World Pathfinder Day 2023

**Theme:** **Go With Jesus**

**September 16, 2023**

**gcyouthministries.org**

Sermon 1

**GO WITH JESUS**

**Bible Verse: John 6:9 (NIV)**

**INTRODUCTION**

As a Pathfinder, one of the most critical daily actions is knowing who to ask permission from. This action denotes respect on the part of the one who asks and trust on the part of the one who grants, and so on; consideration and consent; submission and authority.

I don't know if the same thing happens to you as it does to me... every time I ask for permission, my parents ask me a couple of questions, such as:

* If I'm going to watch TV: what program do you want to watch? What does that program teach you? How long does it last?
* If I'm going to lock myself in my room: why do you want to be alone? Don't you have anything to do? What are you up to?
* If I'm going to play online: Who will you be playing with? Where are they from? How long will you be sitting at the computer?

There is no doubt that my parents' biggest concern is who I hang out with, who my friends are, what activities I do with them, and what kind of influence they can have on me. On more than one occasion they have recited some sayings to me, such as these:

Son... be careful with whom you get together, we see faces, but we do not know hearts.
Son... tell me who you hang around with and I'll let you know who you are.
Son... always climb a good tree.

One thing is certain, every time my counselor has come home and asked my parents for permission for some club activity, they have almost always let me. Why?

Because they know my pathfinder counselor. He periodically came to visit me.

Because they know that I had good friends in my unit.
Because they know the people who ran the club.

My parents periodically come to the meetings. They are well informed because they know that the club activities are good and that I learn something useful.

In the Bible, there is a story that makes us think that the protagonist must have asked permission. A story where there was respect and trust, consideration and consent, submission, and authority. Let me tell you the story.

**THE STORY OF THE MIRACLE OF THE MULTIPLICATION OF THE LOAVES AND FISHES**

This is the story of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes although truly it’s about the child protagonist of this miracle; a child that is barely mentioned.

But the miracle is important, so much so that its story is found in ALL four of the gospels, but only John tells us who the protagonist’s name. Pay Attention! Perhaps the miracle would have been different if it were not for him. Do you know who we are about to talk about? Can you imagine who I am referring to?

I invite you to open your Bible to the Gospel of John 6:1-15(NIV).

Here is the story and in verse 9 is the character I want to tell you about:

*“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” (NIV)*

I can affirm that that boy or teenager was the age of one of us. Perhaps, if in Jesus' time, back in the lands of Judea, or in this case Bethsaida, there had been a Pathfinder Club, he would have worn the yellow scarf the same one you and I wear.

It is not written, but we can imagine that the mere fact of knowing that Jesus was in the vicinity, made this boy feel the desire to go and be with Jesus.

The story suggests that Jesus was troubled. He wanted to be alone. John the Baptist had recently died, so he crossed the sea and went up a mountain with his disciples. But when the people heard about Jesus and how he healed people, they followed him.

You know, in Gennesaret Jesus had healed all the sick; look at what Mark 6:55 and 56 says:

*“They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.” (NIV)*

Undoubtedly, the fame of Jesus, the way he showed compassion for people, awakened this boy’s interest. Knowing that Jesus had the power to heal the sick made the boy want to be where Jesus would be. He wanted to see and hear him, and of course, if the persona of Jesus appealed in a special way to the new generations, they would want to be with Jesus.

Today, just as in Jesus' time, there are many people who need to be healed by Jesus; there are many people who need to hear about Jesus so that they can believe in Him and come closer to Him.
Our friend, not only knew that there was a guy called Jesus around but also, he was interested in going to where Jesus was.

When we participate in Bible classes, we are taught not only the story of the One who gave his life for us but also the Spirit of God and how it encourages and motivates us to fulfill our expectations and say, “I am coming to you Jesus.”

**GOOD FAME GENERATES CONFIDENCE**

Although our character was a boy, who like you and me, he did not govern himself. While he wanted to go to where the Nazarene was, he needed to ask permission, and asking permission meant he had to be willing to answer several questions. Do you remember the questions parents ask when we ask permission for something? Well, probably more than a few of them were asked of him as well.

Today, as in the past, our parents or guardians tend to worry every time they must give us permission to go somewhere.

In Jesus' time, as in the present, there are dangerous places and people all around. Although we say that we know how to take care of ourselves, the Bible also tells us that: " So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!" (1 Corinthians 10:12, NIV), or in other words… "In certainty lies danger".

Many times, parents don't give us permission to go out, simply because they don't know where we are going; they don't know with whom we are going; nor do they know what time we will return.

However, for many people, a Pathfinder Club is a good place. The club has prestige. Our leaders have earned the respect and trust of our parents. They give us permission to go camping; they give us permission to do activities in the mountains, in the lakes and rivers; they give us permission to travel... to travel and participate in camporees. Why? Simply because of the prestige that the club has. Because of the fame that the conquistadors have, and that generates confidence. For the same reason, many people want to place their children in the club. Because the club's program generates confidence in them; because they know that in the Pathfinder Club their children will be safe and will have good friends.

Jesus' fame generated confidence in people. Thousands of people crowded around him. People who had heard about Jesus.

You and I are privileged to be members of a club that has a good reputation. Every time we wear our uniform, we are giving testimony, not only of what it is to be a Pathfinder, we are also testifying of Jesus, and that generates confidence. That's why we should invite our friends, classmates, and neighbors to come to the club. There may be kids around you who want to participate in the same activities you do.

I would dare to affirm that the mother of the boy in this story was aware of Jesus' fame, and like her neighbors, this gave her confidence, security and peace of mind to let him go.

**KNOWLEDGE GIVES CONSENT**

Imagine the scene... In your heart a desire was awakened to go to where Jesus was. Many people like you are going. Even friends of yours are going along with their parents. However, unlike your friends, you know that your mother cannot accompany you, so you must ask her permission.

The good fame of Jesus has generated great expectations. You want to be there, you are interested in being there, but you need to ask for permission.

ome time ago, for me to participate in a camporee, my pathfinder counselor had to ask for permission. We were still in classes and, even worse, exam week was coming up. I wanted to go to the camporee. I knew I would have a good time and I knew everyone in my class would go, but I needed my parents to sign the permission slip.

In the sermon on the beatitudes, or sermon on the mount, we are told that Jesus invited people to come to Him. He invited all kinds of people... "Come to me... come to me...". The scene of the miracle of the multiplication does not have an explicit invitation on the part of Jesus, the mere fact of knowing that He was there, was already an invitation to follow Him.

I can imagine then, that the boy went to his mother to ask her permission, and that she did not need to hear the arguments of her son, because she knew and knew the fame of Jesus. She had full confidence that to be where Jesus was meant it was a safe place to be. She was assured to, to the point of telling her son....

"Go with Jesus."

"Go to Him, for there you will be safe."

"Go and stay as long as it takes."

"Go to Jesus because in Him I have confidence.”

When my counselor talked to my parents and told him what we would do and where we would go, my parents said, "Go my son. Go with your counselor and have a good time. Go and make the most of your time there. Have fun with your class.”

John 6: 9 tells us that the boy was brought to Jesus with the refreshment that, we may assume, his mother had prepared for him. However, the story also tells us that, of all the people in the crowd, only this boy had something to eat, and that something to eat meant he was brought into Jesus' presence... Can you imagine it? Being brought to Jesus.

The mother consented to let the boy go, because she knew or had heard about Jesus; the boy was willing to give what he had to eat, because he spent hours listening to Jesus... getting to know Jesus.

**CONCLUSION**

Although the Bible briefly mentions the boy and his respective action as solidarity, the story opens our minds to the imagination and at the same time helps us to understand that knowing Jesus allows us to generate trust and the desire to follow him. It allows us to understand that the persona of Jesus attracts; that the task of Jesus entrusted to his people, comes to meet the needs of the people. That no matter how old we are, no matter how much we know or what we have to offer, by being with Jesus we become his "instruments". That by going with Jesus we become channels of blessing for our family, companions, neighbors and friends.
Incredible that a few loaves of bread and a few fish that the boy brought and gave to Jesus served as a blessing for a great multitude.

Paul asks: “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” (Romans 10:14, NIV)

To be with Jesus... to respond to his invitation, encourages us to fulfill his will.

Neither the mother, in giving permission and saying, "Go with Jesus"... nor the boy in answering "I will go with Jesus", could have imagined what would happen hours later.

A multitude that was delighted by the actions and words of Jesus was fed, as well as another multitude that was also benefited by receiving what was left over from that miracle.

**The Calling**

The Pathfinder Club is celebrating 72 years since its officialization, and you are part of it, because your parents one day told you GO; today you are a Pathfinder and proudly wear the yellow scarf, because you said GO.

I want to tell you that the greatest invitation that Jesus makes to you does not only contemplate being enrolled in the club, but it does also not only refer to the fact that your name is written down in the Achievement Class workbook or that you are enrolled to participate in a camporee.

The greater purpose that Jesus has, through the club, is for you to say I WILL surrender my life through baptism, testifying to all that you belong to Him. I WILL accept Him as my personal Savior and that through my gifts and talents; through what I have in my hands, I am willing to say I WILL and tell all those around me, of the wonders that He has done for me, around me, of the wonders He has done in our life.

Are you willing to go with Him? Do you want to say I AM and go down into the waters of baptism?

If all year you have been at the feet of Jesus, listening to His Word in the Bible Class... What can prevent you from being baptized? On the contrary... You already know Him and surely you are ready to say I GO...

Do you want to give your life to Jesus and have your name inscribed in the Book of Life?

If you say yes, then I say to you ....

GO WITH JESUS!