

01 29 2023
Suit Up and Show Up
Martinwood Christian Church

Suit Up and Show Up

Good morning. What a great day to hang out with a great bunch of people. Sometimes when I look back on my sermons I see a pattern.

I wish I could say it was me who built these sermons specifically in this order, but I do know if I allow the Holy Spirit to work within me, great things will happen and that's what is ready to happen with you.

This date

January's Sermons

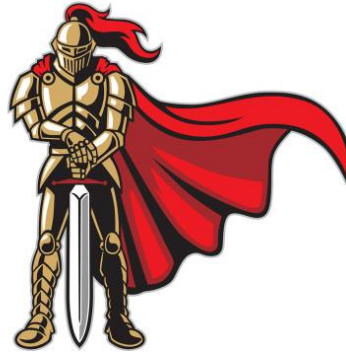
10 30 2022 What is Evangelism
11 13 2022 What is Evangelism II
11 27 2023 What is Evangelism Part III
12 04 2022 I'm Possible

January's Sermons

01 01 2023 New Year's Changes
01 08 2023 Using Your Compass of Truth
01 15 2023 God Gave Us The Tools We Need to Fly
01 22 2023 More Like Jesus and Less Like Me

Next month is Love month around here and that too, you have to suit up and show up for. You can't just sit around and expect it to happen. You have to Suit Up and Show Up, or it won't happen.

**Suit Up
and
Show Up**



For me to Suit Up and Show Up does not mean there's a battle going on or something you need to take part in, it just means when the Lord calls you to Suit Up and Show Up He just wants you to be there. In many cases, if you're not there when called, God can't do His work because there's no one He can't work through.

2 Kings 7:6-8

⁵And they rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise no one was there. ⁶For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses—the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, “Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!” ⁷Therefore they arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact—their tents, their horses, and their donkeys—and they fled for their lives. ⁸And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried from it silver and gold and clothing, and went and hid *them*; then they came back and entered another tent, and carried *some* from there *also*, and went and hid *it*.

God does not always call us to fight. Sometimes He just wants us in the right place at the right time. I had a strong desire to contact a friend of

mine. It took a while before I finally called him. I hadn't talk to him for a while so I thought I finally reached out to him. It just so happened he'd been in the hospital for quite a while and he was sitting at the hospital waiting for his ride. What was the possibility I would call at the exact time he had checked out of the hospital and was waiting for his ride. It was just too perfect in the natural, but God wants us to be in the right place at the right time.

God needs three elements to succeed. For us to be at the Right Place, at the Right Time and be in the Right Frame of Mind. The right frame of mind is up to you. God can get you wherever He wants you, but its up to you to be the right frame of mind.

The Scripture in Judges 7 tells us of a time men suited up and showed up to fight with a man name Gideon. The Lord called Gideon to fight against the Midianites. The Lord told him were to go (Right Time) and when to be there (Right Place). That's how God works. He'll put you where He needs you, when He needs you.

So what did Gideon do? He started rounding up men. He went all over, from city to city and rounded up men. He told them to suit up and show up. All the men thought they'd be fighting, maybe even lose their life to the Midianites. As you can imagine many were scared, very scared.

Gideon rounded up 32,000 men. It was more than enough people to overthrow the Midianite Army. But for God's glory it has to be a miracle battle. He would not allow it to be something Israel could claim as theirs. It has to be a battle won that was an impossible battle, but it may be a battle that will never be fought.

So God told Gideon to send all the men home who were scare or afraid. Hmmmm. I could see several thousand going away, going back to their homes, but scripture tells us 22,000 men left and went home.

This is ultimate faith to suit up and show up, then lose 22,000 men. Scripture tells us 10,000 men were left and God said that's still too many.

Judges 7:4

But the LORD said to Gideon, “The people *are* still *too* many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there.

On their knees to get water
Lap up the water = 300 men

They still suited up and showed up. Gideon only had 300 men. Compared to the 32,000 he started with, he was kind of short, yet he stayed suited up and was ready not to fight, but to do what the Lord asked him to do.

Keep in mind he thinks he'll have to fight the Midianites. Scripture says they “were as numerous as locusts.” That’s kind of scary and I’m sure Gideon is wondering what the heck is going on. God asked him to suit up and show up.

God knows us and He knew Gideon was scared. God told Gideon if he’s not sure of what God told him that he needs to sneak down to the Midianites camp and listen to them talk.

So that gave Gideon strength and I believe God gives us that same strength when we’re not sure of what is happening. When we’re wondering “what the heck are you doing God?” He takes care of us and will keep us protected when we’re doing His work. We are His hands and feet.

So here Gideon goes. He’s got this under control and he’s ready to take on the Midianites. He knew the Lord had delivered the Midianite’s into his hands so he gets his army, all 300 up and said let’s go.

He divided his 300 men into three groups of 100 men each and told them to do as he did. All they took was a trumpet and a jar. Here goes Gideon with his puny army of 300 men armed with a trumpet and empty pitchers. He told them when he blew his trumpet they were to do the same and say The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!

Right around verse 20 they were in place. Then at just the right time they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands. Scripture says they held their trumpet in one hand and a torch in the other.

Can't you see that?

Judges 7:22

When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia

2 Kings 19
Hezekiah and king
of Assyria

They did not have to fight the Midianites. The men could tell how they routed an entire army. The men of the Midianite army turned on themselves and killed each other. How does an army do that?

God puts us in the Right Place at the Right Time. It is up to us to have the Right Frame of Mind; that is our SUIT, the Right Frame of Mind. Gideon was in the Right Frame of Mind. He knew the Lord would protect him, and He did. 2 Kings

As you have difficulties or things you feel you cannot get through, you first have to go to the Lord and ask if this is your battle or His. If it is His battle, let Him fight it, but even though it may be His battle, like in this story, He still needs us to suit up and show up; He'll do the rest.

The key is to be there, in the Right Frame of Mind. There are many stories in the Bible when God said He'd be their vindicator, and He's yours too.

This week you will have at least one opportunity to suit up and show up. You may or may not know that is what it is, but listen closely. God gave you the tools to take you where He wants you to be. Use your compass.

Lord,

You are the King of kings and the one who can vindicate us, protect us and guide us in all we say and do. Show us when we need to be suited up and ready for your work. Guide us as we move forward into building a relationship with you so we can better understand you and what you want us to do. Protect your people as they depart and go their separate ways and bless your ministry here on 8th Avenue. In Jesus Name We Pray....Amen.

Before we leave today, Before we close today I want to give you the opportunity to make Jesus a part of your life. Now is the time. If not now, when? Don't wait. Take this time to make Jesus the Lord of your life.

Just say:

Lord Jesus

I repent of my sins

Come into my heart

I make you my Lord and savior

We believe if you said that simple prayer you've been born again. Read your Bible this week, keep coming back and God will show you the way.

We Love you, we care about you, and we can't wait to see you right back here next week.