

Grace and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ Amen!

God is on the move everyone. I've heard it. I've seen it. I've felt it in the wind and in the rain and the sun. I see it in the faces of those who I meet with. IT's in the voices of everyone I talk to. God is moving in this world!

This same type of thing happens in the book the lion the witch and the wardrobe. One of my favorite children's books. These 4 kids are put into this new world against their own wishes, they are powerless to go back, they are confused and lost and they get help from the craziest of places. And in the midst of that there is this excitement that starts to build in the atmosphere of the book. Aslan, who is the symbol of Jesus, Aslan is on the move. The source of Hope, the source of joy, the source of redemption and new life for all the people is moving through the land. And I gotta tell you all, God is here and God is moving.

I can't help but be caught up in it. I look around every day and see God moving through the actions of so many. Maybe you don't get to see it, but when I walk around here at First, I see boxes everywhere. I see the works of many hands do incredible things. I see food piled high ready to go out and feed our neighbors, feed anyone who asks, anyone who needs. I see people coming and going in our church nonstop. People living out there call from God. People caught up in the movement of God in the world.

I see people working so diligently in making this church a place that can reflect the Light of Christ. Right now, I see volunteers who show up every Sunday morning to make sure this worship can happen. From making sure that you all can hear us, wherever you are. Whether that's across the street or on the other side of the county, country, or planet. God is moving. God is using us to share the gospel. And whether that's from our amazing musicians to our ushers who make our parking lot service happen. God is moving.

You and I, we are caught up in this dance, in the flow of the Spirit.

And we are going to get caught of guard when God comes and starts moving things in our lives, just like Moses was. God came changed everything for Moses and for God's people. From this first encounter with the Holy at the Burning Bush comes this cascade of events which brings freedom and new life to God's people.

God led them back from a place of desolation and loss and God led them in rebuilding what had been lost. In the midst of hard times it's God word that gives us that joy, that hope, that peace, to get through each day of our lives. That is our God at work.

But doing the work of God can be a tricky thing, can't it. Even when we know the Spirit is moving right in front of our face, it can be hard to grasp or see clearly. We heard that lesson told so boldly today. I just have to say Thank God for Peter and his boldness. If he hadn't been so boldly wrong so many times we probably might be missing out on a lot of important lessons from God.

In our Gospel today, Jesus lays it all our, the last movements of the Son of God on Earth.

And to this Peter, in all his boldness, takes Jesus aside, and says Jesus, this can't happen. Jesus, I'm not going to let this happen. I'm not going to just let you die.

And Jesus Says those famous Words, **“Get behind me Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”**

Now those are pretty harsh words and especially when coming from Jesus. If the Son of God calls you Satan, well there are more than a few things going on. But there is something so clever hear that is not picked up when we read this in English. I only break out the Greek when I think it's important, so hopefully this message doesn't get lost. But in the Greek this passage has a much deeper meaning.

So Get behind me Satan in greek is *hypage opiso mou Satan*
hypage opiso mou
hypage opiso mou
hypage opiso mou

Now you too know how to say get behind be Satan in Greek, maybe that will come in handy some day

But an even more direct translation of *hypage opiso mou* is Go behind me

Ok so why this matters. Jesus uses Hypage GO when he's telling of Satan in his 40 days in the desert. Basically Go, I command you to leave my presence: Hypage!

And in when Jesus starts calling Disciples, Jesus says to peter and john Opiso Mou, follow me. And Jesus uses that specific phrase through out matthew for his disciples opiso mou, follow me.

So today Jesus says Hypage Opiso Mou, go and follow ME. Not yourself not what you think, not what you hope, not your own plans. Follow me. You are my disciple, now and always, follow me. Jesus is not trying to kick peter to the curb, he's trying to remind him who he's supposed to be following.

Today we do not lead. We trust and we follow our God. And as I have said a few times today, God is moving people. Its time to get up and follow. We know where God is leading us, who God is always moving towards.

We follow God now to feed the hungry, We follow in our Lords footsteps to bring healing to the spiritually, mentally, and physically ill, We move towards those who are lost and hopeless and bring the the hope that is always know in our God.

That is how God moves. Today we get to put down our fears and anxiety, our own plans and hopes, and know that our Good and Gracious God leads us forward in every step we take.

There's this, I think, beautiful ending to the lion the witch and the wardrobe. Aslan is seen leaving and one of the characters says, Well he's not a tame lion.

Jesus is not our tamed lord. Jesus does not go just where we want to go. But we get to follow Jesus on this great adventure, moving through this world. Amen