

Introduction:

1. *The Guardian*, is a movie that tells the story of Jake Fischer (Ashton Kutcher), a high-school swim champ who enrolls in the U.S. Coast Guard's "A" School. His instructor is legendary rescue swimmer Ben Randall (Kevin Costner) who teaches him some hard lessons about self-sacrifice.
  - a. There's a scene where the new recruits are briefed and reminded of their noble calling. "Out of the 39,000 men and women that make up the United States Coast Guard there are only 280 rescue swimmers. We are the Coast Guard's elite—the best of the best. When storms shut down entire ports, we go out. When hurricanes ground the U. S. Navy, we go out. When the Lord reaches down from heaven with winds that rip houses off the ground: We. Go. Out."
  - b. In one training exercise they have to tread water in a pool for one hour. If they touch the wall or the bottom of the pool, they fail. In another scene, Randall calls out to the recruits: "Who can tell me the rescue swimmer's motto?" "So others may live!" Fischer responds.
2. What a great message and what a motto for Christians. "We. Go. Out. So others may live."
  - a. God's people are called with a purpose to make a difference in the lives of others. We are God's elite—not in some worldly sense—but are God's chosen to do His will. We are chosen, set apart from others, saved and charged with a mission—to evangelize. "We go out. So others may live."
  - b. There are four attitudes Christians may have toward those in our world—those others.

The Lesson:**I. A heart of Isolation.**

- A. Like the Pharisees, some seek separation from everyone that they perceive as ungodly. But withdrawal doesn't work. And it's foreign to our calling.
  1. See what Jesus did in [Matthew 9:10-13](#). Jesus "went out" from heaven, not to be isolated from people like this, but to help them. He was criticized big time because He did not isolate Himself from these sinners. But His critics were wrong—not Jesus.
  2. Jesus never expected us—His disciples— to be isolated from the world, [John 17:15-16](#).
  3. I am still amazed at the stand some disciples take with respect to sinners. One brother said (concerning a young person), "She is a habitual liar. I am not going to have anything more to do with her." This is a good time to ask "What would Jesus do?"
- B. Jesus was not an isolationist. While He did not come into our world to approve of sinners, or just to pal around with them, He did not keep Himself from talking to them and trying to rescue them. That is our Master and our example. We are not isolationists.

**II. A heart of Imitation.**

- A. Jesus did not call us to isolation from the world; neither did He call us to imitate the world. That is the whole point of "In the world, but not of the world" (John 15:11, 15-16). What this means in a practical sense is that we do not compromise with the world. That, too, is foreign to our calling.

1. Some Christians compromise with the world. They go along to get along. They think like the world, talk like the world, and dress like the world. In doing so, they lose their spiritual identity as God's sons and daughters, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.
  2. Conformity will not win souls. Only a transformed life will accomplish God's purposes for us, Romans 12:1-2. Note that there are two "forms" in this text. Which will be your form?
- B. While we pointed out that Jesus was not an isolationist with respect to the world, neither was He an imitator of the world. He set an example of sanctification, John 17:18-19, 17. That is our Master and our example. We are not imitators of the world, but are imitators of Jesus.

### III. A heart of Indifference.

- A. Jesus certainly was not indifferent to the world. His whole purpose in coming into the world was to do the Father's will—the work of seeking lost souls. Just as His Father in heaven cared, even so did Jesus. Jesus said, "I have finished the work You have given Me to do" (John 17:4).
1. For Jesus, that work not only meant the travels, teaching, travails and temptations that He endured, it ultimately meant going to the cross and enduring all that He suffered.
  2. You do not look at the cross and see a man who is indifferent to the needs of sinners. All the pain, fatigue, deprivation, humiliation and poverty of the cross was to reach lost souls. The mental anguish that He suffered in the garden (John 18:1; Luke 22:39-44) was an expression of His care for those who were living outside of God's will.
  3. But, for a variety of reasons, some saints are unconcerned; they do not care about reaching the lost. Someone said, "I am just one person. What difference can I make in this world? It is hopeless." Maybe we should give up trying to make a difference in this world; instead let's work on making a difference in the life of just one lost soul. (Example: the starfish story.)
- B. Jesus made a difference in the lives of Peter, Paul, James and John. In the lives of Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene. And he made a difference in your life. Now, go and do likewise.

### IV. A heart of Influence.

- A. This is the right attitude toward our world. We are salt and light, Matthew 5:13-16.
1. We are involved, interested, engaged, illuminators and influencers in our world. That's what Jesus was. That's what we are. Our saltiness preserves and purifies our world. Our light illumines the way for others. We bring hope and light to a dark and dying world.
  2. We influence by our lives and by our words. We are people of integrity who speak truth.
  3. All the "evangelism passages" (Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:4) are about saints (that's us) being an influence for the Lord and His gospel to reach lost folks.
- B. Can we make up our minds to be what Jesus was—and what He wants us to be?

#### Conclusion:

1. People are drowning. Our purpose is to rescue men for Jesus. We go out so others may live.
2. "So others may live." That's why Jesus died on a cross. That's why He gave us His gospel. The Son of God offers rescue and real life by His gospel. Do you need to obey Him and have life?