

“Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. ‘Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.’ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared **to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.**

I. Definition of Evangelism: Evangelism comes from the Greek words (e)uangelion yoo-ang-ghel'-ee-on — a good message, or gospel — and euangelizo — to announce, declare, bring, or preach this good news. Matt 4:23—went preaching the good news from village to village.

1. He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Mark 16:15

2. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Mt 28: 19 & 20

3. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. Matt 24:14

II. Definition of Preaching:

To be a herald, to officiate as a herald READ DANIEL 3:1-6 always with the suggestion of formality, gravity and an authority which must be listened to and obeyed to publish, proclaim openly: something which has been done ...used of the public proclamation of the gospel and matters pertaining to it, made by John the Baptist, by Jesus, by the apostles and other Christian teachers

At best, preaching the gospel to the world begins the process of **making disciples**. Disciples are created through steady spiritual feeding and a believing response in those who hear, which includes overcoming their sins.

A second factor appears in Mat 28: 20: "**Observe** all things that I have commanded you." Observing "all things" cannot be done merely through making a witness. Observing all things is a lifelong project requiring the structure and nurture of a church. This is why the church of God exists (see [Ephesians 4:11-16](#)).

4:12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

4:12 For the **perfecting** of the saints, for the **work** of the ministry, for the **edifying** of the body of Christ:

4:13 Till we all come in the **unity** of the faith, and of the **knowledge** of the Son of God, unto a **perfect** man, unto the measure of the stature of **the fullness of Christ:** *(No other motive will do. This is the main goal.)*

III. Nicodemus in the Gospel of John 3:1-21

IV. How did Jesus preach? With the seven “Ws”--

1) V.3 With **compassion**. “No one can see the kingdom of God...”

2) V.3 With some **mystery** “...unless he is born again.”

3) V.5, 6 With the **true gospel**—“water and the spirit.”

4) V.7, 10 With **respect and integrity**—“You should not be surprised...”

5) V. 11-21 With His **mind-- logically theological**—“I have... how then...?”

6) V.16 With His **heart**—“God so loved the world that he gave...”

7) V. 18, 36—With the **future in mind**—“...not believe stands condemned already.”

V. The story of Nicodemus only appears in the following three chapters of the Bible in the Gospel of John.

John 3:1-21 = Nicodemus meets Jesus secretly

John 7:43-53 = Nicodemus questions the Pharisee’s actions against Jesus

John 19:38-42 = Nicodemus helps take Jesus down from the cross

VI. Woman at the well: John 4:1-42

1) Be kind and sensitive. Show your caring and concern.

2) Lead the conversation to eternal matters.

3) Answer any wrong concepts of the truth.

4) Get to the truth. Focus on the life of Jesus.

5) Pray at the end by the Spirit’s leading.

VII. Evangelism Myths and Truths

(Evangelism Part II-- 3/28/2021)

Based on the passage above, work your way through the following chart, reflecting on the wrong notions many believers have about evangelism and how this passage refutes these evangelism myths.

Evangelism MYTH	Seeing the good news as GOOD NEWS!	Evangelism TRUTH
Sharing your faith depends on having a slick, prepared speech.	"in your hearts revere Christ as Lord . . ."	Sharing your faith depends on a surrendered heart.
You have to know a ton of theology.		You have to know Christ as Lord.
It's the pastor's job.	"Always be prepared to give an answer . . ."	It's the job description of every disciple.
Witnessing is an activity.		Witnessing is a way of life.
I prefer to let my life do the talking.		We need to add words to our good deeds and humble, loving attitudes.
Nobody is interested in the gospel.	"to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have . . ."	People are interested in a life that's being transformed by the gospel.
Christians spread the gospel best by inviting Christians to religious gatherings.		Disciples spread the gospel most effectively by breaking out of their church groups and permeating the rest of the world.

Evangelism means confronting people—usually strangers—in a hard-hitting, and usually awkward, offensive, and abrasive way.	"But do this with gentleness and respect . . ."	Evangelism means loving the people God has placed in your life. And then, with great sensitivity, gently introducing them to Jesus.
A witness should "have it all together."	"keeping a clear conscience . . ."	A witness should be authentic and real, sharing his or her own struggles.
We should use whatever means are necessary to get the message out.		We should always be honest and ethical in our interactions with unbelievers, treating them with the same respect we want to receive.
Success in sharing your faith means that a non-Christian prays "the sinner's prayer."	"so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."	Success in sharing your faith means that God works in hearts in his way and his time, using our witness as he sees fit. (Women at the well.)

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VIII. Questions for your family/small groups:

1. How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His Word to your heart?
2. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result of this truth?
3. What are the two main assignments we are given by our Lord? (Mk 16/Mt28)
4. What does it mean to "preach"? Is this only for preachers behind the pulpit?
5. If you had to choose a leadership role, which one most describes you? Eph 4:11
6. Which of the seven ways that Jesus witnessed, spoke to you the most? Why?
7. What keeps you from sharing your faith? What can you do about it? Pray now.

IX. Primary Reasons Christians Don't Share Their Faith

Reason	Example
Fear	"I'm scared of what others might say; how people might react."
Lack of training	"No one ever showed me how to talk about spiritual matters. I wouldn't know what to say!"
Minimal contact with unbelievers	"I mostly spend time with my Christian friends."
Reason	Example
Shaky theology	"God is in control; he knows who is going to become Christian, so I don't need to say anything. Besides, who am I to foist my views on others? People have to find their own way."
A lack of concern	"I've got a lot going on in my life; I really need to focus now on my schooling/career/etc."
Losing sight of the power of the gospel	"As if my pitiful words and life could make a difference!"
Disobedience	"Bottom-line: I just don't want to do that."
Forgetting what successful evangelism is	"I have talked to twelve people about Jesus, and none have become Christians. So obviously I'm not called to evangelize."

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1) Don't spend all your time with church people! Build relationships with those who don't know Christ! Move toward them in love. Love them because God does. Love them with no strings attached. Win the right to be heard.

2) Don't condemn unbelievers for living like unbelievers. That's what they are! Their biggest need isn't a lifestyle change—it's Jesus! Accept them as they are. Many of them are leery about judgmental Christians.

3) It's the Holy Spirit's job to convict them of sin and repentance, not yours.

4) Open your life. Talk about everyday stuff (family, hobbies, job, school, friends, children, relationships, etc.). Listen attentively for expressed needs such as family problems or stress in school or at work. For example, if your friend says, "I'm really worried about my son . . ." maybe you can sympathize and tactfully share how Christ has helped you in a similar situation—or how he brought you through your own difficult teen years.

5) Discuss personal struggles and needs— both past and present. "Did I ever tell you how I survived my divorce?" "We're going through a rough patch financially, and it's nerve-wracking, but you know what? Never in my life have I felt abandoned by God. He has always provided for us."

6) After sharing something Christ has done or is doing in your life, ask a question like "Have you ever experienced anything like that?" or "Does that make sense?"

7) Don't argue. Absolutely refuse to debate. No one ever got dragged kicking and screaming into the kingdom of God! Today may not be God's timing.

8) Never "dump the truck." Better to say less, and have them ask for more, than to say too much and have them looking for the nearest exit.

9) Piggyback off contemporary situations and news stories. Ask thought provoking questions. For example, when a friend brings up how so many politicians seem to tap into and prey upon voters' fears: "Why do think people are so afraid? What are the things that scare you? What do you do when you feel fearful?" After listening thoughtfully, maybe you can say something like, "You know, I can certainly relate. The world is a pretty scary place. But that's something my faith has helped me with . . ."

10) If it's clear your friend is uncomfortable, end on a positive note. Communicate love and acceptance. Allow the Holy Spirit to set the pace. He opens and closes doors of opportunity.

X. Questions for your family/small groups:

1. How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His Word to your heart?
2. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result of this truth?
3. What primary reasons do you have for not sharing your faith?
4. What mistakes have you made in sharing your faith? Be honest ☺ !
5. What ways have worked for you in the past for sharing your faith?