

AN OUTLINE FOR EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM

Imagine we were in a hospital. This hospital is state of the art with huge windows and soaring facilities, and the staff is known for their commitment to serving those who are sick, wounded and hurting. One morning, a man walks into this beautiful establishment with dirty and ripped clothes, dripping with blood from the bleeding and infected wounds that littered his body... but he was unaware of his condition. He drug himself to the receptionist counter and while throwing himself against it out of pure exhaustion he asks the receptionist, "This is a beautiful place. What do you guys do?" The receptionist looked with shock and terror at the state of this man and in fear said nothing. The man then turns around and wanders off, never to be seen again. This is a metaphor of how Christians usually respond to the lost and non-believers today.

How many times do we encounter people in our day to day lives, but we stay quiet about the gospel? We don't call out their sin or their need for Jesus because we don't like conflict. We don't want to rock the boat, but let me tell you church, people are poisoned by their sin and on their way to hell without Jesus.

We **NEED** to share the gospel to those around us and those close to us because God has given us the responsibility of loving the people He's placed in our lives. **Are you loving your people well?** Are you caring for your people in a way that if Christ came back right now and assessed your love of His people, would you be found faithful?

I want to welcome you to **Week 8 of Spirit & Truth!** Over the last few weeks we have been talking about how God's plan for taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world is through the church. This week we will be giving you an outline for effective evangelism. I want to show you how God saves people. Then I want to motivate you to share the Gospel with the lost people by showing you that you can't lose when you speak on the resurrection power of the cross.

What does the word evangelism even mean? Evangelism is a fancy way of saying to spread the gospel of Jesus. As believers, we are called to go out and spread the gospel to all nations; but that sounds kinda scary doesn't it? There are a lot of angles you can approach sharing the gospel with people but there are really two main things you need in order to effectively share the gospel with others.

The first thing we need when sharing the gospel is that **we need to understand the gospel.**

Makes sense, right? We can't explain something we don't know about or understand. Our ability to share the gospel is a reflection of our understanding of it. We can only share it to the degree in which we understand it. Paul says this in **Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)** "9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." The good news is that Jesus is Lord, He died on the cross for our sins, and He rose from the dead in victory over sin, death, and evil. God did the work, we trust in that work. **By our faith we are justified, meaning in Jesus it's just-as-if we**

have never sinned. With our mouth and actions we show our faith, and it's by faith we are saved. Faith in Jesus. Faith in His death, burial, and resurrection.

Isn't that good news! Jesus won the victory and He has come to us with freedom. And we get to choose whether we will follow Him and rest in His freedom. Have you done that? If you have, do you understand what that means? It means you are forgiven of sin, freed from the bondage of sin and death, you are now a child of God, you are royalty in God's kingdom, you have a higher calling than this world says, you have all eternity to be with God, you have full access to God, you are empowered by God to do what God made you to do, and the list goes on. Do you understand the gospel and the implications of it in your life? You are freed, restored, empowered, enlightened, loved, and made new! That should make us shout praises to God.

Paul continues on in **Romans 10:11-13 (NIV)** **"11 As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."** Verse 11 says that anyone who BELIEVES in Christ will never be put to shame. Now this belief is not just a fact you agree with but it's one that involves our actions and the way we live our lives. If someone repents of their sin and trusts in Jesus, no matter what they've done prior to that moment, all is forgiven and they will never be put to shame by Christ for their sins. This is a beautiful thing about the kingdom of God and Christ's sacrifice, because how many times have we seen people be judged for their lives before Christ? But in **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)** Paul says, **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"** So in Christ, anyone can be made new and there's no shame for those who trust in Him.

Paul goes on to say in Romans 10:12-13,

12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

If you recall in the story we started this message off with, when the receptionist saw what state the man was in, she kept her mouth closed out of fear. It doesn't matter what state someone is in. If they call on the name of the Lord, they WILL be saved. It doesn't matter if they are homeless or rich, Cashier or CEO, clean cut or they got a little B.O. Jesus is Lord over all, and everyone who calls on Him will be saved! In your own life, how many times have you used the state that someone was in as an excuse to not share the gospel and love on them?

There have been many times where I've convinced myself to not talk to someone about Jesus because they looked homeless, busy, or upset but honestly, **if they weren't those things I would have found another excuse not to approach them.** It's only when we realize that Jesus' death wasn't just for us, but for everyone, that we will be willing to share the gospel with everyone no matter what state they are in.

So once we have firm grasp on what the gospel is and what it means to trust in Jesus, that leads us to our second point;

The second thing we need when sharing the gospel is that **we need to actually go preach the gospel.**

Do you sense the need to preach the gospel to those around you? Paul definitely did. Look at what Paul says just about his own people in **Romans 10:1 (NIV)**, “**Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.**”

Do you desire people to be saved? Do you desire for your family members, your friends, and your people to be saved? If your initial answer is not yes, then you need to have a heart check with God. Because God desires people to be saved, **1 Timothy 2:3-4 (NIV)**, “**3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.**” If you desire something good, don’t you go for it? Don’t you fight for it, or train for it, or study for it? It’s the same thing with helping others trust in Jesus to be saved. You could be a part of how God wants to save your family members, friends, and people. But if you don’t strive for this, let me ask, **Who else is going to share Jesus with your people like you could?** You are in a unique position to be all things to your family members, friends, and people because you are already one of them and understand where they are coming from. You have a better understanding of how to share the gospel with them and how to really care for them. Other believers would need to take extra time to gain the insights and knowledge that God has blessed you with to reach your people. But if nobody shares the gospel with your people, then what?

Paul says this in **Romans 10:14-15 (NIV)**, “**14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”**”

It’s pretty simple. If no one is sent to preach the gospel, then who will go out to preach the gospel? If no one preaches the gospel to your people, how can they hear about Jesus and salvation? If your people don’t hear about Jesus and salvation, then how can they believe in Jesus? And if they have not believed in Jesus, then how can they call out to Jesus to save them? I think the answer is **THEY CAN’T.**

Notice this is about all Christians. This is not just the pastors’ job. This is the job of everyone who claims to believe in Jesus, to go preach the gospel to unbelievers. And this is not just a Sunday morning thing, this is an everyday thing. To preach the gospel simply means to publicly proclaim the gospel. To speak it and share it with others.

Look at how Paul ends this in verse 15, “**As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”**” When Christians go preach the gospel, it is a beautiful thing! It is a beautiful thing because you are bringing the good news! It is a beautiful thing to go to people, who are sinners on the way to hell, and tell them that God made a way for them to be forgiven of their

sins and saved through Jesus because God loves them, and if they turn to Jesus, believe in Him, and follow Him then they will be saved.

If you had the cure for cancer, and refused to share that with the world, what would God say about your actions? Well... you have the cure to the sin problem that is sending people straight to hell and the cure is found in Jesus. We shouldn't be afraid to preach and share the gospel. We should be excited! Why are we not excited? If I am honest, it's because I usually care more about how people perceive me and treat me, rather than care about whether people go to heaven or hell.

We don't see preaching the gospel as beautiful usually because we see it as scary. We obsess more about things going wrong for ourselves rather than obsess over the thought of people going from death to life in Jesus. We obsess more about our comforts and emotions rather than obsess over the possibility of someone finding freedom and peace in Jesus.

Do you see preaching the gospel as beautiful? I'm sure you've experienced the beauty of the change that the gospel brought in your life for those who believe. You've seen how God brought you from death to life. Why is it that we don't want to share that beauty with those in need of it? Yes, this salvation is the free gift of God that can't be earned or worked for. But this gift comes with responsibility.

2 Peter 1:3-8 (NIV) “3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

If we continue to add to our faith the things that Peter lists out in verses 5-7, it will help us be effective and productive in our walk with Jesus. So a byproduct of our maturity in Christ, is understanding the gospel and being able to share it with others. If you are able to clearly communicate it and share it, then chances are that you have allowed the gospel to impact, heal, and mature you. Remember, our ability to share the gospel is a reflection of our understanding of it and we can only share it to the degree in which we understand it.

It's messages like these that are often the most convicting because we all fall so short. It doesn't matter if you have a ministry that reaches thousands of people or only ten people, there are always opportunities that we miss when it comes to sharing the gospel. I can think of numerous people that I didn't approach and friends whose sin I didn't call out because I was scared of the possibility of rejection. My life is littered with the selfishness that I let get in the way of sharing the gospel because I won't let God deal with it.

Selfishness with the gospel will steal the joy of your salvation and it will hinder, if not stop, others from knowing Christ. The way that we fulfill God's law is by loving God and loving people, and if we do that in the correct order, we will do what God has called us to. And if we truly love God and love people, then our walk with Jesus should be proclaiming the gospel too. Our lives should be proclaiming the good news of Jesus too. So we are not to view preaching the gospel as a tag on to our lives, but we should see preaching the gospel as something that is already a part of our lives. We should be sharing the gospel through both our words and actions with those around us. The more we become like Jesus, the more we will share the gospel with our words and our lives. So let us all go out and preach the gospel. Let us share Jesus with the rest of the world. Let's pray.

Invitation:

Do you understand the gospel? If it is still confusing, find a leader or pastor to talk to.

- If you understand that the gospel is solely that Jesus died for your sins and rose from the dead and that if you call out to Him then you will be saved, then you understand enough to share.
- You do not have to be a scholar to understand it, however the gospel is both simple and deep.

Are you sharing the gospel? What is keeping you from sharing it?

- Sharing that Jesus died for their sin and rose from the dead, and if they trust in Jesus then they will be saved
- Your greatest way to tell someone about Jesus is to tell them about what He's done for you. Your testimony. How did Jesus save you? How did you come to trust in Jesus?
- Practice telling your testimony out loud, keep it simple and short
- Tie back into "are you loving people well" here, because John 13:34-35 says people will know we are his disciples based on how we love others.
- **MISSION OPPORTUNITY AT ROUNDABOUT CHRISTMAS EVENT Dec. 16th!**

Have you received the gospel? Have you trusted in Jesus?

- Are you the bleeding man in the hospital story in need of the doctor? Are you in need of healing? Do you have sores that's not healing on their own?