

INTRODUCTION

Good morning, everyone!

How we doing?

My name is Jon Jorgenson, I am an author and speaker from Chicago, IL
I'm very grateful for the opportunity to speak with you all this morning

If we haven't had the chance to meet yet, little bit about myself

I am from Chicago, Illinois and

I actually run my own ministry

Half of that ministry includes me traveling around the country

to speak at different conferences, camps, and wonderful churches like this one

And the other half of that ministry is my YouTube channel

(Like & Subscribe)

For the last 5 years, I have been producing & sharing faith-based videos on YouTube
Anything from Bible study curriculum, to short sermons, to spoken word poetry

But more important than all of that

I have the privilege of speaking to you all this morning

EMOTIONAL CONNECTION

Today, I wanna talk about a word that is probably common place for some of you

But where I come from, it's considered more of an old school, churchy word

This morning, I want to talk with you all about "Evangelism"

But you see, we have a problem

Because depending on who you are

the word "evangelism probably conjures up different feelings and experiences

Like for you, maybe you grew up in a church that literally had the word evangelism in it

You come from an evangelical church

And so that word is super normal for you

Others of you, when you hear the word, "Evangelism"

It has a more negative connotation

You think about some televangelist pastor with a spray tan and a \$10,000 suit

"We're believing that God will provide our church with a 7 million dollar private Jet"

“And if you wanna help God out with that, you can just dial this number to give.”

Or maybe you hear “Evangelism”
And you think about a guy on the street with a sign
Screaming at everyone who walks by
Like he’s trying to scare Jesus into them
“REPENT! Or go to hell!”
Sometimes I walk by those people and I just wanna say
“No, you go to--”

And still I’m sure there are others of you
Who you hear that word “Evangelism”
And maybe you’re not even really sure what it even means at all
You’ve heard your youth pastor talk about it
And you just sort of nod your head
But you don’t really know what it means

UNCOVER TENSION

And so today, I want to give you all some practical thoughts on evangelism
Or, what we will call for the rest of our time together

Public Faith (SLIDE)

Because essentially, that’s what evangelism is
It’s sharing the faith you have with someone else

Really, what we’re talking about this afternoon is

What do you do when someone asks you what you believe? (SLIDE)

How do you talk about the spiritual things of God
with someone in your class who believes differently than you?
Or with a teammate or sibling who doesn’t believe at all?
How do you do it if you don’t know what to say?
How do you do it without getting flustered?
Or how about this, how do you do it without being weird or forceful or judgemental?

BIBLICAL DIRECTION - JOHN 4:28-30

If you have a Bible with you, please open up to the gospel of John
Go ahead, grab that, and open up to John 4:28

A little background on the passage we’re about to read

Jesus has just had this amazing conversation with a woman at a well

Some of you may know her story
This was a woman who had a rough past
She'd had bad marriage after bad marriage
She'd likely been mistreated by the other women in her village
They probably whispered about her, sub tweet about her
Or even worse said things straight to her face

That's perhaps why she went to collect water in the middle of the day
when it was too hot for everyone else
she knew no one else would be there at that time
So She could avoid the hateful words and judgemental stares of others

But in this conversation
Jesus treats this women different than any other man has ever treated her
While everyone else confines her to her past
Jesus offers her a future

And through one conversation with Jesus
This woman's life is utterly transformed

Isn't that an amazing story?
...we're not gonna talk about that story today
But instead, we're gonna focus on what the woman did after

Because I don't know if you know this
But what you do after you encounter Jesus matters

You see, this woman had a moment with Jesus
And maybe some of you, at your church, last year at Wake Up
You had a moment with Jesus
You experienced his love for the first time
You made a decision to follow him
And while that moment was powerful
And while that moment was significant

It's the movement that happens after the moment that matters (SLIDE)

A lot of you have had moments with Jesus
Moments where his presence in your life was just undeniable
But now you think that in order to have faith, you need to re-create the feeling of that moment

But you see,
the transformation Jesus brings
is not meant to change the way you feel for a moment
It's meant to change the way you live for a lifetime
And it's meant to change the way you interact with others in this world

What the women did after matters
And that's our text today in John 4:28

(SLIDE: JOHN 4:28-30)

REAL LIFE TRANSLATION

Now, I wanna unpack this text in just a second
But before we do, I wanna make a quick confession to you all

Do any of you have any guilty pleasures?
My guess is some of you have a dessert you love
Or maybe a tv show you watch
Mine is actually an entire TV network

For me, my guilty pleasure is actually watching HGTV
Don't worry, there is a backstory here

Around 5 years ago, my wife and I got married
Which means that 5 years ago, I married a very passionate woman
And one of her passions is Home & Garden Television

So in the first few months of our marriage
Er would watch HGTV every night
And I would sort of half pay attention while streaming an NBA game next to her
I wasn't very interested

However, a transformation has take place in my life
Now, just five years into marriage

It is not uncommon for Erin to come home in the evening
To find me neck deep in an episode of *Property Brothers*

Like now, I actually care about whether they *Love it, or List it*.
I absolutely am ready to see their *Fixer Upper* every time!

You see, my wife is passionate about HGTV
She loves it
And so she wanted to share it with me

Because here's the thing,

You share what you care about (SLIDE)

Think about it, you do this too.
We share what we care about, don't we?!?
When a friend or a cousin of yours comes to your town for the first time
You introduce them to your friends
My guess is, you take them to your favorite restaurant. Why?
One, because it's an excuse for you to get to eat there
But also because you share what you care about
We do this with shows on Netflix.
We do this with Podcasts we love.
We do this with the videos we see or people we follow online
When you care about something...you share it.

And as much as we do this with the foods and the shows and the relationships we love
How often do we actually do it with our faith?

You can say you love Jesus...
But how often do you actually *talk* about that love with others?

You can say you have a relationship with God
But can be hesitant to talk about it with anyone besides your church friends

And like we said before, Maybe it's because you don't wanna be weird
We don't wanna be pushy
We don't wanna get rejected

INVITATION OVER INFORMATION

Or maybe you're just not sure what to say
You feel like you don't have enough knowledge
you feel like you don't know enough about God to tell others about him

But I want you to notice something about this story
Because in this story, the woman goes back to her town
And is VERY public about her faith
Her moment with Jesus leads to movement
She tells everyone what Jesus has done for her

And here's my question for you?
How long has she known Jesus at this point?
How much does she know about him?
How many Bible verses do you think she has memorized?

What I want you to be encouraged by
Is that when this woman shares her faith publically
She doesn't give a sermon
She does have a power-point presentation
She has no statistics
No three easy steps
No degree in theology

She simply shares an invitation
*"Come and see a man
Who told me everything I ever did"*
It's just an invitation to come and see Jesus

And that's what it means to have a PUBLIC FAITH!

Public faith is more INVITATION than INFORMATION (SLIDE)

Do you remember when you were a kid?
And you got an invitation to a friend's birthday party?
When I was a kid, you actually got a physical envelope in the mail
Not just their mom added your mom to a Facebook group, okay?
Do you remember how excited you were when you got that envelope or that invite?

And I bet when you got that invite, you weren't too concerned about the information

You weren't concerned with what time the party started
You didn't give much thought to how you were gonna get there
You didn't turn to your mom and ask,
"So, is this like a gift thing...or?"
You were invited!

You see, I think we over-complicate it
Not all of us have all the information
In fact, none of us do
And that's not to say that the information isn't important
It is!

But all of us can share an invitation

All of us can say, *"Hey, why don't you join me a youth group, at church, on this retreat this weekend"*
All of us can say, *"Come and see"*

Public Faith does not require us to have all the information
Public Faith does not requires us to have all the answers
But it does require us to invite people to come and see the God who does

EXAMPLE OVER EXPLANATION

And by the way, the Bible doesn't say this exactly
but it's pretty clear that it wasn't just what this woman said, was it?
It couldn't have been

We talked about before how this woman had a reputation. She had a past
And so I'm sure when she first came back and started saying these things
People didn't listen to her at first
Why would they? She had been living a certain way.
I'm sure people saw her and thought...
"Oh, you're all religious now?"
"What about the last guy you were with?"
"What about all those things I keep hearing about you?"

But I wanna show you a detail you may have missed in verse 28
It says, *"Then, leaving her water jar"*

You see, when this women left this experience with Jesus
She didn't just go back and start talking about faith differently
But she left her water jar behind
Meaning she left her old life behind
She left her old habits behind
And she went back and started living differently

And it was the mix of hearing her words and seeing her transformation
that caused others to respond

Because **Public faith is more EXAMPLE than EXPLANATION (SLIDE)**

It's more about the example you're living
Than the explanation you're giving

Did you know you can share your faith with someone without saying a word?

(Tech crew shout out)

My mother and father in law
They don't preach sermons
But every time they opened up their doors to one of our friends
One of our friends who was having a tough time at home growing up
Everytime they did that, they shared their faith

There's an unattributed quote that has become pretty famous in Christian culture

"Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary use words" (SLIDE)

It's about EXAMPLE, more than EXPLANATION

PROCESS OF PRODUCT

Now, I wanna go back to the text

And show you what happened as a result of this woman telling her story

(SLIDE: John 4:39-42)

You see, not everyone who heard this women's story began following Jesus right away

Some were very touched by her story

But for most people, her invitation simply drew them one step closer to Jesus

For many of them, as it as for many of us, it was a process

That's because, **Public faith is more PROCESS than PRODUCT (SLIDE)**

I don't know about you, but often times, when talking about my faith

I feel this pressure, you know?

I feel all this pressure that the person I'm talking to

That their whole life needs to be changed in one conversation

Like if I am not baptizing this Uber driver before he drops me off

I HAVE FAILED!

But if you think about your own journey with Jesus

My guess is...it's been a process

You've had significant moments along the way

There have been some people who have played larger roles than others in your spiritual development

But it didn't just happen in one conversation

The church I'm a part of back in Chicago, we have a mission, and that's

To *"lead people into a transforming relationship with Jesus"*

That is a process

Some of you need to take the pressure off

Do yourself a favor

And also, do other people a favor

And stop treating other people like a some product to be produced

No one likes that

Public faith isn't about your producing a product

It's about God using you to play a part in someone's process

HELPFUL VISION

My wife has this friend

And a few years ago

This friend faced a really tough situation at work

There was a lot of broken relationships

A lot of burned bridges

Just a lot of drama, and she had to leave her job because of it

And this friend wouldn't consider themselves a Christian or anything

But in their conversations about this situation
Erin started talking with her friend about *The Drama Triangle*
Our pastor in Chicago shared this amazing tool with us
About how to deal with drama in our lives in a Godly way
It's so practical, so helpful

INVITATION

And after Erin shared this, her friend goes,
“*Woah, you learned that in your church?!*”
To which Erin responded, “*Why don't you come and see?*”
She's extended several invitations for her friend to come to church
And see what this faith is all about

Because you share what you care about

And by the way, **you share it with who you care about**
Just simply sharing an invitation

EXAMPLE

Every now and then, Erin will finish a conversation and her friend will go
“*Gosh, you're such a good person*”
And while yes, my wife is an amazing person
more than that, she's lives an incredible example of what this faith looks like

PROCESS

And what I love about this story with Erin's friend is that doesn't tie up in a nice neat
bow
She still hasn't accepted any of our invitations just yet
But we believe that God has her on a journey
We know that she is in her own process
And we are grateful to play a part in it

And so every couple weeks, when the opportunity naturally presents itself
In a totally non-weird way, we simply say,
“*Hey, we love our church. We love the people there*”
“*We love what God teaches us there.*”
“*Why don't you come, and see?*”

We try and make it very clear to her and anyone else in our lives
That they have an open invitation to come to church with us anytime
It's an open invitation

And friends, we don't do this because Evangelism is our gift
Erin and I have both taken spiritual gifts tests
And we did not get the *Evangelism* as a result
I feel just as uncomfortable and scared and awkward as you do when talking about my faith (and I do it for a living)

But we do this because
That's what the good news of Jesus is
The Good News is an open invitation to all
When Jesus died on that cross
He was creating an open invitation for anyone
Regardless of your background
Regardless of your doubts
Regardless of your knowledge or lack of knowledge
Everyone is invited

NEXT STEP APPLICATION

And so this week, I have some homework for you

I want you to invite one person to join you at church next week

It can be someone at school or at your job...maybe your ONE?
It can be a friend who's maybe heard you talk about church before
It can be an Uber driver or a server at a restaurant

Just say, *"Hey, no pressure"*
"But this is something I really care about"
"So if you're interested...come and see. You can sit with me. I'll save you a seat."

And let's not forget, that at one time or another
Someone probably did this for you
I remember when I was 14 years old
And a guy named Dave invited me to a summer camp
And sure enough, just like the women in the story
That week, I had a moment with Jesus
And it all started with an invitation

And this you have an opportunity to be that person for someone else
To share what we care about
To play a part in the process of not only changing their life
But changing their eternity

And so I wanna pray for you before we open up to questions
I wanna pray not only that God would give each of us the courage needed for a public
faith
But also that God would provide you opportunities this week to share what you care
about

PRAY