

Hospitality Evangelism: *Lesson 3*

Introduction

- Last week, in our Hospitality Evangelism text, we studied Luke 5:27-32. We learned that Matthew left everything to follow Jesus, especially his former identity and sin, and we learned that we are calling people to do the same. Further, we learned that just as Matthew prepared a great feast for Jesus SO THAT the lost could come and meet Jesus, we are preparing to show similar hospitality so that the lost can come and meet Jesus.
- We also studied 1 Kings 10:1-9. We learned that our hospitality can have a powerful effect on people. Yet, it is only the wisdom of God, the message of Christ, that can save and transform the lost. We discussed that people, like Sheba, might show up will test us in their disbelief. We learned that we ought to welcome them and be ready to correct our opponents with gentleness, trusting that God might perhaps grant them repentance. We can do so with confidence even though we are not as wise as Solomon, knowing that we have the all-sufficient word and the wisdom and power of God, the gospel of Christ.
- Finally, we renewed our commitments to scripture, prayer, and people.

Hospitality Evangelism Text

✠ **Mark 5:1-20**

People usually want to make a big deal out of the fact that the pig herder lost his pig, and the pigs died, but let's focus on the actual points of the text.

1. What does this man's condition teach us about the condition that we were all in before Christ delivered us?
 - The man was an illustration of what remaining under sin and under the enemy's dominion will lead us to. He was deranged, miserable, night and day, cutting himself, and neither he nor anyone else could do anything about it.
2. What does this text show us concerning Jesus' power and authority?

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- He can accomplish the deliverance that no one else can
 - He has authority over demons
 - He has the right to do whatever he wants with things in creation, because they're his. He is the creator and LORD of creation.
3. Having been delivered, what did the delivered man now want? How might this help us see whether someone has indeed come to faith and repentance?
- Wanting to be with Jesus is a HUGE proof of regeneration and conversion.
4. What does Jesus command him to do? What mission does he give him?
5. Last week, we spoke of how we must remain committed to scripture. Testimonies can be powerful, but they are not what God uses to convert; the gospel is. How then are we like this man? How might we use our testimonies rightly?

Lesson: Preparing to Invite and Engage

1. How to Invite People

I want to briefly give four tips, a couple of example invitations, and then we can discuss any questions you might have.

a) Be personal and particular

Don't simply post an invite on Facebook to the world and think you have done your job sufficiently. It is important to remember that invitations to no one in particular usually result in no one in particular coming. Invite individuals personally. Express your sincere desire for them to attend with you.

b) Be clear and honest

Invite with 1 Corinthians 4:2 in mind. There, Paul says,

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✦ *2 Corinthians 4:2 - But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.*

Verses like this compel us to eschew all forms of bait-and-switch invitations. There must be no invitations that sound like this,

"Come to my church Wednesday night for a fun dinner, dessert, loads of laughs, and great conversations."

You see, that invitation might very well be technically true, but it isn't honest, is it? We need to be clear and honest with people. We need to let them know upfront that we are enjoying dinner, dessert, and discussing and studying Mark's gospel so that we can together learn who Jesus really is, what he has done, and know how we ought to respond to him. We need to honestly tell them that their children will be taught the bible, and they will be encouraged to believe in Christ.

c) Be persistent but not pushy

If someone says "no." Respect that and move on. Invite someone else. Yet, if you get any sort of "I don't know," "Maybe," or "Not yet" responses, persist and follow up. Feel free to ask questions like,

- "Is there something holding you back?"
 - "Does part of you want to say, 'Yes,' but you're hesitating because you're worried about something; about what people will think of you or what the event will be like?"
- Etc.

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Example Invites

- Hey, I've been meaning to ask you—my church is hosting a dinner on Wednesday nights where we're walking through the Gospel of Mark and talking about who Jesus is. I'd really love for you to come with me.
- We're doing a short course at my church—there's dinner, and then we open the Bible and talk through the life of Jesus in Mark. It's very relaxed, and you can ask anything. Would you be interested in coming with me?
- I wanted to invite you to something at my church. We share a meal and then discuss the Gospel of Mark—just looking at who Jesus is and what He taught. There's no pressure to participate—you can just listen if you want. I'd love for you to join me.
- I want to be upfront—this is a Biblical discussion about Jesus. We'll eat together, and then we'll study Mark's Gospel and talk about what it says. If you're open to exploring that, I'd really enjoy having you come with me.

2. How to Prepare

a) Read Mark

b) Be Ready to Explain the Gospel - we'll discuss this more next week

c) Be Ready to Share Your Testimony

d) Prepare for Difficult Questions

- Be ready to say "I don't know."
- Be ready to point them to someone who knows
- Be ready to research the answer to their question

3. How to Volunteer

a) Be There!



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- Tell the RCF members who aren't here this morning that they need to be here next time.

b) Invite Others

c) Table Leader

d) Kids Volunteer

e) Hospitality

f) Advertising