

SERMON OUTLINE 1

I'M WITH YOU

NOTE: It is recommended that you read chapter 1, "I'm with You," in *Love Does* before the sermon so you will be well acquainted with the stories from Bob Goff.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In high school, Bob Goff was a poor student. He couldn't even figure out how to take the test for a general equivalence certificate.
- B. In his junior year, Bob decided to drop out and get a job at Yosemite National Park, where he could rock climb in his free time. Bob decided to stop by his friend Randy's house to say good-bye. Randy was a Young Life leader in Bob's high school.
- C. To Bob's surprise, Randy requested to go with him to Yosemite and stay with him until he settled in. Little did Bob know what that request meant to Randy. Bob found encouragement in Randy's words, "I'm with you, Bob."

II. TEACHING

- A. *"I'm with you" means presence:* to be actually present with someone.
 - 1. Randy left his house, got in Bob's VW Bug, and went with him to Yosemite.
 - 2. The two rode together, snuck together into a rental tent and slept, looked for jobs together, ate together, and rock climbed together.
 - 3. "I'm with you" is one of the names of God revealed in Jesus Christ.
 - a. From the beginning in the Garden of Eden, God sought to be with even a rebellious Adam and Eve. "Where are you?" (see Genesis 3:8–9).

- b. Isaiah prophesied that the coming Messiah would be named “Immanuel,” which means “God with us” (see Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:22–23).
 - c. Jesus promised to be with us even to the end of the age (see Matthew 28:20). He is truly our Immanuel (see Hebrews 13:5).
 - B. *“I’m with you” means sacrifice*: it costs something to be truly present.
 - 1. Randy’s presence with Bob on the jaunt to Yosemite cost Randy time, effort, discomfort, and money.
 - 2. The astounding sacrifice is that Randy had left his brand-new bride so he could be with Bob. “[Randy] didn’t just *say* he was for me or with me. He was *actually* present with me. . . . Why? It was because Randy *loved* me.”
 - 3. At the heart of God’s love is sacrifice for each one of us.
 - a. Love does because love gives; it sacrifices (see John 3:16).
 - b. The sin that separates us from God has been once and for all removed by the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ (see Hebrews 2:17).

III. APPLICATION

- A. Bob writes, “[Randy] was committed to me and he believed in me. I wasn’t a project; I was his friend. I wondered if maybe all Christians operated this way. I didn’t think so, because most of them I had met . . . seemed to have opinions about what or who they were against [rather] than for who they were for.”
- B. Thank God for those people (perhaps it’s just one) in your life who have been with you and sacrificed for you. Their love for you was displayed in their behavior, not just in their words.
- C. Think of someone you know who needs “presence”; who needs someone with them. Commit to be that someone, knowing full well it will cost. Know also that the results may change a life, bring glory to God, and demonstrate *through you* genuine, Christlike love.