WHY Are You Here?

Being a Steward and Disciple of Christ in Your Jerusalem and beyond...



Bill Marianes



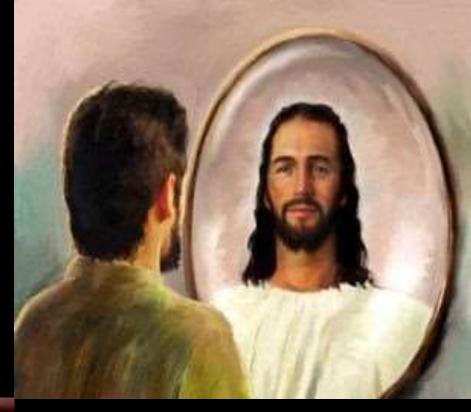








YOU are the image and likeness of...





GOD

MOUNTEREN'T AFBAIJ?

You can download this presentation at:



StewardshipCalling.com

Under the Keynotes Tab

St. Barbara Toms River Page

https://stewardshipcalling.com/being-a-steward-and-disciple-of-christ-st-barbaras-toms-river-nj/











Exclamation Points













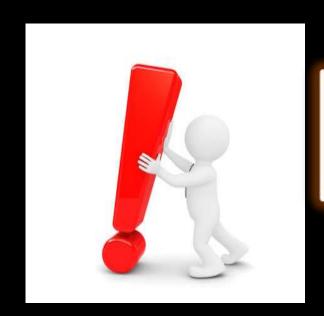




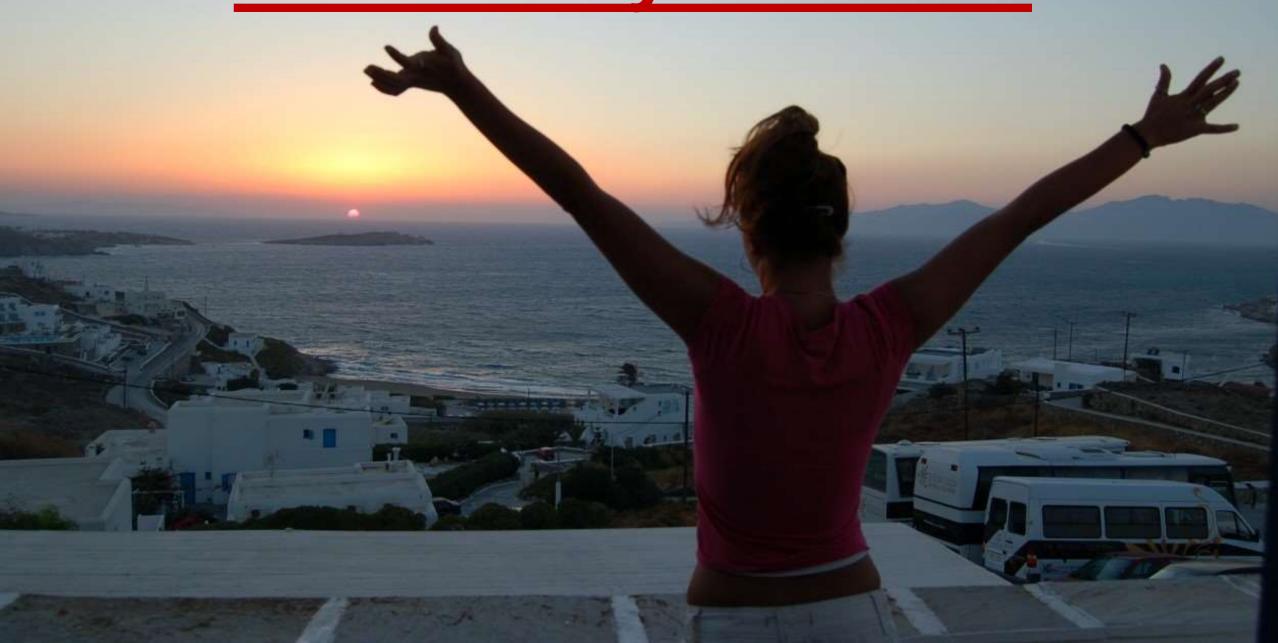
Share The Love



Be The Light



WHY are you here?





WHY Are You Here?



"That the end of our lives may be Christian, without pain, blameless and peaceful, and for a

GOOD ACCOUNT before the AWESOME JUDGMENT SEAT of CHRIST."

2 Corinthians 5:10

Orthodox Divine Liturgy

Christ's possible very difficult question to you





What did you do for My church and people, under your watch, given all of the gifts I gave you?



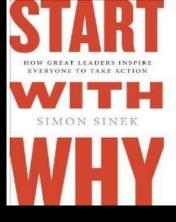


"I beg you to walk worthy of the calling to which you have been called."

Ephesians 4:1

"... to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift... some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry..."



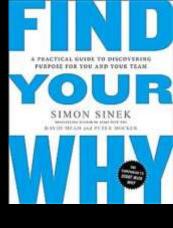


Simon Sinek

"How Great Leaders Inspire Action"

www.ted.com





Simon Sinek

"People don't buy-in to what you do. They buy-in to WHY you do it."

"But if you don't know why you do what you do, how will you inspire anyone else to believe what you believe or follow you?"

BILL MARIANES REVITALIZE STEWARDSHIP IN YOUR PARISH AND PERSONAL LIFE STEWARDSH CALLING Ancient Faith PODCASTS

1st Wednesday each month & months with a 5th Sunday

https://www.ancientfaith .com/podcasts/steward shipcalling



"The Orthodox WHY Guy"

- 1. "GPS" The GOD Positioning System (1-31-16)
- 2. Why Am I Here? (7-31-16)
- 3. Good and Faithfull Servant Through Living Your Stewardship Calling (with +Fr. George Livanos 5-26-21)
- 4. Why Are You Here on Earth? What Is Your Purpose? (with Jim Huling 8-31-20)



The Orthodox WHY Guy's Personal WHY Statement



To help people and parishes discover and live their stewardship callings so that they may have a "good account before the awesome judgment seat of Christ."





The Orthodox WHY Guy's 3 Recommended Critical Action





3 Critical Actions

1. Acknowledge that GOD is in control

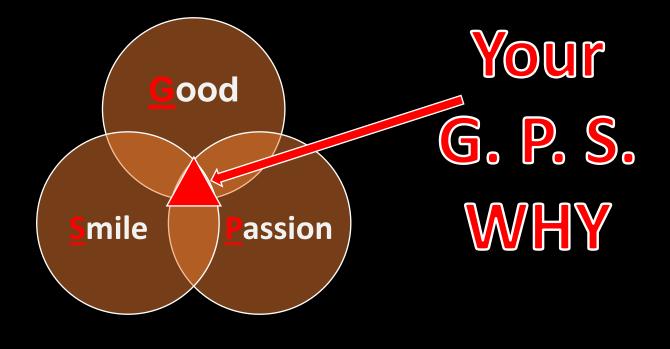
- 2. Listen to God's messengers
- 3. Reassess your big life events to connect the dots of your life's journey

The Orthodox WHY Guy's 3 Recommended Critical Questions





3 Critical G.P.S. Questions



1. What am I Good at?

- 2. What am I Passionate about?
- 3. What makes me Smile?

What would you do if you weren't afraid?



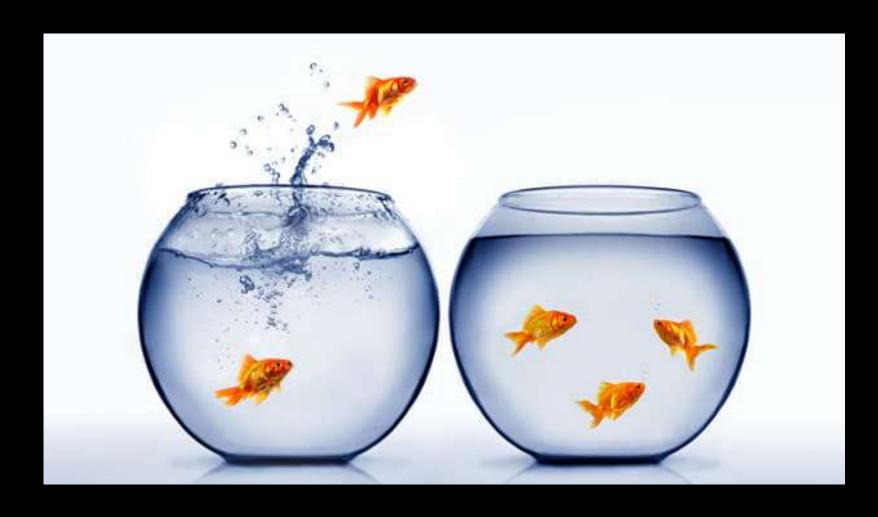


Coach's "Clean Sheet Of Paper" Talk



Coach's
"Clean
Sheet Of
Paper"
Talk

"When was the last time you reinvented yourself?"





Reassess everything when you change jobs, cities, decades relationships, etc....

Coach's
"Clean
Sheet Of
Paper"
Talk

At life inflection points, including retirement, reinvent yourself to become who you are called to be.

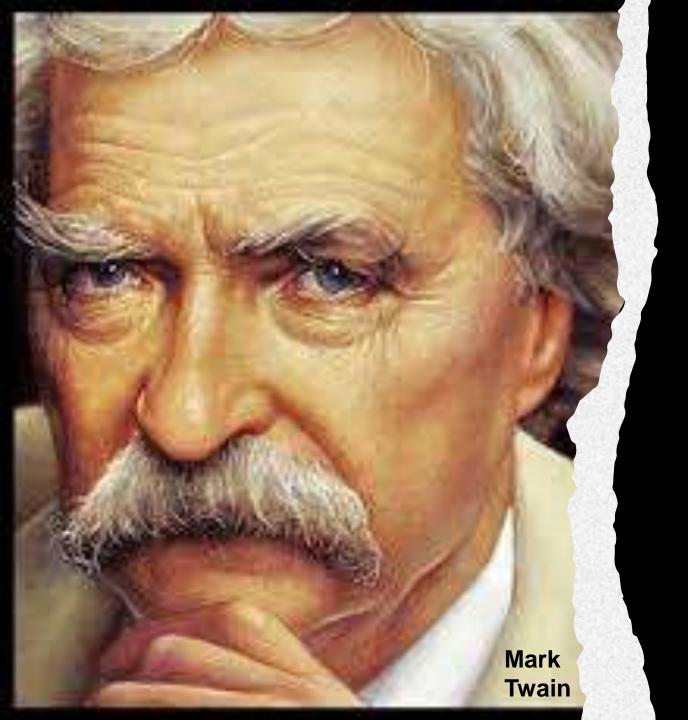


Coach's "Clean Sheet Of Paper" Talk

In seeking your WHY, be:

- ~ patient
- ~ diligent
- ~ flexible
- ~ persistent

"Change is the only constant, so constantly change."



"Two of the most important days of your life are:

First, the day you were born; and

Second, the day you figure out why."



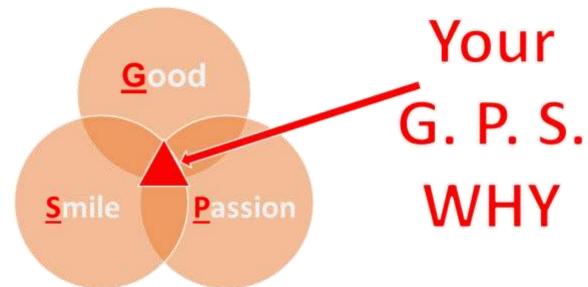


What questions do you have about discovering your WHY?

or

What is your WHY?

What have you done to find your WHY?









"A new <u>commandment</u> I give you.

That you love one another, as I have loved you.

By this they will know you are my disciple;

that you have love for one another."



The Birth of Charming Bill





The Birth of Charming Bill

Always

- ~ joke & smile
- ~ help before being asked
- ~ thank, 'ma'am' & 'sir' folks
- ~ be your most charming self



When someone asks me:





"Thank God, I'm great!"



"Have a blessed day."



My Parting Shot



A Happier "DOSE" For Life

When you help someone, you make them feel good, but you make yourself feel even better.

A Happier "DOSE" For Life

- D = <u>DOPAMINE</u>...helps you feel <u>pleasure</u>, <u>satisfaction</u>, and <u>motivation</u>. Your brain gets a surge of dopamine when you feel good that you achieved something.
- O = OXYTOCIN... is a hormone that makes you feel love and trust. It's sometimes known as the 'love hormone.'
- S = <u>SEROTONIN</u>... is a natural mood stabilizer chemical that controls wellbeing and happiness. Too little serotonin contributes to depression.
- E = <u>ENDORPHINS</u>... are directly related to happiness, meaning, and help reduce physical pain or symptoms from injuries.



Ukulele Man



Van Mom & Child



Ukulele Man, Van Mom & Child





The Begging Family

"We make a living by what we get.

We make a life by what we give."



The Single Guy's Dilemma



What are you good at that your church could use?





OPEN:

- ~ your eyes
- ~ your ears
- ~ your heart





The Single Guy's Dilemma



GOD will:

- ~ send you messengers
- ~ give you opportunities
- ~ show you your calling



Today, you can be the answer to someone's prayer!



What questions do you have about sharing the LOVE?

or

What have you done to share the LOVE?





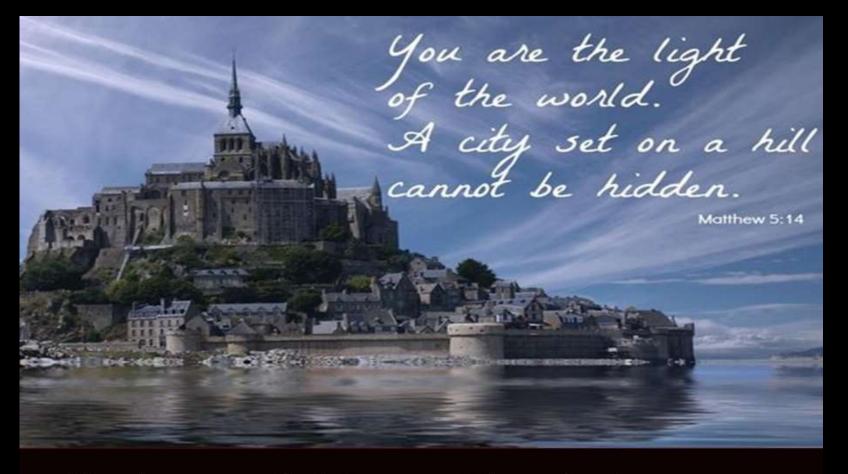




Be The Light



Be A Human Light Bulb



"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Darkness is not a thing.



It's merely the absence of



You can be a Human Light Bulb





Hearing The Voice Of GOD



Hearing
The Voice
Of GOD

Conduct yourself as if GOD is there with you...

- ~ everywhere you go
- ~ in every interaction
- ~ at all times

...because HE is!



"I Want What She's Having."



What Would Jesus Do?





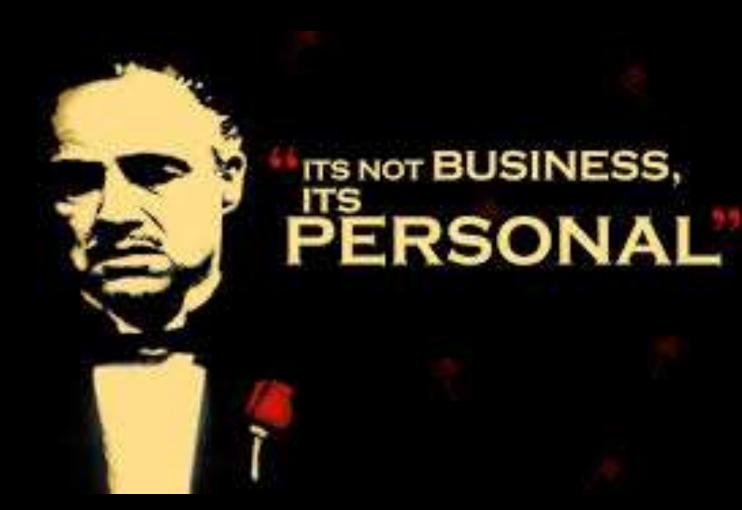
Christianity historically spread explosively after crises:

1. Antonine Plague (2nd Century) killed 25% of the Roman Empire while Christians cared for the sick.

What Would Jesus Do?

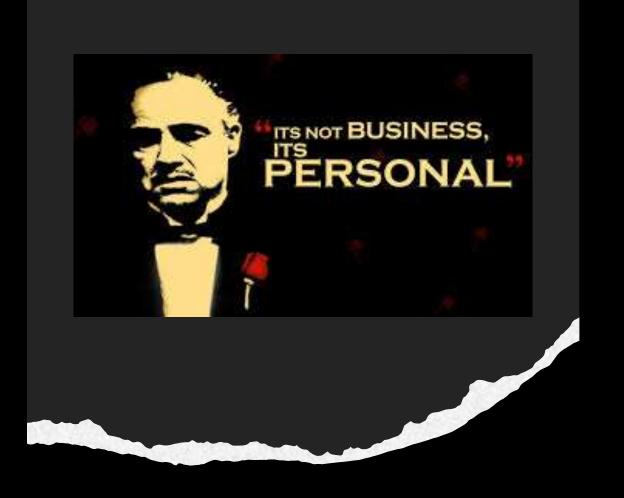
2. Plague of Cyprian (3rd Century) A Roman crisis during which Christianity grew explosively.

Pagan Emperor Julian complained bitterly about how "the Galileans" cared for even non-Christian sick people



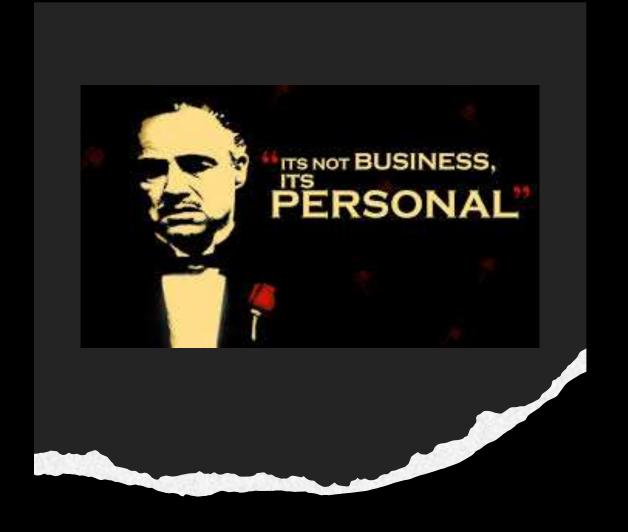
The 1st step someone takes toward Christianity is they trust a Christian.

They say "yes" to a Christian's invitation.



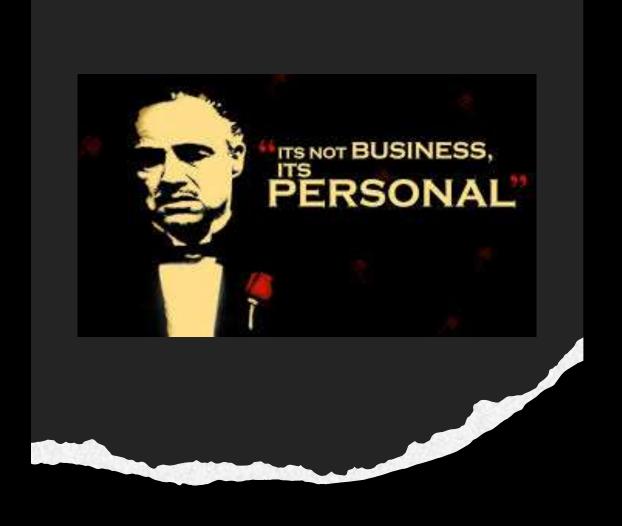
Our Orthodox Christian church might not exist if "The 12" didn't say "YES" to Christ.

Engagement happens by personal invitation.



71% of "Big Box" church parishioners invite someone to attend church with them at least every 6 months!

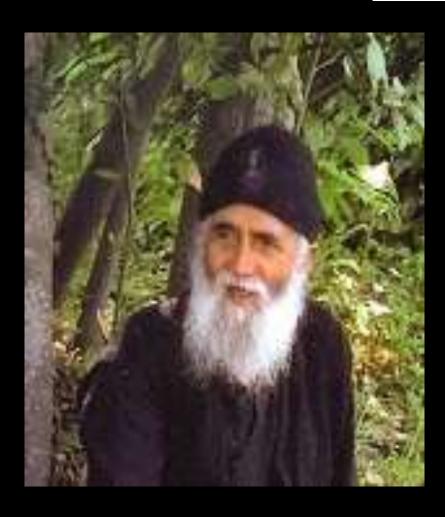
(25% invite 3 people every 6 months)

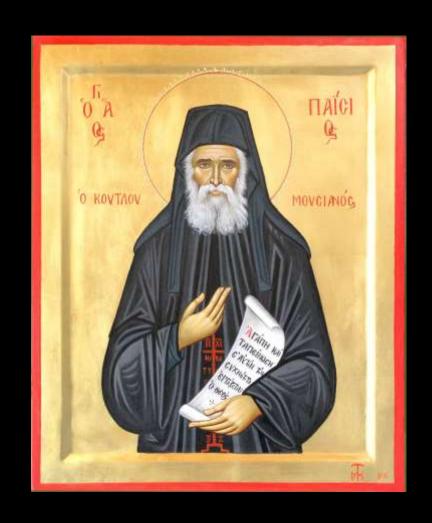


When did you last invite someone to join you at church?



Tough Love

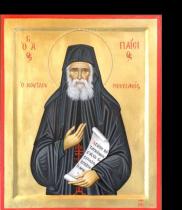




St. Paisios the Athonite

"The spirit of luke-warmness reigns. We've been spoiled for good.

How does God still tolerate us?"





"Today's generation is the generation of indifference.

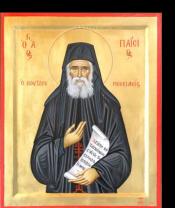
There are no warriors!

The majority are fit for parades and feasts only."



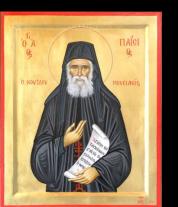


"Even people who've got something inside have begun to grow cool saying, 'Can I really do anything to change the situation?'"





"We have to witness our Faith with boldness, because if we continue to remain silent, we'll have to answer in the end."

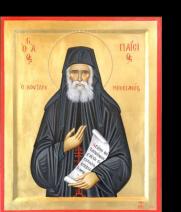




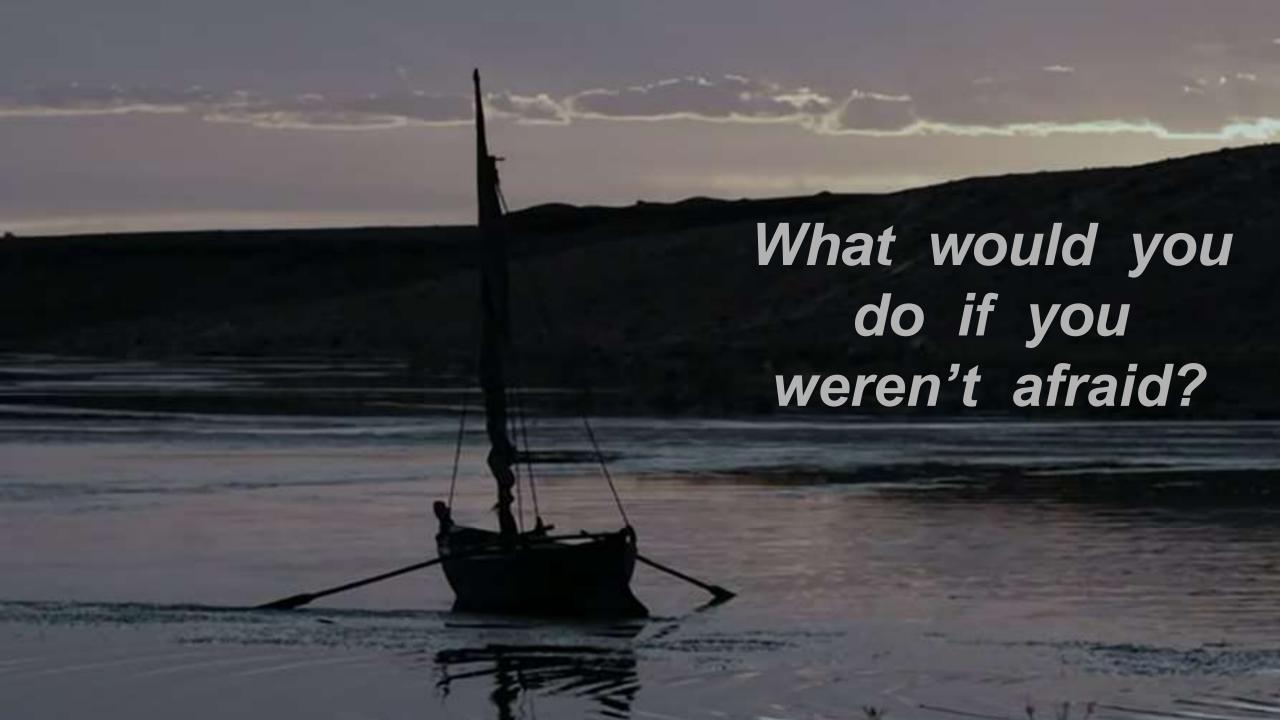
"In these difficult days, each must do what is in their own power.

Leave what's out of their power to GOD.

In this way, our conscience will be clear."









What questions do you have about being the LIGHT?

or

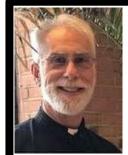
What have you done to be the LIGHT?







What Can We Do At St. Barbara GOC To Offer Support To Christ's Church?



FR. PAUL'S NEW 2022 STEWARDSHIP CARD

STEP 1: How much do you make \$_____

STEP 2: Send it all in.

Matthew 19:16-26 Stewardship Card

A Steward Is Someone Who...

- 1. "is a temporary caretaker for another"
- 2. joyfully gives with a heart of gratitude
- 3. never talks about "their money"
- 4. expects no recognition or benefit for their gift
- 5. only regrets not giving more
- 6. gives of their "first fruits" before anything else
- 7. gives in proportion to their blessings
- 8. views giving as a walk of discipleship with Christ

Today's Life Changing Idea

INYIG

It's Not Yours It's God's

"You received without paying, give without pay."

Disguised Dues

- 1. Minimums or suggested donations
- 2. Donations based on age or demographic status
- 3. "Perks" given to "members"
- 4. "Family plans"
- 5. Dues set based on budget
- 6. "Pay a day" of church expenses
- 7. Anything other than the tithe and proportional percentage giving

The Problem With Dues?

Dictionary Definition of Dues: "charges for membership in a club or organization"

- 1. Christ never taught dues
- 2. Christ explained our stewardship obligation
 - = 100% in the parable of the Rich Young
 Man (Matthew 19:16-22)
 - = 50% + 4x what was taken ≈ 100% in the parable of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

¹ Thom Rainer https://churchanswers.com/blog/eight-differences-church-giving-church-dues/

The Problem With Dues?

- 3. Membership dues create entitlement benefits and are given with expectations because "it's my money"
 - Payer gives for recognition and not out of gratitude and humility
 - ~ Payer uses money to claim a "right" to determine all church spending
 - ~ Payer withhold funds when they don't get what they want (and tries to convince others to do likewise)

4. Funds are given from what's left not "first fruits"

How Much Due I Owe?

HOW MUCH DO I OWE?

"How much do I owe" asked the parishioner. "For what?" I asked. "You know, for my church dues." I truly did not know what to say next, so I asked a simple question: "How much have you been blessed? "A lot" they said, "but what has that got to do with anything? I just want to know how much of my money I have to give to the church as dues to be a member?"

And that was when I finally realized that, among other things, they got the pronoun wrong. They weren't really dealing with "their" assets. They are all "His" (i.e., God's). They failed to understand that Christ's church does not sell "memberships" or charge "dues" and that everything "they" had was really a gift from God, their Father. Everything! Their life, their talents, their genetic composition, their life experiences, the people who loved them, the opportunities presented them for greatness, the chances to make a difference in the world, their stuff and even their money. None of it was really theirs. They were merely a temporary steward (caretaker) of God's gifts. They didn't get it and just wanted me to give them a magic number as if it were written in some golden tablets.

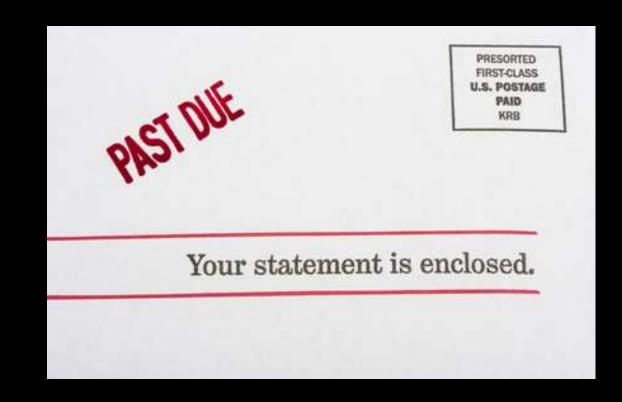
So I replied with what Christ taught us on the subject: "Give it all, I said." In Matthew 19:16-21 we are presented with parable of the young man who asked Christ: "What good deed must I do to have eternal life?" The young man was focused on the right thing, namely eternal life, and not some temporary success, job promotion or nice lifestyle. Christ responded by essentially first reviewing the 10 Commandments and then gave the following clear guidance: "If you would be perfect, go sell what you possess and give it to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven;

Notice what Christ said. "If you would be perfect..." Perfect, he said, not average, or in the 2nd quartile. The roadmap to perfection is to give back everything we have been given. How many of us are ready to go "all in" and take the journey down that path toward an ultimate goal that is more rich and fulfilling than anything we could imagine? The young man was not ready, and "...he went away sad."

Paradoxically, it is kind of funny, because eventually we will give everything. When we die (on this earth) we will not take any of our stuff with us. You still never see a hearse followed by a U-Haul trailer. So why not give it now and experience the joy that comes from helping someone else. Or would you prefer to also "go away sad."

An endless number of Scripture passages make it clear that our obligation of stewardship over God's many gifts to us is to give in proportion to the blessings we have received. Indeed the Parable of Talents from Matthew 25:14-30 is all about taking whatever gifts God gives us. putting them out into the world and causing them to multiply, and then giving them back in proportion to what we earned in order to receive the reward of hearing: "Well done, good and fatthful servant; vou have been fatthful over a little. I will set you over much."

1st Corinthians 9:7 teaches us: "So let each one give as he purposeth in his heart, not grudgingly or out of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." Note the emphasis on cheerful giving, not





"For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more."

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessings the Lord your God gave you."

(Deuteronomy 16:17)



It will get easier once we get it right with the Fourth T...

Tithe



Tithing of all 3 Ts

Tithing (percentage giving) of Time,
Talents and Treasures is called for by Holy
Scripture and can make a significant positive difference



MALACHI 3:10

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

The Tithe

In the instructions to the faithful:

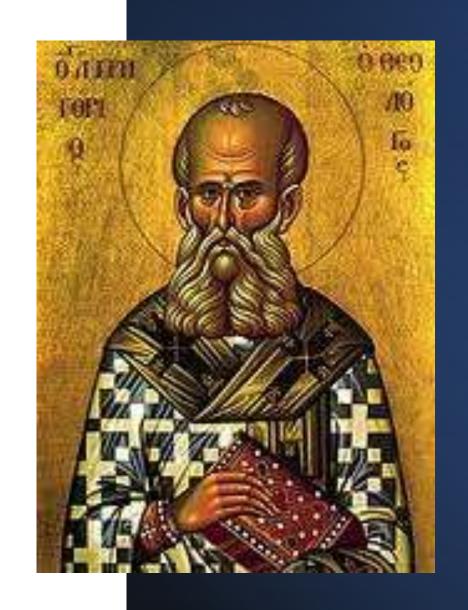
The Didascaly Apostolorum ¹

"Set aside partofferings and tithes and first fruits to Christ, the true High Priest, and to His ministers, even tithes of salvation to Him..."

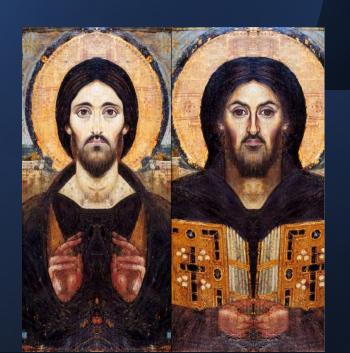
¹ The *Didascalia Apostolorum*, is a Christian legal treatise belonging to the genre of the Church Orders. It presents itself as being written by the <u>Twelve Apostles</u> at the time of the <u>Council of Jerusalem</u>; however, scholars agree that it was actually a composition of the <u>3rd century</u>, perhaps around <u>230 AD</u>

"If there was a danger then (during Old Testament times) in omitting tithes, think how great it must be now!"

St. John Chrysostom, Homily on Ephesians 2:10 - Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Volume XIII First series, p.69



Tithing Is Not Just An Old Testament Thing



"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law and Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17)

"Now Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine...Then Abram gave him a tithe of all". (Exodus 14:18-20)

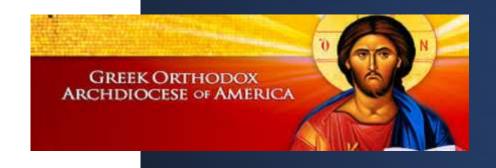
"Behold, I give the children of Levi (the priests) all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for their liturgical service." (Numbers 18:21)

"Will a man insult God? ... But you say, 'In what way have we insulted You?' You keep back tithes and offerings!" (Malachi 3:8)

"Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done without leaving the others undone"

(Matthew 23:23)

"Stewardship is recommended to be ten percent (10%) of one's annual income as stated in Holy Scripture to help meet the financial obligations of the Parish, the Metropolis and the Archdiocese"



Uniform Parish Regulations

Article 18, Section 1 of the Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Tithing should be your goal.

A minimum of 10% Time, Talent and Treasures.



("You shall tithe..." Deuteronomy 14:22)

U.S. Tithing Data¹

- ~ Between 3% and 5% of Americans tithe
- ~ 80% of Americans give on average ≈ 2% of income
 - ~ proxy median tithe analysis in the GOA shows we give $\approx 0.7\%$ ²
 - ~ it's only ≈ 0.4% at St. Barbara GOC)
- ~ 70% of tithers base it on their gross income
- ~ Churches accepting tithes online increase overall donations by 32%

¹ https://nonprofitssource.com/online-giving-statistics/church-giving/

² Stewardship Analysis from 250+ Orthodox parishes by Stewardship Calling





in total annual stewardship instead of only \$197,802

Here's How This Is Possible at St. Barbara GOC

- Est. Median U.S. Orthodox Christians income = $$81,750^{1}$ (\$8,175 = a median income tithe)
- Your 2021 median stewards donation = \$350
- Your stewards are giving $\approx 0.4\%$ of Orthodox "proxy" median
- If all 423 stewards earned the median and tithed, your stewardship income would = $\frac{$3,458,025}{0000}$ instead of only \$197,802
- What could you do with \$3,260,223 more?

¹ Median annual household income U.S. Census as reported 10-02-2020: Lebanese \$87,099; Russian \$85,989 - Greek \$82,036; Romanian \$81,878; Ukrainian \$81,603; Serbian \$81,452; Bulgarian \$80, 626; Armenia \$77,110. = MEDIAN INCOME OF AMERICANS FROM HISTORICALLY ORTHODOX COUNTRIES = \$81,750 (Median Toms River Income = \$72,939)

How To Start A Tithing Program

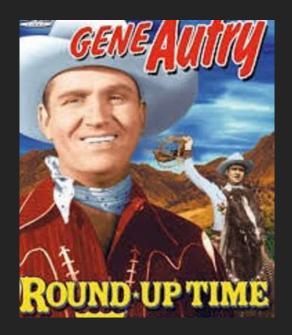
- 1. Teach tithing + % giving
- 2. Share the impact and lives improved
- 3. Leaders lead by example
- 4. Use the "ROUND-UP"



The "Round Up"

- 1. Calculate the % of last year's income you donated to St. Barbara GOC to 1 decimal point (e.g., 0.4%)
- 2. This year, "round up" your giving to the next highest whole number percent of income (e.g., 1%)
- 3. Next year give 1% more
- 4. Add 1% a year until you reach 10%







What questions do you have about "the Roundup," tithing, percentage giving, or stewardship?

Will you agree to Roundup in 2022?







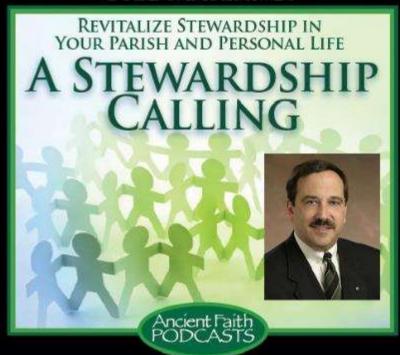
HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

Our More Likely Stewards Reality



HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 20% AND GOD DOESN'T EVEN GET 1%?

BILL MARIANES



https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/stewardshipcalling/the_joy_of_the_tithe

"The Tithe & Percentage Giving"

February 6, 2019

Nick Kasemeotes





St. Barbara Stewardship Donor Concentration



- Your top 10 stewards (2%) contributed 29% of your total stewardship income!
- When they die (or retire to Florida), you'll lose \$98,395!
- Your top 20 stewards (4.7%) contributed 42% of your total stewardship income!

- ~ Your top 10% of stewards contributed 55%
- ~ Your top 20% of stewards contributed 70%







St. Barbara Stewardship <u>Donor Concentration</u>



TOP # or %	% OF TOTAL
STEWARDS	STEWARDSHIP
10 (2.3%)	29%
20 (4.7%)	42%
10% (42)	55%
20% (84)	70%







St. Barbara Stewardship Challenge ¹





Your parish received more income from total strangers then it received from its stewardship (45% or \$364,940)

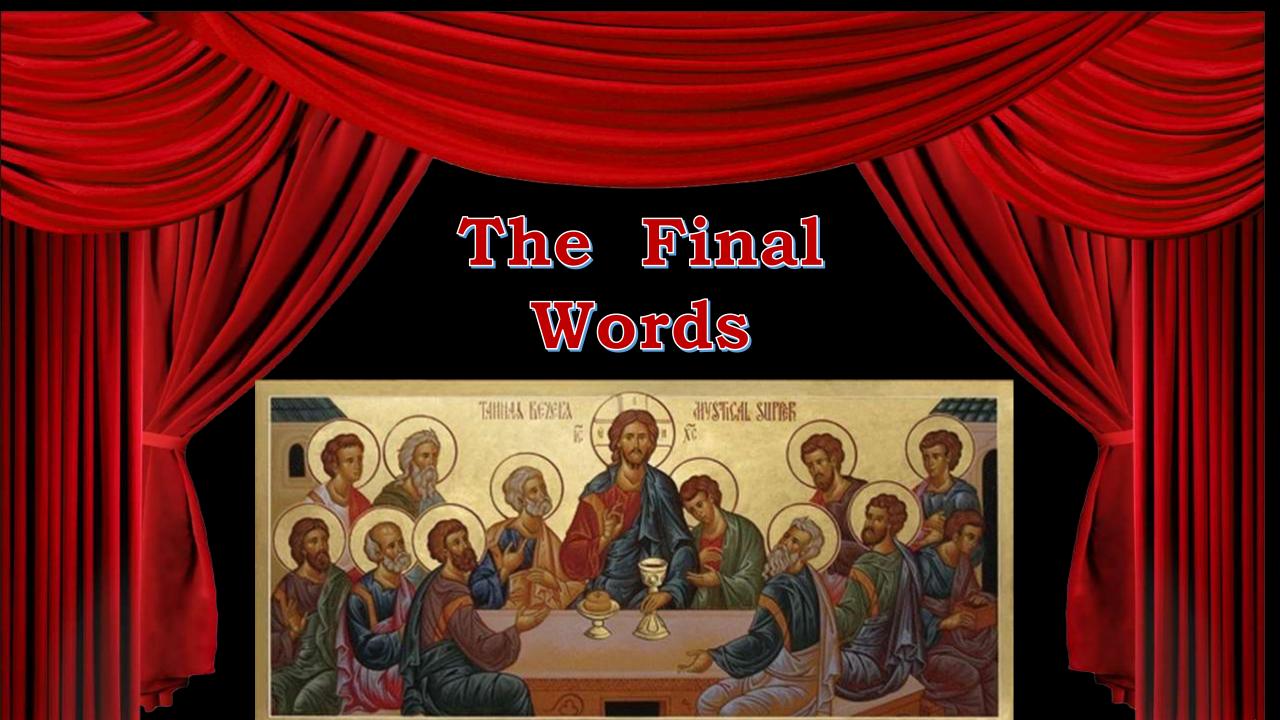
• Your parish only spent 0.8% (\$4,690) on parish chosen ministries and charities

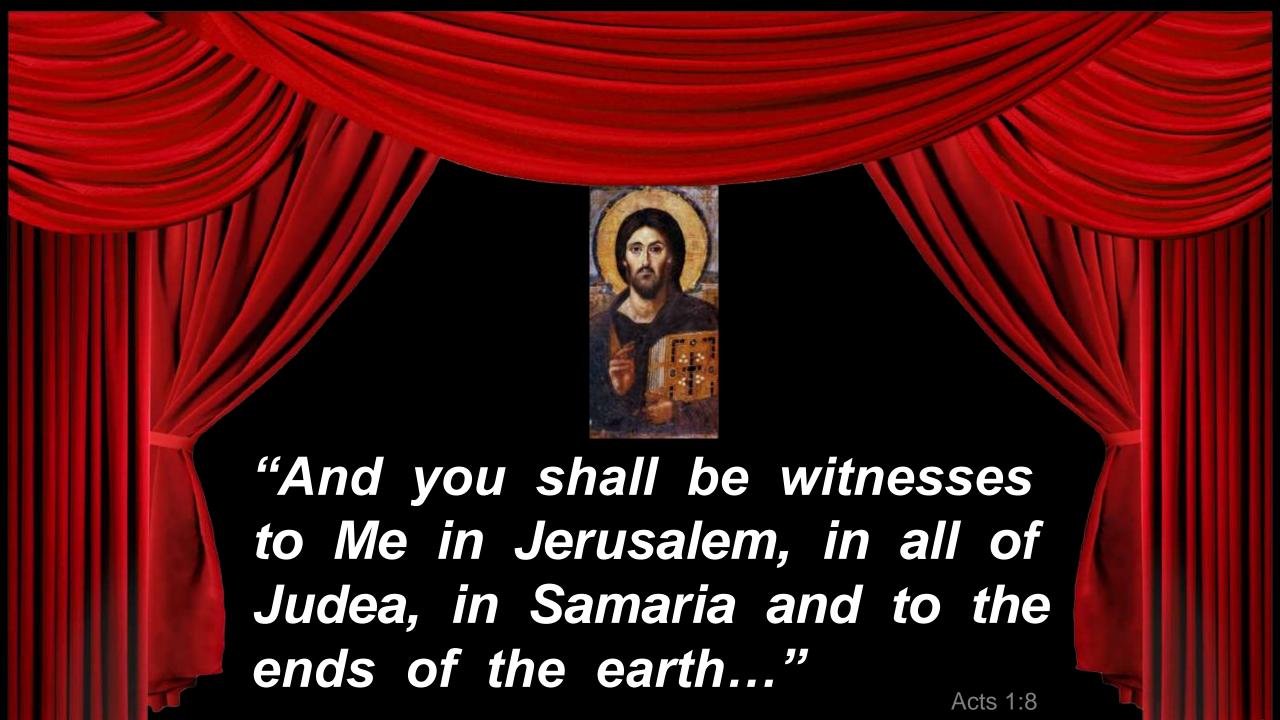


The Parish Income % Expense Statement shows stewardship income of \$198,102. The stewardship records show stewardship income of \$337,768, a difference of \$139,666. The above percentages use your Income & Expense Statement.



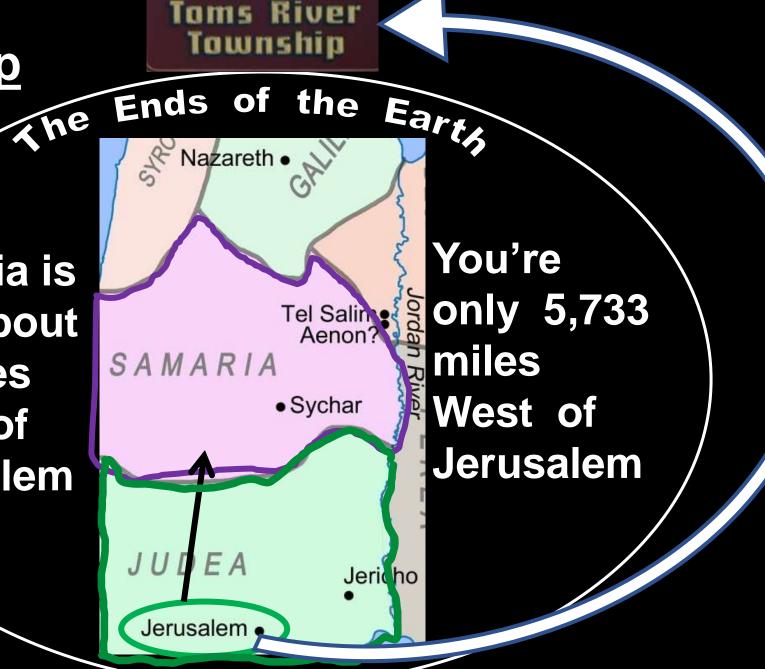






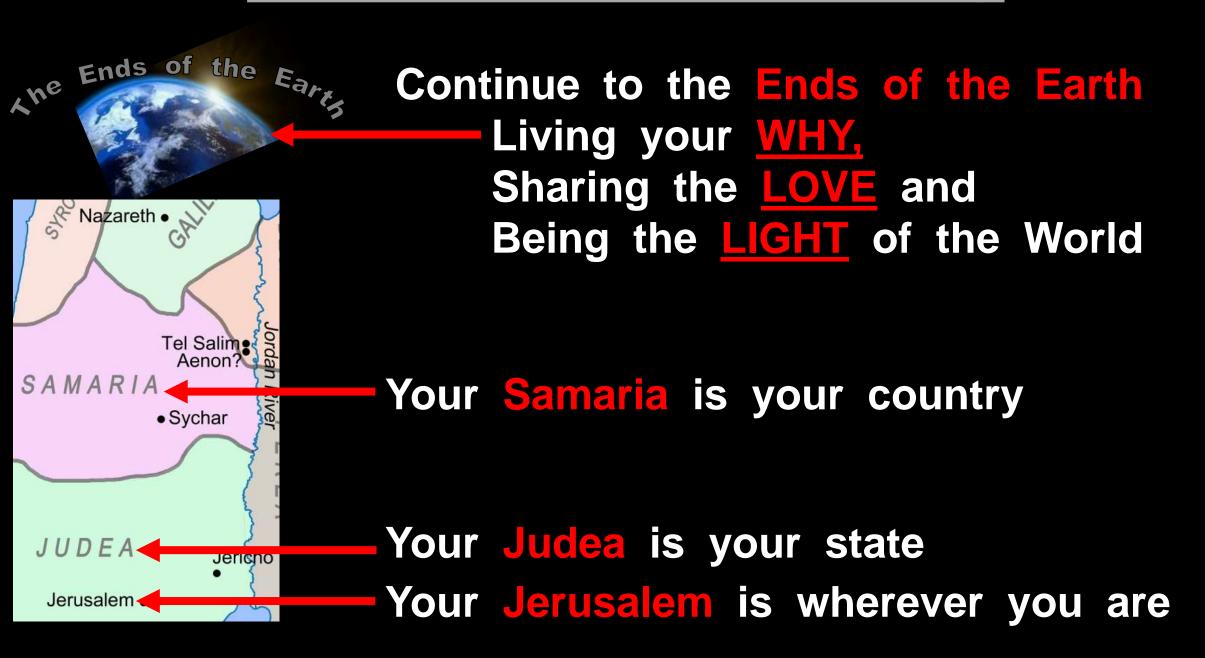
Your Great
Commission Map

Samaria is only about 35 miles
North of Jerusalem



Welcome To

Your Great Commission Map



What would you do if you weren't afraid?





There comes a day when you realize turning the page is the best feeling in the world.

Because you realize there's so much more to the book than the page you are stuck on.







- 1. What will you do to <u>Find</u> My WHY?
- 2. What will you do to **Share** The LOVE?
- 3. What will you do to **Be The LIGHT**?
- 4. What will you do to **Be A Disciple In My Jerusalem**?
- 5. What will you give as a **Steward of God's Gifts To** Me?

What if your whole world turned UMOP-APISAN

What would you do if today was your last day on earth?



The sky is not the limit...

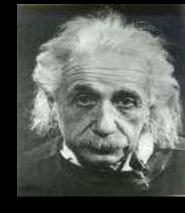


...because there are footprints on the moon

Do Something Today That Your Future Self Will Thank You For.







What was Albert Einstein's greatest contribution?



"NOTHING HAPPENS UNTIL SOMETHING MOVES."







"NOTHING HAPPENS UNTIL SOMEBODY MOVES."

You have now been called as one of the 70 Disciples

(Luke 10:1)

Find your Why

Share the Love

Be the Light



WHY Are You Here?

Being a True Steward and Disciple of Christ in Your Jerusalem and beyond...



