TAKING INVENTORY

"*What we need to know about Evangelism*"

John 1:40-42

INTRODUCTION:

1. Societies problems are not just societies problems.
    a) They are our (churches) problems.

2. Matthew 5:13

3. The church has been called to influence society.
    a) That's why we are taking INVENTORY of what we need to know!!
        1) **Sermon #1** – Why we need to be saved.
            a. ***Ephesians 2:1-3***
        2) **Sermon #2** – How to know you are saved.
            a. ***John 10:27***
        3) **Sermon #3** – Baptism
            a. ***Matthew 28:19-20***
        4) **Sermon #4** – The WORD
            a) ***2 Timothy 3:16-17***
        5) **TODAY – #5** - What we need to know about EVANGELISM
            a. ***John 1:40-42***

4. God's people have been called to be **INFLUENCERS** IN Society.
    a) ***Matthew 28:19-20***

5. If we are going to carry out the GREAT COMMISSION of Jesus to impact culture for good, ***we must return to a focus on evangelism*** and ***discipleship*** that results in **CULTURAL** transformation.

6. Discipleship is that ***developmental process*** that progressively brings Christians from ***spiritual infancy*** to ***spiritual maturity*** so that they are then able to ***reproduce the process with someone else***.
    a) ***The most important goal of discipleship is to bring all of life under the Lordship of Christ and then help someone else do the same.***

7. **WOW!!!** WE ARE NOT DOING THE WORK OF THE CHURCH if we are not winning souls to Christ.

THREE ASPECTS OF EVANGELISM

I. THE <u>OBJECTIVE</u> OF EVENGELISM

1. **EVANGELISM is defined as sharing the Good News.**
    a) ***What's the Good News?***
        1) The Good News is the Gospel – ***1 Corinthians 15:1-4***
        2) It's the free offer of forgiveness of sin and eternal life to all who, by faith, come to Jesus to receive it.

    b) The INTENT of evangelism is to bring the hearer to faith in Jesus Christ.
        1) ***Matthew 28:16-20***

    c) The church's job is to challenge, encourage, and equip its members to effectively share their faith with unbelievers.

2. The most comprehensive summary of our calling is **Matthew 28:16-20**.
    a) That's what's known as the Great Commission.
    b) The Great Commission and the Great Commandment make a Great Church.

3. **Vs 16**
    a) This was the only organized meeting Jesus called ***during His 40 days between His resurrection and ascension***.

    b) There were 3 groups called to this meeting:
        1) The disciples
        2) The more than 500 that Paul talks about in ***1 Corinthians 15:6***.
        3) And us!!!! "***even to the end of the age***." Vs 20

I. THE OBJECTIVE OF EVANGELISM

II. THE <u>TRACK</u> OF EVANGELISM

A. THE <u>REASON</u> WHY WE NEED TO BE SAVED – WE HAVE SINNED

1. ***Romans 3:23***
    a) "***All have sinned and***"
    b) "***fall short***"
    b) "***of the glory of God***" - Is the standard to meet to get to heaven
        1) The glory of God is the ***manifestation of His being.***

2. **Remember God's standard is perfection**.
    a) We fall short of the glory of God.
    b) ***To glorify means to put on display.***
    c) Because we sin, we fail to show God off.

3. ***When we fall short of the glory of God, we live in a manner that does not reflect His character***.

a) However, as believers ***we have the ability to bring Him credit and praise***.

4. "***All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God***"

a) In Scripture, sin is not measured on a yardstick.

B. **THE <u>CONSEQUENCE</u> OF OUR SIN**

1. ***Romans 5:12***

a) "***because all have sinned***"

2. **Sin demands a penalty.**

a) That penalty, according to Scripture, is death.

1) That means eternal separation from God in a place of torment.

C. THE <u>CURE</u> OF SIN

1. ***Romans 5:8***

2. ***Ephesians 2:8-9***

3. To truly believe in Jesus means to personally trust, to have total confidence in Jesus substitutionary atonement on the cross.

4. **WOW!!!** If you depend on anything else, other than Jesus for your salvation, then what you are saying is that Jesus Christ, and His substitutionary atonement is not enough.

III. THE MOTIVATION <u>BEHIND</u> EVANGELISM

A. A ROYAL <u>PROCLAMATION</u>

1. In ancient times when a king defeated his foes and he took possession of the throne; his reign would be officially announced to all the citizens of his kingdom.

2. This announcement was the Greek word, "***eu – angelion***".

a) "**eu**" – meaning "**good**"

b) "***angellia***" – meaning "**news**"

3. The "***good news***" was that the king had defeated his rivals, establishing peace for the inhabitants of his kingdom.

4. That is the historical context for the "***eu – angelion***" (the gospel).

5. The royal proclamation of the good news of a new ruler taking or reclaiming the throne.

a) The king would send out heralds or ***<u>ambassadors</u>*** to proclaim this good news and let everyone know who was in charge.

b) ***Paul, as well as the other writers of the New Testament understood the gospel in light of this context.***

1) **NOW WATCH** -The N.T. writers drew their understanding of "***eu" – "angelion***" from the larger story of Scripture.

a) The story of a **"good creation"** gone bad because of the fall of humanity into rebellion against the true King and creator of this world.

6. **THIS IS CRUCIAL TO OUR UNDERSTANDING**!!!!

a) Yet instead of taking back His earthly kingdom by force, God chose the most powerful weapon of all to win back HIS kingdom

1) ***John 3:16 (LOVE)***

b) ***Instead of sending an army***….<u>God sent His Son who gave His life to offer the direction of securing the hearts of the Kings people.</u>

7. **THE GOSPEL ANNOUNCES THE GOOD NEWS**

a) ***1 Corinthians 15:3-4***

B. THE <u>MOTIVATION</u> FOR EVANGELISM

1. ***Believers are called to be heralds to announce the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel.***

2. ***God has called pastors and church leaders to evangelize and to inspire others to do the same.***

a) ***@ the heart of this inspiration is the motivation to be obedient to God's Word.***

3. Our witness to the world ought to be part of who we are!!!

4. If evangelism is only something you do, it becomes a program.

a) For Paul evangelism was something he was!!

1) Paul was all about sharing the Gospel.

b) ***If evangelism is not part of your Christian life, you are living in disobedience*** and missing the joy of the Lord because evangelism brings the Lord joy which overflows to you.

5. **IN 2ND CORINTHIANS 5 Paul gives us 4 reasons to be motivated.**
   a) **Reason #1 - THE FEAR OF THE LORD**
      1) ***2 Corinthians 5:9-11***
         a) Paul knew God was to be taken seriously.
         b) And if we are to take God seriously, ***we will do whatever it takes to make sure that when we stand before God on judgment day, we know we tried to please God and persuade others toward salvation.***
      2) ***1 Peter 4:17-18***
         a) Paul was aware that if the saints could expect a day of judgment before God, how much worse off will the unsaved be?

   b) **Reason #2 - WE ARE A NEW CREATION**
      1) ***2 Corinthians 5:17***

      2) The Gospel changes a person's life.

   c) **Reason #3 - WE HAVE THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION**
      1) ***2 Corinthians 5:18-19***

      2) God has chosen not to do the ministry of reconciliation by Himself, but He wants us to participate with Him.

      3) ***2 Corinthians 5:20-21***

   d) Reason **#4 – OUR LOVE FOR GOD AND OTHERS**
      1) Paul urged us to share the gospel out of a motivation of love of God and others.

      2) Love weaves through all motives to share the gospel.

      3) ***John 3:16***

      4) Jesus' ministry models for us the mission is to love the People God has placed on our path.

CONCLUSION:

1. ***1 Timothy 2:1-4***