

"Sharing Jesus with Others"

a seminar on evangelism

by Pastor Mark Blair

What Evangelism is Not

- 1) It is not the same as filling the pews of the church. > Good Good
- 2) It is not an occasional raid by a visiting celebrity. - Consistent
- 3) It is not repeated, impassioned, pleas for a decision. - re Manipulation
- 4) It is not a system - a packaged formula. Methods as Creative + Diverse
as Holy Spirit - Himself
- 5) It is not done by salaried clergy alone. - Every believer
- 6) It is not just proclamation or just presence. - Both - Rom 15:18 Word & Deed
- 7) It is not individualistic. - Call into God's family - Church
- 8) It is not an optional extra for the "super-spiritual." - Commanded

What is Evangelism?

EVANGEL = (Greek) for "good news" / what better news is there?

- 1) Michael Green "Overflow" spilling over with joy in Jesus.
- 2) C. Spurgeon ^{hearer} "one beggar telling another where to get bread"
- 3) Anglican Archbishop William Temple "To evangelize is to so present Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, that men shall come to put their trust in God through Him, to accept him as their Savior, and to serve him as their King in the fellowship of his church."
- 4) Pope Paul VI "There is no true evangelism if the name, the teaching, the promises, the life, the death, the resurrection, the kingdom, and the mystery of Jesus Christ the Son of God is not proclaimed."

- 5) Lorne Sanny "Evangelism is taking a good look at Jesus Christ and then telling someone what you saw"
- 6) Apostle John "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ."
1 John 1.3
- 7) King David "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me...restore to me the joy of your salvation...Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you"
Psalm 51.10-13
- 8) Dick Kauffman "Successful witnessing is simply sharing Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God"
- 9) Paul Little "Witnessing involves all that we are and therefore do; it goes beyond what we say at certain inspired moments."

Both an Act and a Process // (Farming - Matthew 13.4-23)

*Parable of
Sower*

FARMING
Select the Field
Prepare the Ground
Sow the Seed
Water and Cultivate
Harvest the Seed
Conserve the Fruit

EVANGELISM
Find a person
Pray for the person
Present the Gospel
Friendship and Help
Lead the person to Christ
Follow up

Why Do We Not Share our Faith?

- 1) People do not think it is their business, "private" faith. - esp. Americans / *Compartment Mentalities*
- 2) Many do not themselves have a first hand faith - 1 Tim 1.12-14 *Contrast vs. 6,7*
- 3) Some are not sure where they stand - 1 John 5.13 *3 Tests - Moral - G is LIGHT - Will SOCIAL - G is Love - DOCTRINAL - G is Truth*
- 4) We are not living closely enough to the Lord - Ephesians 5.18 *Keep on being Filled w/ Holy Spirit*
- 5) We reject the high cost of Christian "witness" (marturia). - BIG RISK
- 6) We are afraid - we should be more afraid for them, than of them - *Eternal Consequences -*

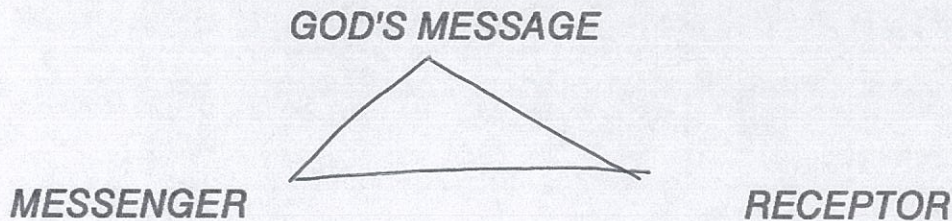
Feel unworthy of glorious process

- 7) We are ignorant - we may lose the argument! John 9.16,25 - *Focus - Reality of X*
 8) We're isolated from non-Christians - hard to leave the holy huddle! *Community Activ*
 9) We think another's "religion" is good enough for them. *Bridge - ASSO - P+R*
"Y" - Drama - Civic
Lack of understanding of teaching of Jesus - John 14.6

WRITE THE NAMES OF FIVE PEOPLE WHO NEED JESUS

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

The Triangle of Gospel Communication



WE MUST GIVE ATTENTION TO EACH CORNER OF THE TRIANGLE

Relationships in Evangelism

- Pray for Opportunity*
- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 1. People we meet once | BE CONSTANTLY ALERT TO OPPORTUNITY
BE PREPARED TO SIMPLY SHARE GOSPEL | <i>Only once
- bus, plan
Chinese - meet</i> |
| 2. Occasional acquaintances | WORK AT BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
CREATE "SPIRITUAL" CONVERSATIONS | <i>> O.J. - Justin</i> |
| 3. Friends and family | WALK YOUR TALK
PRAY FOR THE "TEACHABLE MOMENT" | <i>Often in
Grief +
Tragedy</i> |

What is Our Message?

Word God
means many
things
Need Theology

1. *The Gospel is a message about GOD* - who He is, what His character is, what His standards are, what He requires of us

Acts 17.24-28, 1 Timothy 1.17, John 4.24, 1 John 1.5, 4.8

2. *The Gospel is a message about sin* - an offense against God and His holiness

Evidences of conviction of sin

- a) Wrong relationship with God - Psalm 51.4 - *against God only*
- b) Conviction of specific sins - Isaiah 6.5, Luke 19.8
- c) Realization of general sinfulness - Ezekiel 36.26-27 - *Need new heart*

3. *The Gospel is a message about Christ* - from Eternity to Eternity - *Big Jesus*

Alpha - Eternal God - Incarnation - Sinless Life - Cross - Resurrection - *LIVING!*
Ascended Lord - Sovereign King - Coming Judge - Omega

4. *The Gospel is a call to faith and repentance* - CLOSE THE DEAL!

- a) It is an ANNOUNCEMENT which includes and INVITATION *to what?*
- b) God ACCEPTS us in Christ when we RECEIVE Him

John 1.12,13 - 1 John 3.23 - Luke 9.23 - Revelation 22.17

Methods of Gospel Presentation

- 1) Tracts

- 2) "Romans Road" - 3.23 - 6.23 - 5.8 - 10.9,10 - 8.1

- 3) "The Bridge" - *Navigator Method*

What is the Mandate? - we're under orders -

Matthew 28.18-20 "Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. {19} Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Acts 1.8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 20.24 "I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace."

Who is the Messenger? do you know what you sound like?

1. Advice Giver - CAN BE LEGALISTIC
2. Reassurer - CAN BE COMPROMISING
3. Understander - CAN BE INSENSITIVE
4. Self Revealer - CAN BE DIRECTIONLESS

Jesus used
all different
approaches -
- Perfectly!

What is a Testimony?

1. It is not about yourself - i.e. "I was bad, now I'm good"
2. It is not about the past - what does Jesus mean to you now?
3. It is a testimony to the living Jesus in control of your life; the focus is on Him and only incidentally on yourself.

Write yours out - Edit it - Have others critique
1 Pet 3.15 - always be ready

What is the Value of a Testimony?

1. It is intriguing: the Samaritan woman - John 4.28-30,39-42
2. It is a very natural thing to do - sharing your greatest joy!
3. It is simple - every believer has one! *Not a competition*
4. It opens up conversation: Ask a person "May I share with you the greatest thing that has ever happened to me?" "Yes." "It is that the living Lord Jesus Christ has turned my life around!"
5. It brings Christ out of the "expected" place - i.e. church.
6. It is unanswerable - you know what has happened - John 9.25.

General Principles for Giving Your Testimony

1. Pray and ask God to prepare you as you share.
2. Center on the person of Jesus, not yourself. What were you like before you met Christ? How did you meet Him? What are the main benefits you have discovered?
3. Be selective. Consider your audience, prune relentlessly.
4. Be disciplined. Stick to your time allowance, STOP!
5. Be warm and natural, smile, relax - no notes! 1 Thess 1.5. - *not just words giving on both ends receive*
6. Total honesty is vital, no exaggerations.
7. Be courteous but bold, they're dying for your message!
8. Be intriguing - capture their interest - not boring!

Things to avoid:

- using Christian "jargon" or slang
- preaching - say "I have found" not "you should"
- too many Scripture references - *Bible means nothing to Pagans*
- criticizing another church, denomination, person
- giving the impression that the Christian life is easy
- using notes while speaking / do use them to prepare well!

Specific Problems You May Encounter

1. A person who is really "saved" but unsure of it.

Share God's promises: John 6.37, Revel 3.20, Romans 8.1, Eph 2.1

Point to the Cross: Hebrews 10.10-14 / Signs of Faith: 1 Jn 5.13

2. Someone from a strong church background: Catholic?

Do nothing to disturb the background - it is a good "frame"
- just as Paul used OT background to lead Jews to "Messiah"

Our task is to bring the "portrait" of Jesus into living focus
They can be sure of where they stand with this great God NOW!

3. Spiritual Warfare

Truly we are at war Eph 6.10-18, 2 Cor 11.3, 1 Peter 5.8!

Not every problem is a demon! but it may be!

Realize you are "armed" with His greater power: 1 John 4.4

4. Questions about the Holy Spirit and His Gifts

Some churches insist on "gifts" / some deny them altogether

Step around the debate and focus on the one the Spirit exalts!:
John 14.26, 15.26, 16.13,14 - Jesus!

5. A Person very Critical about their Church

Do not add fuel to their fire - focus on the Head of the Church

An important part of discipleship is "making things right"

6. Their Responses are Illogical

Person is overly emotional - deep hurts are surfacing

Their "god" may be a product of falsehood and imagination

Share God's powerful truth and pray it will enlighten & transform

7. Marital / Family Problems

Don't take sides - listen but don't over sympathize

There is no quick solution - don't create false hopes

The main issue: Is the person willing for God to change them?

The Master at Work - The Lord Jesus in John 4

1. Available vs. 4-6 - *Hot, tired, thirsty, dirty* → Concerned!
2. Vulnerable vs. 7-9 - Her chance at revenge *Sanarita Woman* → *Prostitute!*
3. Relevant vs. 10-13 - Caught attention - Answer questions *they're asking*
4. Direct vs. 16-18 - Confront *sin* kindly - Truth in Love
5. Patient vs. 21-24 - *Diversion?* Good Question - Mt Gerazim?
6. Evangelistic vs. 25,26 - Proclaim Christ.

from the woman we learn -

- a. Spontaneous Honesty v. 29 - Transparent Power of God
- b. Call for a Decision v. 30 - *Come and they came*
- c. Jesus does the real work v. 42 *See for themselves*

A FINAL PROMISE TO WORK TOWARD -

Daniel 12.3 "Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever."