions of Jews died in Nazi death camps like Auschwitz and many Germans thought that any one person could do nothing about it - but Schindler's Jews miraculously survived. How?

Oscar Schindler spent millions bribing and paying off the SS and eventually risked his life to rescue Jews in the shadow of Auschwitz.

Until the liberation of spring, 1945, Oscar Schindler used all means at his disposal to ensure the safety of his Schindler-Jews. He spent nearly everything he had to save his Jews, but he earned the everlasting gratitude of humanity.

There is one scene in the movie that moves me immensely. It's the end of the war and Schindler's Jews were going free. Schindler is talking to his right hand man, Itzhak Stern who gave Oscar a ring with the inscription: Whoever saves one life saves the world entire.

Oscar then broke into tears when he realized he could've saved more people. For instance, he could've sold his car and saved ten more people. Oscar Schindler was consumed with saving as many Jews as he could. Schindler did more than anyone to save Jews from the holocaust, but it grieved him that he did not give every single thing that he had to save more. It grieved him to think that he had anything left over that could have been used to save someone's life.

We need that kind of passion, that kind of love for people, that kind of concern for people who are dying without Christ.

Saving someone from an eternal hell is infinitely more important than saving them from a momentary hell on earth. We need to be willing to invest everything we have in saving them.

It might take more than you bargained for – but reach one more for Jesus!

You might have tried before and don't want to try anymore – but reach one more for Jesus!

You might be thinking, What more can I do? Reach one more for Jesus!

The main reason we are on the earth is to reach more for Jesus!

We can worship in heaven. In fact, we'll worship better in heaven.

We can fellowship in heaven. In fact, we'll fellowship better in heaven.

We can't reach the lost in heaven! Once we're there, it's too late to reach anyone else and there are lost people on this earth that only you can reach.

Every saved person this side of heaven owes the gospel to every lost person this side of hell!

As long as you have life and breath – your goal should be to reach one more for Jesus!