

## 1 **Going, but not Coming Back**

- No Turning Back

## 2 **Scripture**

- Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. (Matthew 9:35 NIV)
- When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36 NIV)
- Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:37–38 NIV)

## 3 **Scripture**

- "As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'" (Matthew 10:7 NIV)
- "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8 NIV)
- Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep. (Matthew 10:9–10 NIV)
- I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. (Matthew 10:16 NIV)

## 4 **The Martian**

- In the 2015 movie, *The Martian*, Matt Damon plays a scientist who gets stranded on Mars during the first manned mission to the red planet.
- He uses his training, his wits and a lot of perseverance to survive, while his friends work to bring him back home to Earth.

## 5 **Colony on Mars**

- Imagine, however, if the mission had been to go to Mars with no intention of ever coming back!
- Imagine leaving behind everything and everyone you've ever known, including spouse and family.
- To go to a planet where you'll spend the rest of your days living (and surely dying) in a hostile environment, and no scenery but red rocks and dust everywhere.

## 6 **Colony on Mars**

- Sounds like a depressing movie scenario, but it's an idea that's actually being proposed by a Dutch nonprofit organization called Mars One.
- The idea is to put four people on Mars as an initial colony in the year 2030, followed by new crews every two years.
- Mars will be their permanent home where they'll live, work and study the planet for the benefit of science, exploration and the human race.

## 7 Colony on Mars

- You would think it would be tough to get people to sign up for such a one-way mission.
- But when the search for astronauts began in 2013, more than 200,000 applicants expressed their desire to go.

## 8 Mars One - Web Site

## 9 Mars One

- Mars One has narrowed the applicants down to 100 people, split evenly between male and female, and they range from doctors to unemployed people in their 20s.
- The most important qualification for candidates is their perceived ability . . .
  - to handle living on a big planet with just a few other people and
  - their acceptance of the fact that they will never return to Earth.
- Mars One can teach them skills like engineering, farming and medicine, but the one thing they can't teach is determination, perseverance and the ability to take risk.

## 10 Peter Felgentreff

- One of the people who made the cut is Peter Felgentreff, a 50-year-old entrepreneur from San Francisco.
- "I've always had a curiosity for all things science, especially when it comes to space exploration," says Felgentreff.
- He would be leaving his wife behind to take the journey, although she shares his curiosity.
- "It's a one-way ticket to anywhere," he says. "I would probably die on Earth if I stayed here, too."

## 11 NASA

- Skeptics doubt that the mission will be sustainable for the long term.
- An MIT analysis of the mission predicts that people could start dying from oxygen-related issues in just 68 days.
- The technology just isn't there yet to make a mission like this last for long.
- NASA plans to send a mission to Mars in 2030, but they plan for their crew to come back instead of becoming permanent residents, thus solving the sustainability problem.

## 12 One-Way Mission

- It's an intriguing yet terrifying proposition -- a mission from which there is no return. Most of us would likely take a pass on it.
- As followers of Jesus, however, we know that he offers us a very similar sort of one-way mission.
- However, it's a mission that's not about leaving our planet behind, but rather leaving the values and practices of this world behind.

- And in doing so, colonize here on the earth communities of people who value the principles and practices of God's Kingdom.

### 13 **One-Way Mission**

- But like a one-way ticket to Mars, it's also an extremely dangerous mission from which there may be no return.
- It's a mission that could cost you everything.
- As Jesus has said,
  - For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. (Luke 9:24 NIV)
  - In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:33 NIV)

### 14 **To Give Up Everything**

- The reason why we give up everything is because the glory of the things of this world pale in comparison with the glory of the inheritance of God's saints.
- This is why the Apostle Paul says,
  - I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18 NIV)
  - [A]s it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Corinthians 2:9 NIV)

### 15 **The Rich Young Ruler**

- In Matthew, a rich young man asks Jesus what actions bring eternal life.
- First Jesus advises the man to obey the commandments.
- When the man responds that he already observes them, and asks what else he can do, Jesus adds:
- "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Matthew 19:21 NIV)

### 16 **The Rich Young Ruler**

- Now, Jesus is not against riches, but he is against everything that is a hinderance to us being his disciples.
- As Jesus has said, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters — yes, even his own life — he cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:26 NIV)

### 17 **Money & Family**

- Historically, money, family, and friends have been for many one of the biggest obstacles that keep people from following Christ.
  - The love of money can keep us back from being generous.

- The love of family and friends can keep us back from letting go of ungodly patterns and influences in our life.
- The fake security that these things give, can keep us back from totally serving Christ.

## 18 **Count the Cost**

- “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?” (Luke 14:28 NIV)
- Jesus underlines the importance of counting the cost of discipleship.
- Many people make impulse purchases without even considering the cost, or they rush into marriage or a career.
- Sadly, some do the same in their commitment to follow Christ.

## 19 **Count the Cost**

- This point is illustrated in Luke 9:57–58.
- As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus replied, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”
- No doubt this man had been watching Jesus with great admiration, and now wanted to walk with Him.
- But he had not counted the cost!

## 20 **This World**

- Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world.” (John 18:36 NIV)
- The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (John 12:25 NIV)
- Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, (Romans 12:2 NIV)
- I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. (2 Corinthians 10:2 NIV)

## 21 **This World**

- Judgement is coming to this world and the prince of this world now stands condemned.
- As the Apostle Paul has said, Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules [or ways]: (Colossians 2:20 NIV)
- Therefore, let us turn our backs on this world and say goodbye to its hypocritical moral, religious, and hedonistic standards and instead put on the Lord Jesus Christ and persevere in His word.

## 22 **Victory and Blessing**

- Why this is important is because victory and blessing are always the outcome of our faithfulness (obedience).
- And faithfulness is the result of our faith.
- However, our faith is always under attack.

- From the deceitfulness of our ego and flesh, and
- From the spirit that is in this world that says, God is not worthy of our sacrifices, compromise is good, and if it feels good do it.

### 23 **Aliens & Strangers**

- We don't have to go to Mars to be aliens and strangers.
- According to Hebrews 11, the chapter in the Bible that is called the "Heroes of Faith," says all these great heroes had one thing in common.
- They [all] admitted that they were aliens and strangers on the earth. (Hebrews 11:13 NIV)

### 24 **Aliens & Strangers**

- In other words, they all knew that they were different and so should act accordingly to the customs of their real home.
- No wonder Peter says what he does in his epistle, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. (1 Peter 2:11 NIV)

### 25 **Conclusion**

- Jesus said, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it (Matthew 16:18 NIV). In other words, the prince of this world can not stop us.
- The church is the colony of faith in a world that is hostile toward God and us as well.
- Therefore, we should be shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves, as Jesus has said.
- Nevertheless, the fields are plentiful and ripe for harvest.

### 26 **Conclusion**

- There are more people than we think—people who are chosen by grace just waiting for someone to share with them or preach to them the gospel.
- Whether they know it or not, they too are looking for a city whose builder and maker is God.
- They too are people that are not of this world.
- Let us say to the Lord of the harvest, here am I, send me! And, let us make God's Kingdom great here on the earth.  
AMEN!