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| Why Do We Do It?

Recap so far:

In week 1 we looked at:

- What is Evangelism?
- The Evangelist
- Lausanne Covenant
- The Gospel Message
- Goals
- Methods

Then, we looked at Church strategy:

- Ploughing
- Sowing
- Reaping
- Keeping

This week we are looking into WHY we do Evangelism. It's an interesting question and one worth individually considering:

WHY DO WE DO EVANGELISM?

WHY DO YOU DO EVANGELISM?

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

| The Command Of Jesus

If you are like me and have the Holy Spirit indwelling you and anointing you to be a witness [\[Acts 1:8\]](#) you will not have a problem in taking your orders from Jesus Christ! He loves us and wants the best possible life for us – literally His life – an abundant life, where the water of the Spirit flows through us to the world.

Let's look at the 'command' or 'order' of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age." [\[Matt 28:18-20\]](#)

WOW! ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH.

ALL AUTHORITY!

We also notice here that the aim is to 'make disciples', not just to get someone saved; as we have already looked at in earlier sessions. It also shows us in verse 19 what the first step is in making disciples following their conversion '...baptising them...' In fact in [Mark 16:16](#) we read, 'Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved...'

The Gospel message we carry includes the need to be baptised as core to the Christian faith.

So Jesus commands us to GO into our society, make friends and positively influence people for Him and to make disciples through leading them to a living faith in Jesus Christ and as a first step seeing them baptised.

We've got our orders from the King!

| The Evangelists Disposition

Disposition is defined as, 'An inclination, tendency or physical property'.

In my experience, someone who is successfully Evangelistic will probably be:

- Passionately in love with Jesus Christ.
- Determined to make a difference in the world we live in and in particular their sphere of influence.
- A person with time for other people.
- A person who is prepared to adjust their agenda or timetable to react positively to an opportunity to 'do good' to another.
- Aware of their own failings and quick to admit to failure and then to repentance and renewed faith.
- Able to communicate with grace in a non-judgmental way and approach.
- Affected by the news they see on TV or read about – in other words connected with society and its needs.
- Prepared in season and out of season to share their life with others, often giving even when it costs them.
- All too aware of the reality of heaven and Hell.
- Impatient and sometimes 'hurting' with the sense of, 'its just not happening quick enough'

| You Just Can't Keep This To Yourself

For all we have looked at in recent sessions, at the end of the day, the Gospel is always GOOD NEWS!

Command or not, Jesus does people the world of good! With Jesus in charge a soul is saved for all eternity from an unimaginable separation from God, goodness, joy, peace, happiness, contentment...

As Christians we are all too aware of the plight of millions of wonderful created beings who we share this world with. God has made a fabulous world. It's beauty is astounding. The four seasons, which keep us fresh with anticipation of changes ahead. The night sky and the phases of a beautiful moon, new every month. Good works and a smile of thanks on the face of a person we help along the way. A loving email or text from a kind friend, understanding of the pressures of a day.

We are so blessed and simply cannot keep this message to ourselves.

Imagine the scene;

As a loving parent and husband/wife, you receive a gift of a lot of money that you never even knew was due to you. You call your bank and establish the best place to hide it in a single named account, that was secure and gave good interest. You made sure that no one could ever possibly find out about it, because you just wanted to know that it was safe for a future date when you would spend it all on yourself. You had the benefit just for you.

Crazy isn't it! You would never do that!

Instead we would celebrate and include the whole family in our celebrations. Even good friends would benefit as we generously helped in ways and at levels we simply could not have done before. Our lives would automatically assist and touch others around us. First our own family, and then our friends. You can imagine the joy of watching your children opening a gift which they had always wanted.

It might be a silly analogy but it makes a point worth considering for a moment. We have the best gift anyone can ever receive and it's designed by the Creator himself to be shared. The very essence of the life we have received through the death and resurrection of Jesus himself, is generosity. He gave himself to us so that we can give ourselves, in His anointing, to others.

What a privilege.

| The Good Samaritan

Read [Luke 10:25-37](#):

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live".

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.

The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

SOME BACKGROUND

Samaria was a region of central Palestine that was once the capital of Israel. In 721 B.C. it was captured by the Assyrians who, deported much of the population and replaced them with foreign colonists [[2 Kings 17:24-33](#)]. The colonists were pagans who eventually intermarried with the remaining Jews. They adopted the religion of Israel, but they also continued to worship their pagan idols. The Jews considered the Samaritans to be religious heretics of a foreign nationality and an inferior race. The Samaritans offered to help rebuild the Jewish temple, but their offer was rebuffed [[Ezra 4:1-3](#)].

Finally the Samaritans built a rival temple on Mt. Gerizim and proclaimed it, rather than the Jewish temple, to be the true house of God. By the time of Jesus, the Jews and Samaritans had hated each other for hundreds of years.

With that background, it is easy to understand that there was no one the Jewish expert in the law would have considered to be less of a 'neighbour' than a Samaritan. If a Samaritan man could be a 'neighbour' to the Jewish man who was robbed and beaten, then the definition of 'neighbour' would have to include all people, regardless of race, religion, nationality or any other distinction.

The Samaritan man gave freely of both his time and his money to help a Jewish man who was not only a stranger, but also was of a different religion, a foreigner and an enemy of his people.

Imagine on your way to work you come across a situation which demanded you to scrap your agenda for at least the morning, to attend to a beaten man who you naturally would never associate yourself with, and to use whatever items you had with you to make bandages (your own clothes torn into strips?), to load a stranger who was bleeding into your car, and then to pay someone to look after them as you continued with your now 'set backed' plans. This is exactly what's described here.

In this powerful evangelistic parable, Jesus challenges us to "Go and do likewise." We do not have to agree with other people's beliefs and opinions, or condone their actions or lifestyles, but Jesus calls us to overcome our prejudices and show our kindness to all people we meet throughout our days at work or college or at home etc., and to consider them our neighbours.

I just love this parable and recommend a study of it to you - it will change your life!

It speaks so clearly of our need to ensure that every day we get up with a prayer that says "your will be done through me today" [Matt 6:9]. It ensures we will "make the most of every opportunity" [Eph 5:15].