

Witnessing is for Extroverts and Theologians

Acts 8:26-40

A Look Back:

- Our agenda gets in the way of God's opportunities.
- Every relationship is eternal.
- God doesn't grade on a curve, and everybody doesn't go to a better place.

A Model To Follow:

- ▶ We have to be the people of God, before we do the work of God.
Acts 8:26-27, Acts 1:8, John 14:26, 1 John 2:27
- ▶ Look and pray for open doors.
Acts 8:28-30, Colossians 4:2-6, Ephesians 5:15-17
- ▶ Start where they are, not with what you know.
Acts 8:31-35, John 4:7-10
- ▶ Show them what Jesus did, not what they must do.
Acts 8:35, Luke 24:25-27, 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

A Recipe For The 1st Time:

Romans 1:19-20

Romans 3:23

Romans 5:8

Romans 6:23

Romans 10:9-11

Romans 12:1-2

“Live a life that demands an explanation.”

Food for Thought

For the week of July 2, 2006

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. One of the most significant motivations for sharing our faith with others is that the Bible tells us people are spiritually lost without Christ. In Luke 15, Jesus tells 3 parables that all deal with this theme. Read the chapter and then answer the following questions.

What similar elements do you see in all three parables?

What elements are different in the third parable from the first two?

Jesus' intent in telling these parables was to give us some perspective on how God views people who are lost. What do these parables teach us about spiritually lost people and God's attitude towards them?

What does Luke 19:10 add to this discussion?

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." [NIV]

2. This weekend Pastor Chris demonstrated how we can share the Gospel with someone using the Roman's Road. The Gospel is "good news" because it explains to people how they can experience a relationship with Christ. What do the following verses teach us about the Gospel and how we communicate it with others?

Romans 1:16

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. [NIV]

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. [2] By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

[3] For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, [4] that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, [5] and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. [6] After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. [7] Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, [8] and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. [NIV]

2 Corinthians 4:1-4

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. [2] Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. [3] And even if our

gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. [4] The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. [NIV]

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure. [2] We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition. [3] For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. [4] On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. [5] You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed--God is our witness. [6] We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, [7] but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. [8] We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. [NIV]

3. The Apostle Paul is a great example of someone who made himself available for God to use to share the Gospel. In Philippians 1:12-14 and Colossians 4:2-6, we see that even while in prison Paul's desire was to talk with people about Christ. What do we learn about Paul's attitude about witnessing from these passages?

Philippians 1:12-14

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. [13] As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. [14] Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. [NIV]

Colossians 4:2-6

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. [3] And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. [4] Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. [5] Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. [6] Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. [NIV]

What instructions does he give us for sharing our faith with others?

4. We heard this weekend about looking for open doors to share the Gospel with people. As you think about your life, who are the people the Lord has you "running alongside" currently? A good next step is to begin to pray that He will open a door of opportunity for you to talk with them about Spiritual things.