Practice of Witness

Practice the Way of Jesus

October 18th, 2026
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OPENING QUESTION

When you hear the words ‘evangelism’ or ‘witness,’ what initial feelings or images come to mind?

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 9:35-38
Acts 1:8
Matthew 9:9-13

KEY TAKE AWAY(S)

- **Jesus sees people with compassion, and we are called to see people the same way that He does. - Matthew 9:35-36**
    - Jesus doesn’t look past the lost, hurting, or searching people; He sees them. Before Jesus sends workers into the harvest, He first reveals His heart of compassion.

- **The harvest is plentiful, but the workers must be willing to join God’s mission. - Matthew 9:37-38**
    - Sean emphasized that the issue is certainly not whether there are people ready to receive God’s love. The need is for workers who are willing to go.
    - Evangelism is not trying to force something to happen or initiate something in someone. Rather, it is joining the work God is already doing in people’s hearts.

- **Witness happens through relationship, hospitality, and shared tables. - Matthew 9:9-13**
    - The Bible is very clear in revealing how Jesus did not avoid people that were considered sinful, dishonest, spiritually distant, or outcast. Instead, Jesus moved toward them (i.e. Matthew, the tax collector). Evangelism isn’t always preaching the Gospel to strangers, it can also look like inviting someone into your home, finding an opportunity to serve someone, or creating an opportunity for walls to come down.
- **We witness through the power of the Holy Spirit, not our own strength and doing. - Acts 1:8**
    - Sean stated that not everyone is called to be an evangelist, but every follower of Jesus is called to be a witness. Witness is not about personality type, confidence, or having all of the answers. Instead, it is about receiving power and guidance from the Holy Spirit and being obedient to the work God is doing in you and through you.

QUESTIONS

1. **Matthew 9:35-36 says Jesus “saw the crowds” and “had compassion on them.” Who are the people in your everyday life that you may be looking past, but Jesus is inviting you to see the way He sees them?**

2. **Jesus says, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” What fears, excuses, or assumptions keep us from seeing ourselves as workers in God’s harvest?**

3. **In Matthew 9:9-13, Jesus moves toward Matthew and shares a table with tax collectors and sinners. What would it look like for you to practice witness through hospitality and/or relationship?**
    a. **Has there been a time in your faith journey where someone created space for you at the table that led you to where you are as a follower of Jesus today?**

4. **Acts 1:8 says we receive power from the Holy Spirit to be Jesus' witnesses. Knowing this, how does it change the way you think about evangelism, acknowledging that God is already at work and that you are not responsible for "saving" people?**

5. **Sean pointed out that everyone is "preaching" something through what they talk about and share. What has your life or conversation with others been testifying to lately? How might God be inviting you to more intentionally point people toward Jesus?**

PRACTICE

Pray, Notice, Invite, Share

This week, choose one person to pray for, one opportunity to notice where God is working, one step of invitation, and one simple way to share the love of Jesus with someone. Remember, we are not responsible for "saving" anyone, but we are invited and called to join the Holy Spirit in the work that God is already doing.

1. **Pray for one person by name who may be far from God, spiritually curious, hurting, or in need of encouragement.**

2. **Notice where God may already be at work.** If you ask God to help you see people the way He sees them, you may be surprised at the way He is already moving.

3. **Invite someone into relationship.** Ask them to join you for coffee or lunch, invite another parent to the park with the kids, send a check-in text, invite them to church, ask if there is anything you can be praying for. **Witness does not always begin with a sermon, it often begins at a table or through a relationship.**

4. **Share one sentence of testimony.** Be prepared to say something simple and honest about Jesus if the opportunity arises. For example, "I've been praying for you," "I believe God sees you and cares about what you're walking through," or "I just want you to know that Jesus loves you exactly as you are."

Who is your one? What is your next step?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for the compassion and love you demonstrate in the way that you see people. Would you help me to have the eyes to see people in the way that you view them. I desire to serve you and join the harvest, so would you help me to be confident and obedient to the ways you are calling me to join in on the work you are already doing. I pray that you would give me an opportunity to share with someone the incredible story of how you have impacted me and my life. Amen.