

Chapter 7

Go Into All The World And Preach The Good News

BIBLE

The Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, “Don't be afraid, but speak and don't be silent.”¹ What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in the ear, proclaim on the housetops.²

“My people have been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray; they have turned them away on the mountains; they have gone from mountain to hill; they have forgotten their resting place.”³ According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted. Therefore they have forgotten me.⁴

COMMENTARY

¹ **Acts 18:9** In this metaphysical fantasy, Paul receives a vision wherein the group is given their mission. Actually, however, it was John who had a vision in the early days of the group. He told reporters in 1961 that a man spoke to him on a “flaming pie,” telling him that from now on the name of the group would be spelled ‘Beatles’ with an ‘a’ rather than ‘Beetles.’

² **Matthew 10:27** This verse contains four Beatle “clues”: Their manager Brian Epstein discovered the group “in the darkness” at the subterranean Cavern Club; the Beatles spoke “in the light,” bringing love and light to the world and writing songs like “Good Day Sunshine” and “Here Comes the Sun”; “Let me whisper in your ear” is a lyric from one of their earliest songs “Do You Want To Know A Secret”; finally, they will “proclaim on the housetops” at their famous rooftop concert on January 30, 1969.

³ **Jeremiah 50:6** “My friends have lost their way,” George tells us in “Blue Jay Way,” using metaphor, perhaps, to describe those who have lost their way spiritually.

⁴ **Hosea 13:6**

“They have mouths, but they don’t speak. They have eyes, but they don’t see.⁵ They have ears, but they don’t hear. They have noses, but they don’t smell.⁶

“Therefore, you shepherds, hear Yahweh’s word.⁷ Cry aloud, don’t spare. Lift up your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their disobedience, and to the house of Jacob their sins.”⁸

He said, “Go, and tell this people, ‘You hear indeed, but don’t understand; and you see indeed, but don’t perceive.’”⁹

“For my people have forgotten me, they have burned incense to false gods; and they have been made to stumble in their ways, in the ancient paths, to walk in byways, in a way not built up.”¹⁰

“Therefore lift up the hands that hang down and the feeble knees.¹¹ Say to your brothers, ‘My people!’ and to your sisters, ‘My loved one!’”¹²

He said to them, “Go into all the world, and preach the Good News to the whole creation.¹³ Sing to him a new song. Play skillfully with a shout of joy!”¹⁴

⁵ **Psalm 115:5** John reminds us in “Strawberry Fields Forever” that “living is easy with eyes closed.”

⁶ **Psalm 115:6** Spiritual discernment requires going beyond our physical senses.

⁷ **Ezekiel 34:7** [*The Beatles are the “shepherds”*]

⁸ **Isaiah 58:2** “Sins” are error thoughts.

⁹ **Isaiah 6:9** Steve Turner, *The Gospel According to the Beatles* (2006): “The central advice of the Beatles is always to expand the consciousness...the result of opening the eyes, of freeing your mind, is that the total experience of life is enhanced.”

¹⁰ **Jeremiah 18:15** Anything that takes priority over our spiritual growth becomes a false god. This includes religious tradition.

¹¹ **Hebrews 12:12** Paul Swift, *The Beatles and Philosophy* (2006): “By eliminating the mediator between God and humanity, the Beatles were able to shake the collective consciousness of an entire generation by demanding a type of ethical responsibility that points directly back to the individual.”

¹² **Hosea 2:1**

¹³ **Mark 16:15** John: “We all want to change the world.” (“Revolution”)

¹⁴ **Psalm 33:3** Paul: “Take a sad song and make it better.” (“Hey Jude”)

“Don’t quench the Spirit.¹⁵ Rather, go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.¹⁶ Tell them, ‘As I live, says Yahweh, surely as you have spoken in my ears, so will I do to you.’¹⁷

“Come! Come! Flee from the land of the north,” says Yahweh; “for I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the sky,” says Yahweh.¹⁸

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.¹⁹

“I, Yahweh, have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand, and will keep you, and make you a covenant for the people, as a light for the nations.²⁰ I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you shall keep my ordinances, and do them.”²¹

He said, “Behold, I make a covenant: before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been worked in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among which you are shall see the work of Yahweh; for it is an awesome thing that I do with you.²²

¹⁵ **1 Thessalonians 5:19**

¹⁶ **Matthew 10:6**

¹⁷ **Numbers 14:28** Our words and thoughts have creative power; what we focus on tends to manifest.

¹⁸ **Zechariah 2:6** In the summer of 1963, the group moved from Liverpool in the North of England to London. The capital city became their base of operations as their fame spread abroad.

¹⁹ **Colossians 3:16**

²⁰ **Isaiah 42:6** Rogan Taylor, *The Death and Resurrection Show* (1985), on the Beatles: “Do we all attend their shows in order to ‘feel better’? Are we humming the songs so that we might, like the singers, get *transformed* from the ordinary world into the *extraordinary* world? If we do, we are in a church. We are attending a religious rite.”

²¹ **Ezekiel 36:27** Paul: “There’s all sorts of lucky things came together, amazing little coincidences; amazing skills added to those coincidences. It was a lot of stuff that came together to make The Beatles.”

²² **Exodus 34:10** Rock critic Greil Marcus: “The Beatles affected not only the feel but the quality of life—they deepened it, sharpened it, brightened it.”

“Let no man despise your youth; but be an example to those who believe, in word, in your way of life, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity.”²³

“The glory of young men is their strength. The splendor of old men is their gray hair.”²⁴ Therefore don’t throw away your boldness, which has a great reward.²⁵

“Preach the word; be urgent in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with all patience and teaching.”²⁶ Heal the sick who are therein, and tell them, ‘God’s Kingdom has come near to you.’²⁷

“Remind them of these things, charging them in the sight of the Lord, that they don’t argue about words, to no profit, to the subverting of those who hear.”²⁸ In all things showing yourself an example of good works; in your teaching showing integrity, seriousness, incorruptibility.²⁹

“Don’t rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father; the younger men as brothers.”³⁰ You shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and shall show them the way in which they must walk, and the work that they must do.³¹

²³ **1 Timothy 4:12** Richard Falkenstein and John Zeis, *The Beatles and Philosophy* (2006) : “The music of the Beatles, like all great art, is significant because it discloses certain basic truths about who and what we are as human beings and what we take to be of absolute value.”

²⁴ **Proverbs 20:29**

²⁵ **Hebrews 10:35**

²⁶ **2 Timothy 4:2** Nick Bromell, *Tomorrow Never Knows* (2000), on the Beatles: “Their music certainly did create a framework, invisible to the eyes, in which something like enlightenment was an imagined possibility.”

²⁷ **Luke 10:9** “God’s Kingdom” is a state of mind, a higher level of consciousness where we are one with the Divine. In “The Inner Light,” George reminds us that this “Kingdom” is not a physical place to go to: “Without going out of your door, you can know all things on earth.” He based these and other lyrics in the song on a translation of the Tao by Juan Mascaró entitled “Lamps of Fire.”

²⁸ **2 Timothy 2:14** In “We Can Work It Out,” the Beatles remind us that arguing is not profitable: “Life is very short, and there’s no time for fussing and fighting, my friend.”

²⁹ **Titus 2:7**

³⁰ **1 Timothy 5:1**

³¹ **Exodus 18:20**

“Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.³² For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.³³

“Tell the righteous ‘Good!’ For they shall eat the fruit of their deeds.³⁴ Command and teach these things,³⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to withstand or to contradict.³⁶

“Now there are various kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.³⁷ What is it then, brothers? When you come together, each one of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has another language, has an interpretation. Let all things be done to build each other up.³⁸

“For the body is not one member, but many.³⁹ If they were all one member, where would the body be?⁴⁰ No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.⁴¹

“Let each man stay in that calling in which he was called.⁴²

³² **Exodus 4:12**

³³ **Matthew 10:20**

³⁴ **Isaiah 3:10**

³⁵ **1 Timothy 4:11**

³⁶ **Luke 21:15**

³⁷ **1 Corinthians 12:4** Spirit has given each of us our own unique gifts to share with the world.

³⁸ **1 Corinthians 14:26** Each of the Beatles had their own talents, but it was their ability to come together synergistically as a unit that made them so successful.

³⁹ **1 Corinthians 12:14** Steven R. Covey, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* (1989): “When mutual understanding and respect is present, the spirit of synergy inevitably starts to develop. Synergy is always exciting and tenuous because you are never quite sure what it’s going lead to. All you know is that it’s going to be better than before, better than what either party could come up with themselves.”

⁴⁰ **1 Corinthians 12:19** Paul: “We’re individuals, but we make up together The Mates, which is one person. We all add something different to the whole.”

⁴¹ **1 Corinthians 12:22** George: “If you put together all the personalities of the Beatles, it worked perfectly. It was magic.”

⁴² **1 Corinthians 7:20**

“Put on therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance;⁴³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, if any man has a complaint against any; even as Christ forgave you, so you also do.⁴⁴

“I will make your name to be remembered in all generations. Therefore the peoples shall give you thanks forever and ever.⁴⁵

“Therefore, you shepherds, hear Yahweh’s word:⁴⁶ Be careful to do all things that I have said to you; and don’t invoke the name of other gods or even let them be heard out of your mouth.⁴⁷ Don’t lift up your horn on high. Don’t speak with a stiff neck.⁴⁸

“Now go, write it before them on a tablet, and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come forever and ever.⁴⁹ As you go, preach, saying ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!’⁵⁰

“Above all these things, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection.”⁵¹

⁴³ **Colossians 3:12**

⁴⁴ **Colossians 3:13** The Beatles bore with one another to accomplish their mission despite their differences in personality and talent. Business guru and visionary Steve Jobs: “They were four guys who kept each others negative tendencies in check. They balanced each other and the total was greater than the sum parts.”

⁴⁵ **Psalm 45:17** Paul Swift, *The Beatles and Philosophy* (2006): “The Beatles were actually able to challenge an entire generation to question and think, activities which are almost always met with public hostility. Like Socrates, the Beatles vision of the world was at one time in conflict with popular religion and was met with hostility and death threats.”

⁴⁶ **Ezekiel 34:9**

⁴⁷ **Exodus 23:13**

⁴⁸ **Psalm 75:5**

⁴⁹ **Isaiah 30:8**

⁵⁰ **Matthew 10:7** Steve Turner, *The Gospel According to the Beatles* (2006): “The Beatles sought out wonder, meaning and innocence in their lives and their music...a huge international audience looked to the Beatles to find much the same thing.”

⁵¹ **Colossians 3:14**