

SHARING THE GOSPEL: SESSION 1 – FOUNDATIONS

1: INTRODUCTION

In the coming weeks...

- 1) Foundations: Does God call normal Christians to do evangelism?
- 2) One to one: Would you like to study the bible with me?
- 3) In the workplace: How can we be a blessing to our colleagues?
- 4) Tricky Questions: How do we deal with curve balls?
- 5) LGBTI friends: Letting the bible shape our hearts, minds & words.

Today: Does God call normal Christians to do Evangelism?

Yes!

Today's Focus: Evangelism with those who we have a relationship e.g. family, neighbour, colleague, friend, parents at the school gates, the person you buy your coffee from etc.

What should **our expectations** be?

- 1) Evangelism will be tough, awkward & hard & will probably always be so
- 2) It is OK for us to find it tough, awkward and hard.
- 3) But we must not think because it is tough, awkward and hard it's not for us.
- 4) Like all other areas of Christian life and growth the key is perseverance.
- 5) So, let's be those who encourage each other in it.

2: ADDRESSING THE QUESTION. DOES GOD CALL NORMAL CHRISTIANS TO DO EVANGELISM?

Yes. We are all called to be those who would share the gospel

John 17:14-21

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. ²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

What does Jesus' prayer teach us about Christian living and evangelism:

- 1) We will face opposition, from the world and the devil.
- 2) But we have not been taken out of the world.
- 3) More than this we are sent into the world, to those around us.
- 4) We are set apart for holy service to God.
- 5) This service is to share the gift of the word we have been given.
- 6) So people may believe in Jesus through us as we share this gift.
- 7) So they can join us in knowing the same love of the father that Jesus knows.

Summary:

- 1) We have the awesome responsibility and amazing privilege of making Jesus known.
- 2) And we do this by simply opening our mouths.
- 3) It will be hard but the prize is worth it.

Acts 8:1 & 4

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles...⁴ Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

- 1) 1st generation of Christians are hated, just as Jesus said.
- 2) The apostles remain in Jerusalem.
- 3) Everyday Christians are scattered.
- 4) God builds his church as these ordinary Christians opened their mouths.

Romans 10: 9-15

⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?^[L] And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

- 1) Non-Christians become Christian as they believe and confess.
- 2) So they can do this ordinary Christians must tell them about Jesus

3: HOW DOES EVANGELISM WORK? WHO DOES WHAT?

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But 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. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Q1. What is our role in evangelism?

Q2 What is God's role in evangelism?

4: MOTIVATIONS FOR EVANGELISM

Introduction

1. What we have heard this morning. It is a task we are called to by the Lord Jesus.
2. Other motivations maybe different for each of us.
3. This is OK, the important thing is that we are motivated.
4. If you lack motivation, then pray for God's help.

My personal motivations:

1. Fear of where those without Christ are heading.
2. Praying that I would love them enough to warn them.
3. The gospel itself. It's glorious!
4. I love Jesus and I want to try to please him.

5: WHAT STOPS US FROM SHARING THE GOSPEL – AND TIPS FOR PERSEVERING

See separate handout

CONCLUSION: QUESTIONS, PRAYER

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

- *Honest Evangelism*, Rico Tice
- *Evangelism: How the whole church speaks of Jesus*, Mack Stiles
[Our book of the month]