

Effective Evangelism

Strategy of Evangelism: Go make disciples. *Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8*

The strategy that Lord set before us is not “come here” but “go tell” the lost about Jesus. Even symbols of the Gospel suggest the principles of “going”; light travels, fire spreads, water flows, yeast permeates.

This is the first _____ in the Great Commission.

God draws, The Spirit convicts, Jesus Saves, and we share

“Faith comes through hearing, and hearing the word of Christ” Romans 10:17

I. Having the Right Heart: 2 Corinthians 1:12

1. Godly Sincerity: Principal for personal ministry.

A. Clear Conscience: Paul is defending himself against accusations that he was fickle and un-reliable.

- The Corinthian believers were so used to ministers that were calculated and manipulative that they figured Paul must be the same way!
- Paul Could Boast of his conduct because he really was what he professed! His life was well ordered because he lived with such a principle of heart!
- He was walking in God’s Grace which allowed him to live with a godly sincerity.

2. Fleshly Wisdom: Acts 8:19-21

A. Simon the Sorcerer had a desire to have spiritual power for personal ends.

- He had no part or portion in this _____ matter because his heart wasn’t right before God.
- His desire wasn’t rooted in a Godly sincerity...It was rooted in the flesh!

3. Caring for the Heart of the Unbeliever:

A. God’s Mission Statement- “And I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD...They will return to me with all their heart.” Jeremiah 24:7

- Sin comes from the heart (Gen. 6, Matt. 15:19)
- “if you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart you will be saved! (Romans 10:9)

B. Personal Traditions: (Matt 15) If we aren’t sincerely concerned about a person’s heart then we have no part or portion in this matter.

- Transgress the commandment of God for the sake of tradition.
- “These people honor me with their lips but their heart is far away!
- A believer can operate on this same principle in evangelism if our hearts aren’t right before God.

II. Practical Application: Acts 8:26-40

1. Philip Listened to God (26): We need to be paying attention to God! When we are led by God’s Spirit it may not always look like we would expect.

A- God’s Power: We are not likely to have angels instruct today but we can know the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

1. The Holy Spirit:

- a. God’s means of empowering us to witness. (*Acts 1:8*)
- b. “Be filled with the Holy Spirit” (*Eph. 5:8*). Without understanding the role of the Holy Spirit in witnessing we may be trying to work through our own power and human effort!
 - i. Our human abilities are no match for the forces of _____ that work to keep a lost person from Christ. (*Eph. 6:12*)

- ii. We need to understand that the Holy Spirit's role is to convict s (John 16: 8-11) and also to them of the power of God. (1 Corinthians 2: 1-5; 1:18)
- iii. Remember our role is to simply share the good news of Jesus and witness to what He has done in OUR lives.

B. God is in control: Sometimes God can use unfavorable circumstances. If we are not sensitively listening to God we may miss an opportunity that is camouflaged in suffering.

- 1. God used severe persecution of the church to lead Philip away from Jerusalem... a place where the church and gospel were thriving.
- 2. God leads Philip from Samaria. He left a place of prosperity to go to a desert road.

C. God will us to the right person at the right time.

- 1. A religious man: An Ethiopian convert to Judaism. :
 - a. He had come to Jerusalem to worship. Over 200 miles
 - b. He was reading from scripture.
 - i. Could mean he was already secure about what he believes.
 - ii. OR it could mean he is hungry for truth.
- 3. A man of great authority:
 - a. God is not partial (Rom. 2:11) We must understand that in order to get over the fear we may have in witnessing to that "someone" in our life that we may be intimidated to share Christ with.

2. Philip acted quickly upon God's prompting. (30a)

A. Philip RAN!

- 1. He did not procrastinate showing great obedience and trust in God.
- 2. "Today is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2)
 - a. Today is the day of salvation basically means...don't wait! If we believe that the unbeliever shouldn't wait to trust in Christ, then as believers we shouldn't wait to share the good news with them.

3. Philip initiates the conversation. (30b)

A. He asks him a question. "Do you understand what you are reading?"

- 1. Asking questions help conversation.
 - a. Jesus started the conversation with the woman at the well by "asking her for a drink" (John 4:7)
- 2. In most cases it is most effective to start with a non-gospel topic and then turn the conversation to Christ.
 - a. "However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; Then the spiritual." (1 Corinthians 15:46)
 - i. If they are reading a book ask them about the book. If they are wearing an article of clothing that makes a statement use it to start a conversation.

4. Refer back to God's scripture as soon as possible.

A. God's word is alive and active. It is important that we trust it as so. (Acts 2:37, Hebrews 4:12)

B. God's word is a powerful weapon!

- Jesus understood that truth is not sweet music to all ears so he often used parables as a instrument of mercy!

Conclusion: Effective evangelism looks like a heart rooted in a godly sincerity that loves the heart of the lost...right where they are...with the same gentle love that drew us to Christ...not pushed us away!

1 Corinthians 13: 1-4 "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or clanging cymbal. If I have prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love I am nothing..."