



SERIES: July Series “OFF ROADING”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, July 22, 2021

Scripture: Matthew 9:10-13

TITLE: Try Something for Jesus!

I’m a coach. I’m a biblical coach, but I’m also an executive coach and a sports coach. I’ve been coaching my kids in football and basketball for years. Our teams had historically been made up of school friends, which is great. But our teams weren’t an outreach vehicle, because our teams were filled with kids from our Christian school. So, I wanted to try something for outreach. I decided to invite in some people who were far from God to both participate in playing, but also in coaching. What ensued was a beautiful friendship that has fostered many discussions about our faith, the Bible, and the Gospel. All of this happened because I was willing to try something.

Trying something is taking the everyday activities we are doing and leveraging them for outreach. The beautiful thing is if it doesn’t work, it’s okay. Adjust it, or move on and try something else. No harm, no foul.

Listen to what Jesus had to say about engaging in outreach in Matthew 28.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,^[b] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Yep, we went there. The Great Commission.

But I’m going to tell you something. There is a secret to this passage. The translation said “Go and make Disciples.” The secret is, that’s unfortunate. Because the real translation is “While going..” While going make disciples. You see we often think we have to go somewhere to do evangelism. Or we think the art of making disciples is for a chosen elite, the chosen few.

That’s not right. Jesus said “While going..” While living your everyday life. While doing the things you are doing anyways. I would say, “While you are living, try something”

Now, I’m an entrepreneur at heart. I’m the kind of guy who says, “You know what, if it doesn’t work, no harm no foul, just move on.” But I think we can try something for outreach, while going.

Now whatever you try, whether it’s an outdoor movie night, a new golf foursome, maybe a game night, maybe it’s a bookclub. It doesn’t matter. Whatever we do, try it, but try it with gospel intentionality.

Now, here's what I'm not suggesting. That every piece of your experiment is riddled with plugs for Jesus. Instead, what I want you to do, is while going, while trying something, be prepared to walk through the doors that God opens, and do so with gospel intentionality.

So here's my challenge for you today: Try something.

What are the things you are doing to invite outsiders in? Are you going grocery shopping? Could you invite someone in? Try it.

Are you going fishing? If so, try inviting someone who is far from God.

Are you gardening this summer? Could you try to involve someone who is lost?

Are you smoking meats or grilling? Could you invite someone over to enjoy yourself with you?

Try something.

Outreach was never meant to be complicated.

So I encourage you to try something. And while you're at it, share in the comments below what you'll try. It will inspire us all to try something new, all for the expansion of the Kingdom.

And there is no better way than when we engage in the Great Commission while going and simply trying something.