

7-20-2025, COTR Texarkana

Title: What Do I Say to Lost People?

Purpose: Provoke people to have a sense of responsibility for lost souls and actively reach as many people as we can for Jesus before it's eternally too late.

Truth for Today: I may be the only person standing between heaven and hell for a lost soul.

Text: Psalm 51:5

Topic: Lost, Saved, Salvation, Witnessing, Evangelism

Sermon series: You Said WHAT?

Series purpose: Provoke people to talk to God, themselves, others and the devil in a Biblical way

What Do I Say to Lost People?

I. Introduction (Free book, America's Christian Heritage)

- A. Review series: You Said WHAT? [Pr.18:21 (ESV)] Death and life are in the power of the tongue.]. We've talked about the words we say to God, what we think and say to ourselves, self-talk and what we say to other people. Today we'll talk about what we say to lost people.
- B. Song: Amazing **grace!** *How sweet the sound...That saved a **wretch** like me!...**I once was lost, but now am found...Was blind, but now I see.*** 'Amazing Grace' was written by John Newton. He was once a captain of a slave trading ship, and something happened to cause him to become a leader in the abolition of slavery as an Anglican minister. He was lost, away from God and God found him.
- C. As Christians, Jesus wants us to tell lost people about Him so they can have a relationship with God and be saved from the judgment of their sin. This is what we'll talk about today by answering 6 questions. You and I may be the only person standing between heaven and hell for a lost soul.
- D. Title: What Do I Say to Lost People?

II. What does it mean to be lost or an unsaved person?

- A. Def. lost or unsaved: Someone who is separated or away from God because of sin.
- B. Def. found or saved: Someone who finds God and will be saved/ spared from the judgment of sin on Judgment Day.
- C. Why are we lost? [Psalm 51:5 (NLT)] For **I was born a sinner**— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.]. Every human being inherited Adam and Eve's sinful nature. We were born a sinner in need of a Savior.

III. What did Jesus tell Christians to do before He ascended to heaven?

- A. [Mark 16:15 (NLT)] he (*Jesus*) told them, “**Go into all the world and preach (NCV tell) the Good News to everyone.**] i.e. lead them to salvation and teach them to be followers of Jesus.
 - 1. This is not the job of a select few. Jesus gave every Christian this mission/ job/ task/ in the last chapter of every gospel and in Acts underscoring it as the primary mission of our life. That's why theologians call it, 'The Great Commission'.
 - 2. At COTR we have a local mission field and a world-wide mission field. Locally all of us are called to reach people we know and meet. As a church we have 100+ ministries, groups and outreaches to reach and disciple people. Globally, we

empower national leaders and partner with organizations that do by giving Bibles, feeding the poor, digging water wells, building churches, training national pastors, and organizing short term mission trips.

IV. Why is Jesus so important for salvation?

- A. [John 14:6 (ESV)] Jesus said to him, “**I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**” i.e. I am the only way to get to heaven
1. Why? Jesus lived a sinless life and bore the judgment for our sin when he shed His blood on the cross. The Bible links blood to forgiveness. [Hebrews 9:22 (ESV)]...**without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.** When we put our faith in Jesus’ death on the cross, God declares us righteousness and removes our sin and its judgment thereby saving us. The substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross is what makes Christianity distinct from any other religion.

V. Why is this so important to tell lost people about Jesus?

- A. Heaven and hell are real. Everyone will spend eternity somewhere. Eternity means forever. Jesus parable, Jesus predicting Judgement Day, [Matthew 25:46 (ESV)] And these will go away into **eternal punishment**, but the righteous into **eternal life.**”]
- B. Heaven/ eternal life: [Rev. 21:1–4 (NLT)] Then I saw a new **heaven** and a new earth ...³...God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them...⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone **forever.**”
- C. Hell/ eternal punishment, [Rev. 20:11–15 (NLT)] And I saw a **great white throne** and the one sitting on it...¹² I saw the **dead**, both great and small, **standing before God’s throne.** And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were **judged according to what they had done**, as recorded in the books...¹⁵ And anyone whose name was not found...in the **Book of Life** was thrown into the **lake of fire.**]
1. Jesus loves all people and wants all people to be saved but sadly many reject him and pay the eternal consequences for their sin. **Speculate:** a neighbor, co-worker, family member, awaiting Judgement and screaming at us, saying, ‘If you knew this was coming, why didn’t you tell me. // flood Kerr county warn people.

VI. What should our attitude or approach be?

- A. Jesus to religious hypocrites: [Mt. 23:33 (NLT)] **Snakes! Sons of vipers!** How will you escape the judgment of hell? [Mt. 3:1–2 (NLT)] ...John the Baptist...began preaching...² “**Repent of your sins and turn to God**, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”...] I don’t think there was soft piano music playing in the background.
1. Sometimes in your face communication is right but usually it’s not the best way.
- B. [2 Tim 2:23–26 (NLT)]...don’t get involved in **foolish, ignorant arguments** that only start fights. ²⁴ A servant of the Lord **must not quarrel** but...**be kind to everyone**, be **able to teach**, and **be patient with difficult people.** ²⁵ **Gently instruct** those who oppose the truth. **Perhaps God will change those people’s hearts**, and they will **learn the truth.** ²⁶ Then they will come to their senses and escape...the devil’s trap..]

VII. What do we say? ***WORDS (Series: You Said What?)

- A. We tell them “Good news”, i.e., ‘The Gospel’ [1 Cor. 15:1–4 (NLT) Let me...remind you...of the Good News (*ESV gospel*) I preached to you...² It is this Good News that **saves you**...³ I passed on to you what was **most important**...**Christ died for our sins**...⁴ He was **buried**, and he was **raised from the dead on the third day**...]
- B. How do you turn the conversation to spiritual things? Ask 2 questions:
 - 1. #1: RU100%Sure if you died today, you’d go to heaven?
 - 2. #2: What would you say to God if you were standing at the gates of heaven and God said, ‘why should I let you in?’. Anything other than believing in and following Jesus is the wrong answer.
 - 3. Ask them if you can tell them what the Bible says.
- C. Plan of salvation (**invite cards**) (1) God loves us and wants to have a relationship with us. (2) Problem: all have sinned. (3) Consequence: sin separates us from God and brings the judgment of hell. (4) Solution: Jesus died to forgive our sin. (5) Decision: Turn to God and believe and follow Jesus. Would you like to pray now?

VIII. Conclusion: Other than my family, people who influenced me to be saved.

- A. Julie Guy & Leslie Flynn S.S. teachers, Mary Street nanny, Gideon gave me a Bible, Saved at boot camp. We can commit to answer God’s call and tell as many people as we can before it’s eternally, too late. That’s the words lost people need to hear.

IX. Response

- A. Christians: Make a commitment to reach as many people for Christ as you can.
- B. Souls: You’re not saved. You believe in Jesus; you want to be forgiven and have eternal life; you’re ready to turn to God and make a commitment to follow Jesus.

X. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

XI. Supplemental Material

- A. Acts 1:8 (NLT) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be **my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere**, in Jerusalem... Judea... Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.]
- B. Matthew 3:1–8 (NLT) In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching...² “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”...⁵ People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. ⁶ And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. ⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. “You brood of snakes!” he exclaimed. “Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? ⁸ Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.
- C. Why is world missions so important at COTR?
 - 1. Matthew 28:19–20 (NLT) Therefore, go and **make disciples of all the nations, baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ **Teach** these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you...
 - 2. How do we reach the world from Texarkana? Empower national leaders and partner with organizations that do.

3. What do we do? Give Bibles, feed the poor, dig water wells, build churches, train national pastors, organize short term trips, etc
- D. Pentecost: the day the church was formed and the HS came upon them to carry out their mission. Acts 2:14 (NLT) Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this.
1. Acts 2:37–41 (NLT) Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” ⁴⁰ Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” ⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about **3,000 in all**.
 2. Acts 16:29–33 (NLT) The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.” ³² And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. ³³ Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized.
- E. Ephesians 6:19 (NLT) And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God’s mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.
- F. Ezekiel 3:18–19 (NLT) If I warn the wicked, saying, ‘You are under the penalty of death,’ but you fail to deliver the warning, they will die in their sins. And I will hold you responsible for their deaths. ¹⁹ If you warn them and they refuse to repent and keep on sinning, they will die in their sins. But you will have saved yourself because you obeyed me.
- G. What is the Good News? Need for HS Acts 1:8 ‘tell and do’ Acts 8:5–12 (NLT) Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. ⁶ Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. ⁷ Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸ So there was great joy in that city...¹² But now the people believed Philip’s message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized.
- H. 1 Corinthians 9:19–22 (NLT) Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. ²⁰ When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. ²¹ When I am with the

Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. ²² When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.