

Subject: Evangelism

Date: 27th March 2018

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Lesson 2.

Memory verse: 2 Timothy 1:7

Introduction

What is Evangelism?

1. Evangelism is carrying the good news of Salvation to souls that need the Gospel.
2. Evangelism is simply the fulfillment of the G_____ C_____

B. The Great Commission G_____

1. Obeyed the Lord

- a. The early disciples heard the call, obeyed the command, and went forth preaching the Gospel everywhere.

Mark 16:19-20 “So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. vs.20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”

- b. The disciples were true friends of the Lord. They did whatever it was that Jesus called and commanded them to do.

John 15:14-16 “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. (15) Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. (16) Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

- c. Why was Abraham called a friend of God?

James 2:23 “And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.”

2. Received with Joy

- a. The disciples obeyed with a joyful heart.

Luke 24:51-53 “And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. vs.52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: vs.53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.”

- b. The Great Commission is a blessing, not a curse; it is a privilege, not a burden.

❖ Spurgeon once said, “I never met with a man that served God who complained of his wages. No, it is so much a work of Grace that the work, itself, is a gift to us. The privilege of serving God—yes, call it the high honor, the delight, the great gain of being a servant of God—if there were no other reward, this would suffice us!”

- c. One of the reasons Christians call the command of God the “Great” Commission is because it is great. If we were to give it another name, we would call it the “Blessed” Command.

Acts 5:38-42 “And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: (39) But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. (40) And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. (41) And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. (42) And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”

C. The Great Commission G_____

1. Given with Authority (Power)

- a. Our power (Authority) to preach the Gospel comes from the Lord.

Matthew 28:18 "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

John 20:21-22 "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. vs.22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:"

- b. Jesus was faced with various questions by the chief priests and the elders of the people – questions like...“*By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?*” *Matthew 21:23*

Matthew 21:23-27 "And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? (24) And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. (25) The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? (26) But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. (27) And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things."

- c. On a practical level, the witnessing-Christian might be faced with similar questions like:

- i. “What gives you the right to tell people that they are going to Hell?”
- ii. “How can you say that Jesus is the only way?”
- iii. “Don’t you think you should change your approach?”
- iv. “Are you really called by God?”

- d. We need more God-appointed men, and not self-appointed men.

1 Thessalonians 2:4-8 "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. (5) For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: (6) Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we

might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. (7) But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: (8) So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.”

2. Given with Ability (Power)

- a. With God's calling comes God's enabling.

John 20:22 “And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:”

❖ *Warren W. Wiersbe "It is futile for us to try to serve God without the power of the Holy Spirit. Talent, training, and experience cannot take the place of the power of the Spirit."*

- b. When the Lord Jesus gave the Great Commission, He did not leave the disciples helpless, hopeless, or powerless.

Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...”

- c. God's power is available to every true believer – the power to share the gospel, the power to stand for the truth, and the power to be a witness even in life-threatening situations.

- d. Remember the 3 Powerful elements for Evangelism, the Word of God, the Holy Spirit, and Prayer.

i. **WORD of GOD**

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

1 Thessalonians 2:13 “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”

Acts 8:25 “And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.”

Acts 15:7 “And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while

ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.”

Ephesians 1:13 “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,”

Colossians 1:5 “For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;”

1 Peter 1:25 “But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

ii. **HOLY SPIRIT**

John 15:26 “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:”

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

1 Thessalonians 1:5 “For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.”

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 “And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: (5) That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”

iii. **PRAYER**

Question: What will help Christians to be bold, to stand for Christ, and not be afraid nor ashamed? The answer is found in Acts 4:24-31.

Acts 4:24-31 “And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: (25) Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? (26) The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. (27) For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, (28) For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. (29) And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, (30) By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs

and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. (31) And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”

- (1) **A Unified Purpose**, Verse 24, “*And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord...*”
- (2) **Acknowledgement of God’s Power**, Verse 24, “*...Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:*”
- (3) **Affirmative Prayer**, Verse 24 “*...and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,*”
- (4) **Answered Prayer**, Acts 4:31 “*And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.*”

Ephesians 6:18 “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”

3. Given with His Presence

- a. The Christian is not alone. Christ Jesus promised to be with the disciples to the end.

Matthew 28:20 “...and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

- b. The Christian works together with other Christians and with God.

Mark 16:20 “And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them...”

1 Corinthians 3:9 “...we are labourers together With God...”

Hebrews 13:5 “...I will Never leave thee, not Forsake thee.”

2 Timothy 4:14-18 “Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: (15) Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words. (16) At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. (17) Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.” (18) And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”