

How to Share Your Faith Pt.3

A Practical Application of Evangelism

Last week continued on in our topic of sharing our faith and looked at the greatest enemy to evangelism – the religious church. We looked at the challenges non-believers have with the concept of Christianity and saw that many of their hang-ups were the result of hypocrisy, the view that Christianity was only for perfect and holy people, and the conflict with their own personal pride of wanting to do what they want versus what God has created them for.

The reality is that many are on their way to a disastrous eternity. Some because of how other Christians have lived before them, and some simply because of their own wants and desires. Some how we need to take better care than those who have implemented judgment and hypocrisy, because how you and I live today can, and will determine people's response to the Good News of Jesus Christ. Remember, it is suppose to be GOOD NEWS – not just another list of demands.

People need to see that what Christ did for them is applicable. That they actually can fit into God's plan. That their life is not by accident, but they were created by God for a specific time and purpose. People need to see how they fit into the BIG PICTURE of life. All of our lives are a part of a bigger story that is still in the process of being written. The book of Revelation hasn't happened yet, and between the book of Jude and Revelation you and I are still living waiting for the second coming of Jesus Christ to take place.

Somehow, instead of just going for the throat and heading strait to the need for salvation, we need to communicate that God has been created them with a design and purpose. **Colossians 1:15** tells us:

¹⁶ Christ is the one through whom God created everything in heaven and earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—kings, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities. Everything has been created through him and for him.

Everything was started by him and finds its purpose in him. Our message is not only about Jesus Christ, but it is about finding out what we were created for.

1. Sharing a Message of Purpose. Psalm 139:16 tells us:

¹⁶ You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

Everyone is looking for the same thing – “Their place in this world.” “Why am I here?” “Why am I living another day?” I guarantee you that if you put purpose back into the life of one who is hungry and searching, you have changed a life. **Acts 17:26-27** tells us:

²⁶*From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand which should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.* ²⁷ *“His purpose in all of this was that the nations should seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us.”*

God has people in a position in life that causes them to acknowledge his reality and eventually turn back to him. Things in our lives have been orchestrated so that the only true fulfillment and purpose won't be found in anything else. George Bernard Shaw once wrote:

This is the true joy of life: the being used up for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clot of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

There is a difference between going straight for the salvation message and beginning to speak about one's purpose in life. Everyone can relate to their purpose in life, everyone has something within each of them that knows that they are here for something greater. If we begin by telling them of how their purpose has been placed there by the God of the Bible, then we are speaking to something that will draw them instead of turn them off to the same old message they have heard before.

Simply ask someone about what Christianity is and most probably they will tell you how it is about finding forgiveness for their sins. Rarely is the relationship with God and his purpose for their life ever brought up. I am not devaluing the work of Christ on the Cross by no means. It is still the foundation upon which we can even begin to come before God. But we have failed to speak to the needs and challenges of every person. Some sinners don't even see that they have a problem. But every person struggles with the idea of finding purpose and meaning in life.

The purpose that we talk about doesn't stop after they die – we are talking about an eternal purpose that never goes away. **1 Corinthians 7:31** tells us:

³¹*Those in frequent contact with the things of the world should make good use of them without becoming attached to them, for this world and all it contains will pass away.*

Life goes on beyond the grave. God continues to give our life purpose in eternity. **Isaiah 43:7** tells us:

⁷*All who claim me as their God will come, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them.*

Our purpose here on earth is to bring glory to God. Through all that we speak, all that we do, all that we strive for – all of it is for the purpose of pointing people to God, and

speaking of his great love, mercy, grace, and power. Some will accept it, yet some will never live for anything other than themselves. Begin with the message of purpose when you share your faith because it speaks to where everyone is at in life.

2. Sharing A Message of Salvation

Part of God's purpose for us that we understand, and accept the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. If accepting Christ into my heart is going to reunite me with God, then it only makes sense for me to ask Jesus for his help. **Romans 10:8** tells us:

⁸ *“Salvation that comes from trusting Christ—which is the message we preach—is already within easy reach. In fact, the Scriptures say, “The message is close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart.”*

You and I don't have to die on a cross, you and I don't have to go through the pain and anguish that Jesus went through, all we have to do is accept that Jesus was a pure and holy sacrifice that was capable of paying for all of the sins ever committed. We only need to believe and confess our need for Jesus Christ. **Romans 10:10** tells us:

¹⁰ *For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.*

³⁹ *But we are not like those who turn their backs on God and seal their fate. We have faith that assures our salvation. **Hebrews 10:39***

Salvation is all a part of finding God's purpose and design in our lives. **Ephesians 2:8-10** puts the two together and tells us:

⁸ *God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

All too often, people have shared the message of Jesus' death as a means of finding a solution to our sin problem. But the message of Scripture goes beyond that to solving life's purpose which includes the work of Christ. People want something of substance and not just a solution to something they consider small in life. They want to know the whole meaning of life – Why their life is the way it is, how they can get out of the rut they find themselves in, and how they can have more joy and peace in it.

I want to finish off this morning by looking at an example of how Jesus reached out to people. We find in **John 4:7-26** that Jesus speaks to a Samaritan woman and begins to speak of God's will for her life. We read:

⁷ Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Please give me a drink.” ⁸He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. ⁹The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?” ¹⁰ Jesus replied, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who I am, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.” ¹¹“But sir, you don’t have a rope or a bucket,” she said, “and this is a very deep well. Where would you get this living water? ¹²And besides, are you greater than our ancestor Jacob who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his cattle enjoyed?” ¹³ Jesus replied, “People soon become thirsty again after drinking this water. ¹⁴But the water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes a perpetual spring within them, giving them eternal life.” ¹⁵ “Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me some of that water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to haul water.” ¹⁶ “Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her. ¹⁷“I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied. Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband—¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now.” ¹⁹“Sir,” the woman said, “you must be a prophet. ²⁰ So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?” ²¹ Jesus replied, “Believe me, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father here or in Jerusalem. ²²You Samaritans know so little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. ²³ But the time is coming and is already here when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for anyone who will worship him that way. ²⁴For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.” ²⁵ The woman said, “I know the Messiah will come—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” ²⁶ Then Jesus told her, “I am the Messiah!”

3. Jesus Reached Out – So Should We

In versus 7-9 we read of how Jesus reached out to the Samaritan woman. He even crossed cultural differences to do so – he went against opinions and mindsets and look simply to the benefit of others. A couple of weeks ago I talked about how humility needs to be the basis for sharing our faith. And humility is what moves us from being self-centered as opposed to being others-centered – a servant to mankind. Some of us may find ourselves only open to sharing the message of Jesus Christ simply because we have opinions or mindsets that limit who we want to be associated with.

The Samaritan woman is shocked that Jesus would even speak to her. There are some out there who will be shocked to even know that someone cares about them. The enemy has come in and lied to them telling them that they are worthy to be cared for. But the Bible tells us in **2 Peter 3:9**:

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. NIV

The message of Jesus Christ is for everyone, not just the ones that we like or who we think deserve to be told. The step of saying something to someone is by no means an easy one to take, but when we are talking about the difference between one's eternal future, it's a risk worth taking.

4. Jesus Speaks About God's Purpose and Gift

In verse 10-12 Jesus tells her that God has a gift for her - a gift of living water that would forever quench her thirst. By this time I guarantee you that Jesus had her attention. If you start to tell people that they have purpose and that you have something that will satisfy their every thirst in life, you will raise some curiosity. If you speak to their passions and needs they will listen to what you have to say.

The reality is that there are still people out there that are waiting to hear about what you have experienced. If this wasn't true then there would be no need to share out faith with others – there would be no need to make disciples. May we understand that there are people out there who want what we have in Christ, they just need you and I to lead them to God.

5. Jesus Follows the Leading of the Holy Spirit

In verses 15-19 we read of how Jesus exposes a sin in her life, that no one else knew about, but was the result of the power of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes a believer may receive a revelation about someone's life through the leading of the Holy Spirit. We need to understand that we need to be in tune with God so that when this does happen, it can be used as an opportunity to prove God's reality. When the Samaritan woman heard Jesus' words she was convinced that he was an oracle of God. A miraculous revelation can confirm in one's heart that they are truly on the right path.

But even outside of divine revelation there is also the aspect that I talk about at the beginning of our series on sharing your faith – that it is not our words that convince one for their need for Christ, but it is the working of the Holy Spirit that draws one unto God and his Son Jesus. God is who leads people unto himself – we can either be involved in the process or God will choose to use someone else.

The Holy Spirit knows the heart of any man and knows the areas in which he needs to speak. We just need to be ready to respond. How do we know when it is time to respond. Most probably there is an indescribable urge to say something, your heart starts

to race, your hands clam up – everything physical is saying not to, yet your spirit is compelled to. We need to join with the Holy Spirit and be open to how he leads.

I have found that sharing out faith with others can fall into three categories: **1. A spiritual quickening or soil preparation.** **2. A planting of seed** that will lead to future fruit. Or **3. A harvest** where the souls of men are gathered up and turned over to God. Some of us when sharing our faith may be anyone of these three. Each category is the same as the end result. Each leads to the salvation of a soul.

My prayer is that as we have looked at sharing our faith that God will begin to open doors and use us to bring hope to more and more wandering souls. That we would tell others that God has a purpose and destiny for them. That we would be bold enough to reach out to whomever God places in our path and speak hope and life with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Oh, give me, Lord, Thy love for souls, For lost and wandering sheep. That I may see the multitudes, and weep as thou didst weep. Help me to see the tragic plight of souls far off in sin. Help me to love, to pray and go and bring the wand'ring in.

God grant us the boldness to say something instead of letting opportunities pass us by.