

Sharing The Gospel

#10

Read: John 4:4-26

List a few observations as to how Jesus introduced spiritual issues into the conversation.

Read John 4:27-30, 39-42

Verses 28-29 could summarize the essential of evangelism: telling others what Jesus has done for us. The word evangelism simply means “to proclaim the good news.” Evangel is another word for “Gospel”, which means “Good News”. Another word used in the New Testament for evangelism is “testimony”.

What happens in a court room when someone gives their testimony? _____

The same is true for the Christ follower. God desires us to share with others the difference He has made in our lives.

Now put yourself in the place of the woman Jesus met at the well.

What would you report, or give a testimony to, that Jesus has done in your life? _____

Telling this to someone IS evangelism.

In your conversations with people, have you ever sensed social awkwardness when the topic turned to religious thought? _____

This potential awkwardness may lesson ones desire to tell another about Jesus.

The following are four biblical reasons that motivate us to leave our comfort zone and tell another about Jesus, in spite of any awkwardness we may feel.

1. God's Fame

The reason for doing evangelism is the very same reason for our existence. Why do we exist? In order to bring glory to God. What is glory? Perhaps the best way to think of glory is our word “fame.” We live to declare the wonders of God, or to make Him famous. When we love others with God's love, or give Him thanks in all things, we are singing His praises – making Him famous. When we choose not to sin, we declare to the world that God is more satisfying than sin. We are declaring His greatness.

How does doing evangelism bring God glory or make Him famous? _____

2. People Are Lost

Read 2 Corinthians 4:4

What does this say about the state of people apart from Christ? _____

Satan is holding them hostage, keeping them in prison, and blinding them to the Gospel. As Paul states in Ephesians, they are “without hope and without God in the world.”

In what ways have you witnessed this blindness? How have you observed Satan keeping people blinded? _____

What do you think happens to those who haven't heard the Gospel? This can be a challenging thought! But knowing this provides urgency for us to tell them! _____

The truth is that the Scriptures don't describe a Plan B; only Plan A, which is for Christians to go tell those who are lost about Christ.

Make a list of friends and family who you would guess may not know Christ yet. _____

Begin praying for each of them that they would come to know Christ.

3. We Are Ambassadors

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

What does it mean to be an ambassador? _____

What difference would it make if we went out each day seeing ourselves as Gods ambassador? _____

Why do you think God chooses to make His appeal through us? _____

4. Increasing Our Joy

The apostle John in the beginning of his first epistle states, “We write this to make our joy complete.” To better understand this, let me ask you a question: Is it possible to sit down and eat your favorite meal with a group of friends and not make some noise of approval (mmm!)? Of course not!

Why? We instinctively want to complete our joy. When we truly delight in something, the way in which we complete our joy is to tell others, or say (mmm!). This is the physics on joy and it must complete its circuit in order to be fully enjoyed.

Why do we share Christ with others? It completes our joy. If we are enjoying our walk with Christ, our Christian experience is still incomplete until we can share it with another.

Perhaps the greatest thing we can do to excel our own walk and joy in the Lord is to be engaged in sharing this joy with others.

What's the Gospel?

As we've seen, evangelism is sharing our story or testimony with others. It is also critical that we communicate the essential truths of the Gospel message.

As best you can, write out how you might explain the Gospel to a friend: _____

A simple way to remember the basic truths of the Gospel is to memorize four sets of words: Look us the corresponding verses to reinforce the words.

1. **God Loves** (John 3:16)
2. **We Sin** (Romans 3:23)
3. **Jesus Substitutes** (Romans 6:23)
4. **We Decide** (Romans 10:9)

Though God loves us, the problem we incur is **sin**. It is universal, and at some level, almost everyone acknowledges that they fall short of either God's standards or their own.

The **penalty** for our sin is death. This is not physical death, but spiritual. The result of sin is eternal spiritual separation from God.

The **provision** for our sin is Christ's death. He took our place, substituting His own death for the one we owe.

The decision one needs to make is to place their faith in Christ to pay the penalty for their sin (to be their Savior). It is not enough to have been raised in a good family or even brought up in the church. This is a personal decision we all must make to place our faith in Jesus.

Without looking back, try to recall the four sets of words that explain the Gospel. Bonus points if you recall a corresponding verse.

1. _____ (John _____)
2. _____ (Romans _____)
3. _____ (Romans _____)
4. _____ (Romans _____)

Memorize: Romans 3:23