

## “REQUEST VS. COMMAND”

**Intro:** My dog does not respond to requests very well. ‘Phil, come or sit’ from across the room doesn’t exactly work in training. I need to have some COMMAND in my voice. I need to have some fire in my belly or he will try and dominate. Requests don’t work for animals, but commands do. They are looking to serve their master. Now that’s harsh when we relate that to God but we believe He gives us free will. However, He gives us free will as to whether we’re going to obey His commands or not.

### Difference between Requests and Commands:

**-Requests:** If you have the time, would you pick up milk from the store? We could use some extra in case we run out for cereal or coffee.

**-Command:** Please pick up milk from the store or else the kids won’t have breakfast, I won’t have coffee, and the baby won’t have formula.

*-There is a place for requests and there is a place for commands. When requests aren’t met, there is little to no harm done. But when commands aren’t met, there are often severe consequences.*

And in Mark 16:15-16 <sup>15</sup>And then he told them, “**Go into all the world and preach the Good News** to everyone. <sup>16</sup>Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.”

**Theme:** *The ‘Great Commission’ is not a request it is a command!* Don’t you understand that the stakes are high and if we aren’t obedient? Jesus wouldn’t tell us to do this if there weren’t a responsibility for the believer to TELL THE WORLD His story and make disciples of all nations. Today, we’re going to learn to GO bring people to Jesus and GO with people once they accept Him.

**Text:** Mark 2:1-5, 10-12a

**Background** – Jesus is preaching about in the country, here he returns to Capernaum his headquarters, and makes his appearance there, in hopes (maybe) that by this time the talk and crowd would be somewhat decreased. Many of them perhaps came only for cures, and many perhaps only for curiosity, to get a sight of him; but when he had them together he preached to them.

**1** When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. **2** Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door.

-Why was it so packed every time Jesus went somewhere? Was it because He healed? Was it because He told the future? Was it because He allowed children & women? Maybe. But I

believe people came from any & everywhere because more than anything -- Jesus dealt hope and *HOPE draws people*.

-When you go somewhere? What happens? Do people get stressed around you, a nasty opinion of you, fearful? OR, do they get encouraged? Passionate. Hopeful. When we have something of great value (**good news**) that could be so helpful to others, why is it so hard to rally people in our churches or get the lost to come to our services? It's *because we've made the good news unattainable for them*.

-Pastor Craig Groeschel says, "*We are not spiritual consumers; we are spiritual contributors. The church does not exist for us. **We are the church, and we exist for the world.***"

If we're to fulfill the great commission, we must:

3 four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat.

### **Bring people to where Jesus is**

-This was not an easy task to carry a paralyzed man ... 3 observations:

- They sensed urgency that their friend was hurting/dying
- They were broken for their friend and cared deeply for him
- They got uncomfortable and brought him (made the ask)

*-Evangelism begins with brokenness for our personal community. We have to break for our friend's souls like Christ body broke for our own sin.*

-Charles Spurgeon made the statement, "*Every Christian here is either a missionary or an impostor.*"

4a 'They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head.'

### **Do ministry not just activity**

*-Ministry is just an activity if you're not getting messy.*

**ILLUS:** As I researched these homes, I realized something. As these men were making a hole in the roof, it's possible they were removing straw made from dung, dirt & mud, mud plaster, timbers, and stone. By the time they made a hole, they made a mess. They were dirty, smelly, bleeding, and even put themselves in danger of falling.

**APP:** And so goes it as we love on & disciple people. It gets messy. You're dealing with people's DUNG. It's gonna smell, gonna hurt, and gonna take work. But God so loved you in your mess – how can we not love others?

-When's the last time you bled a little for those in your community or in your life? Evangelism & discipleship is our call --

-Jesus washed feet / Put his hands in the dirt / Held the untouchables

-Often we run from people or communities the moment we sense inconvenience. News flash--  
*The Gospel is built on inconvenience.*

-Pick up your cross / Sell everything you have / Discomfort is the foundation for obedience

**-ILLUS:** People always ask me why we went to Philadelphia. It's hard. Too much poverty (most deep poverty in the nation, below \$12k household). Too liberal, people don't do church. No parking. Dirty. Smells. People are loud and boisterous.

**-APP:** Where there is trouble, where there is pain, where there is brokenness, where there is shame, where there is sin -- there you find Jesus (*Where sin abounds, so much more does grace abound*). And I want to be where Jesus is. Friend of sinners. *Obedience is your ticket for the greatest adventure you'll ever go on.* It's why the Bible starts in a garden but ends in a city!

**4b** 'Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.' **5** Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven." **10** So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, **11** "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" **12a** And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers.

### **Take a RISK**

-Do you understand the risk these guys were taking in lowering this man in front of Jesus. They didn't know if Jesus would rebuke them or others would be mad at them. Isn't that what happens when we start to speak the truth or act in faith? It's a command to RISK –

**ILLUS:** Starting our church, so many salvations (?), so many baptisms (?), so much life change ... worth the risk, we went all in. **THIS IS WHY WE SPELL FAITH = R I S K.**

**APP:** Will you? What risk are you willing to take for those you claim to love. There's no greater miracle than salvation. It will stun many. You want others to believe, lead them to Christ and it will multiply. GET OUT OF THE BUILDING, it's a command!

**ser4072, Request vs Command (Get Out of the House! Pt. 1)**