

- I. Comfort Zones
 - a. We all have our comfort zones and we rarely like to step outside them
 - b. We keep to the hobbies we love
 - c. Most jobs have a specific job description
 - i. It involves repetitive tasks we accomplish so many times that we become very comfortable doing them – then when we are asked to do something different, we freeze up
 - ii. In the military there is a catch-all phrase, “any other tasks given to you by your supervisor or superior”
 - iii. In my early days in the USAF I spent many hours operating a buffer on the floors of our building (I was security police)
 - iv. It means we do whatever we are asked to do
 - d. God asks us to step out of our comfort zone to complete His tasks
- II. Stepping Out
 - a. Deuteronomy 18:18–19 (ESV); ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.
 - b. Jesus’ appearance in Judea was the fulfillment of a long-awaited prophecy
 - c. Right after his baptism and temptation Jesus begins preaching, “repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:10)
 - d. He calls the 12 apostles and immediately sends them out
 - i. He wants them to rely on the good will of those in the towns where they are preaching
 - ii. Jesus tells them to preach, “the kingdom of heaven is at hand”
 - iii. These were fisherman, a tax collector, and others that had no skill in speaking
 - iv. Matthew 10:16–23 (ESV); ¹⁶ “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

- v. This is not the kind of pep-talk that we would want to hear, is it?
- vi. Yet, the message is so important to peoples' souls that we must step out and share the message of Jesus to all
- e. We must step out of our comfort zone and share the message of salvation to everyone around us

III. Stepping Up

- a. Matthew 9:37–38 (ESV); ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”
- b. When I read these verses in Matthew, I think of Isaiah’s call
 - i. Isaiah 6:3–5 (ESV); ³ And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” ⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”
 - ii. Isaiah is given this peek into the throne room of God
 - iii. He did not think of himself as worthy or able to speak about the mighty works of God
 - iv. But God showed him that he was chosen among the people of Israel – chosen to bring His message to them
 - v. Isaiah 6:6–7 (ESV); ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”
 - vi. God gives Isaiah (and us) a foreshadow of the salvation that is found in Jesus
 - vii. God forgives Isaiah’s sin – the hot burning coal against the lips shows us that Isaiah is chosen to be a prophet to the lost people of Israel
 - viii. Isaiah 6:8 (ESV); ⁸ And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”
 - ix. And once he realizes that he is forgiven, he steps up!
- c. We have been called – we have been chosen to be the laborers in this harvest and we must step up!
 - i. Jesus tells his apostles to go out into all the world
 - ii. Mark 16:15–16 (ESV); ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
 - iii. Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV); ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
 - iv. “As you are going” – wherever we are we must speak to those around us about the mighty works of God through His Son, Jesus, the Christ

- v. We (Christians) are the chosen race, the royal priesthood, the holy nation, the people for God's own possession
- vi. 1 Peter 2:9b (ESV); that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- d. We use both our words and our lives to share the Gospel with those who are around us
- e. We seek out 'good deeds' that will glorify God and show others the love of Jesus – we step up!

IV. Stepping In

- a. God has called mankind to step into His kingdom
- b. He uses us to get the message out
- c. Step out of your comfort zone
- d. Step up and speak to your friends and neighbors about salvation in Jesus
- e. Help them to step in – to the kingdom of God