



SERMON-BASED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WHATEVER IT TAKES
for the gospel

COTTONWOOD CREEK CHURCH

APRIL 3-4: EASTER

GOD DID WHATEVER IT TOOK

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8*

FOCUS:

God did “whatever it took” to bring us salvation.

God sent His only Son Jesus to die on the cross because that was necessary to bring us salvation.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) How should God’s demonstration of love for us change the way that we live?
- 2) In what ways should the fact of Christ dying for us while we were still sinners affect the way that we love people?
- 3) Why was it necessary for God to send Jesus to die?
- 4) What is necessary for us to become righteous in God’s eyes?
- 5) How does God’s work to bring us salvation show us our weakness?

WHATEVER
IT TAKES

APRIL 10-11

WHATEVER IT TAKES FOR THE GOSPEL!

19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

FOCUS:

This is who we are as a church.

We as a church want to have Paul's mentality in every ministry.

Highlight who we are and cast vision for where we are going.

- Driving to the conclusion: We want you to join us - how?
 - We will look at the life of Paul and ask, "How did he have a 'Whatever It Takes mentality?"

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What does it mean when Paul writes, "I have become all things to all people,"?
- 2) Are you willing to be a servant to people for the sake of advancing the gospel?
- 3) Is it okay to compromise your convictions for the purpose of winning people over?
- 4) As a church, how should we become like Paul in our mission?
- 5) In light of Paul's mentality, how can you do whatever it takes to evangelize and disciple other people?

WHATEVER
IT TAKES

APRIL 17-18

WHATEVER IT TAKES: BE RADICALLY SAVED!

Paul's Conversion: Acts 9:1-19; 22:1-21; 26:12-32

FOCUS:

How did Paul get his “Whatever It Takes for the Gospel” mentality?

- He was Radically Saved from sin.
 - And Radically saved into a NEW PURPOSE (esp. his account in 26:12-32)
- You have been saved from your sin and into a new, purpose-filled life with Christ!

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Do you have a story of being radically saved by God? (Hint: All salvation stories are radical!)
- 2) Do you share your story? Why or why not?
- 3) How should you now regard sin as a person that has been radically saved?
- 4) As a follower of Jesus Christ, do you have a “Whatever It Takes for the Gospel” mentality?
- 5) How might understanding that you have a new purpose affect the way that you live your daily life?

WHATEVER
IT TAKES

APRIL 24-25

WHATEVER IT TAKES: COMMIT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH!

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. 27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

FOCUS:

How did Paul get his Whatever it Takes for the Gospel mentality?

- He made a commitment to grow Spiritually.
 - “Discipline without direction is drudgery” – Don Whitney
 - We grow so that our knowledge of God fuels our worship and obedience to God.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) How would you rate your current spiritual growth? Why?
- 2) Where do you need help in your spiritual growth?
- 3) Why is it important that like Paul, we make our bodies slaves to us?
- 4) What is the ultimate goal for spiritual growth?
- 5) In what ways can you commit to growing spiritually each day?
- 6) What are some things that prevent you from growing spiritually?

WHATEVER
IT TAKES

MAY 1-2

WHATEVER IT TAKES: PRAY BIG PRAYERS!

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21

FOCUS:

How did Paul get his “Whatever It Takes for the Gospel” mentality?

- He prayed big prayers.
 - Other passages you can incorporate.
 - The importance of prayer: share what you're praying for our people and our church.
 - How they can change their prayer life to PRAY BIG?

QUESTIONS:

- 1) How is your prayer life? Why would you say that, good or bad?
- 2) What are some big things you want to see God do?
- 3) Who are people you can be praying big prayers for?
- 4) Why is prayer important?
- 5) What is hindering you from having a vibrant prayer life?
- 6) How does prayer affect your own spiritual life?

WHATEVER
IT TAKES

MAY 8-9

WHATEVER IT TAKES: LIVE GENEROUSLY AND SACRIFICIALLY!

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." 10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

FOCUS:

How did Paul get his "Whatever It Takes for the Gospel" mentality?

- Live both sacrificially and generously.
 - They go hand in hand - everything we have has been give to us in grace.
 - We give and make sacrifices in light of Christ's grace and sacrifice.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What does it mean that through Jesus's poverty we might become rich?
- 2) How can you practice being a cheerful giver?
- 3) What is one way you can be generous to someone this week?
- 4) How has God been generous to you in the past?
- 5) How do you tend to view your financial and/or material resources?
- 6) How does the gospel affect the way that you manage your money?

WHATEVER
IT TAKES

MAY 15-16

WHATEVER IT TAKES: GO AND SHARE!

For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

1 Corinthians 9:16

14 I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. 15 That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

Romans 1:14-16

FOCUS:

How did Paul get his “Whatever It Takes for the Gospel” mentality?

- Felt the obligation and responsibility to share the Gospel.
- How our people can share the Gospel (from in-person to digital)?
 - Light in the darkness.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) In a few sentences, how would you explain the gospel?
- 2) Why should we not boast in preaching and sharing the gospel?
- 3) Who is someone you need to share the gospel with? How can you be encouraged to do that?
- 4) Have you made sharing the gospel with unbelievers a priority in your life?
- 5) Are you more focused on personal growth than you are gospel work?
- 6) Why should there be an urgency for you to share the gospel with the people in your life?

WHATEVER
IT TAKES

40 DAYS THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS

MAY 22-23

BIBLE READING PLAN

WHATEVER IT TAKES: TAKE RISKS!

I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. 24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for the church. 29 Who is weak and I do not feel weak? Who is led into temptation, and I do not fall into temptation? 30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. 31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying.

WHATEVER IT TAKES

FOCUS:

How did Paul get his "Whatever It Takes for the Gospel" mentality?

• Take risks.

◦ Get out of your comfort zone.

◦ "If you're going to reach people you've never reached, you've got to do something you've never done." - JMC

for the gospel

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What does it mean to boast in the things that show your weakness?
- 2) What would it look like to take risks in order to reach people with the gospel?
- 3) How can your comfort zone be a barrier to obedience in evangelism?
- 4) How can you begin to take risks to preach the gospel in your neighborhoods, community, and city today?
- 5) What drove Paul to endure all of the suffering that he went through for the Gospel?