

EVANGELIZING LIKE THE FIRST CENTURY CHURCH

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TEXTS: Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17; Luke 5:10

INTENT OF LESSON:

1. To encourage the church to be more evangelistic in spirit like Jesus and the first century church were.
2. To encourage the church to be more effective in sharing the Gospel of Christ.

“When in the better land, before the bar we stand, how deeply grieved our souls will be. If any lost one there, should cry in deep despair, you never mentioned Him to me.”

INTRODUCTION:

1. The only way to grow spiritually and numerically is to be an evangelistic church!
2. “World and local evangelism will never be accomplished unless the evangelized becomes an evangelist.”
3. Thank God for the example of evangelism shown by Christ and the early church!
4. Let us now examine effective ways on how to share the Gospel of Christ to the world!

WAYS TO TEACH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST MORE EFFECTIVELY

1. *We need to acknowledge the fact that we need training in the area of evangelism:*
 - a. Matthew 4:19; Luke 1:17 –Jesus trained His disciples for the task of evangelism.
 - b. Jesus taught them not to share the Word with everyone (John 4 – preaching to the Samaritans).
 - c. The Gospels and the Book of Acts can help us to learn a lot on the subject of evangelism!
 - d. The life of Christ and the Apostle Paul can help us to learn a lot on the subject of evangelism!
 - e. **There are some good books on evangelism:** “Go Ye Means Go Me” by Ivan Stewart; “From House to House” by Ivan Stewart; “How to Win Souls” by Jack H. Exum; “Hearts on Fire” by Don Humphrey; “Let’s Go Fishing for Men” by Homer Hailey; “Why I Am a Member of the Church of Christ” by Leroy Brownlow; “Journey to Eternity” by M.F. McKnight; “Traditions of Men Versus the Word of God” by Alvin Jennings, etc.
 - f. **Work on developing your personal and Biblical method of evangelism!**
2. *We need to begin by building trust with those with whom we study:*
 - a. One way to do it is by helping them understand that you are there to teach them God’s Word, not your own opinions.
 - b. Ask them to stop you during the Bible study when you have said something that is not in harmony with the Scriptures.
 - c. Begin with Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 John 4:1; John 7:17.
 - d. Be friendly with them! The more you know them, the better opportunity you will have to teach them the Gospel.
 - e. Remember: “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care” (Avon Malone).
3. *We need to know by heart the plan of salvation taught by the New Testament:*
 - a. **Hear** (Rom. 10:17), **believe** (Mark 16:16), **repent** (Acts 3:19), **confess Christ as the Son of God** (Rom. 10:9-10), **be immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins** (Acts 2:28; 22:16), **and live a faithful life in Christ** (1 Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:10).

- b. Having to depend on notes may hinder the way you teach people. Know it by heart!
- c. If possible, memorize the plan of salvation and the passages related to it.
- d. You can download my book entitled, **"On the Table of My Heart."** This book teaches you how to memorize Bible verses.
Visit: www.backtobibleknowledge.com

4. *We need to know how to refute the "sinner's prayer" error taught by denominations:*

- a. The sinner's prayer consists in teaching that a man is saved by faith alone, that is, by accepting Christ into your heart.
- b. Such teaching is not found anywhere in the New Testament, much less in the Book of Acts.
- c. The true plan of salvation refutes such an erroneous teaching!
- d. Know how to answer the question on the thief on the cross as it relates to salvation.

5. *We need to grow in the knowledge of God's Word so that we can answer any questions people may ask us:*

- a. **The command to grow in knowledge:** (2 Pet. 3:18; Col. 1:10; Col. 3:16; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Tim. 4:13, etc.
- b. People will ask questions related to the way we worship God; the way we are saved from our sins; infant baptism, the mode of baptism, once saved always saved, etc. **Use logic as you answer such questions!** We need to be ready to provide BCV!
- c. You can be ready to answer questions by doing the following:
 - i. *Memorizing Scriptures*
 - ii. *Having a chain of Scriptures written in your Bible.*
 - iii. *Try to know your Bible very well!*
- d. This is where the study of apologetics becomes very helpful! (1 Peter 3:15).
- e. **Tools that can help you grow in knowledge:** Lexicons, Bible dictionaries, sound commentaries of the Bible, a topical reference, books on fundamentals of the faith, reference books, etc.
- f. **Be honest when you are not able to answer a question!**

6. *We need to be very patient with those with whom we study!*

- a. Most people will not understand quickly what the Bible teaches about salvation.
- b. Others will only want to debate with you!
- c. Others will act foolishly!
- d. Others will want to upset you!
- e. Be patient and know what to do in such situations!

7. *We need to learn how to ask questions that will help people come to the understanding of God's Word:*

- a. Let people read the text for themselves and then ask them questions they can find the answer within the text.
- b. Jesus asked about 130 questions during His earthly ministry!
- c. We need to learn how to ask the right questions!

8. *Take advantage of all the various methods of evangelism available today:*

- a. DVDs about the plan of salvation, the New Testament church, etc.
- b. Searching for Truth
- c. Fishers of Men
- d. Back to the Bible by Bobby Bates
- e. Etc.

9. Remember not to lose heart when people don't want to obey the Gospel of Christ.

- a. Not everyone will obey the Gospel.
- b. Not everyone will want to spend eternity in heaven!
- c. Never stop teaching the Gospel of Christ!

10. Remember to always be a good example to others. Not doing so will produce an obstacle that will discourage people from obeying the Gospel of Christ.

- a. Always pay attention to the way you live (Matthew 5:16; 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Peter 3:1-2).
- b. The way you live your life is a sermon you preach to people!
- c. "I would rather see a sermon than to hear one" (James 1:22; Acts 1:1).
- d. Our bad example can keep people away from obeying the Gospel of Christ (Romans 2:24).
- e. Jesus was always a great example to follow!

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Next week we will continue considering more things that can be practiced in order to effectively share the Gospel of Christ with as many people as possible.
- 2. Let us not forget to practice God's Word in our lives (James 1:22-25; Luke 11:18).

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