

Fundamentals Of Evangelism

Text : **John 17: 13-26**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Most lessons have focused on our mission and work as a church, with this one we want to look at our personal ministries. S#1.

1. We are all called to be the ambassador's of Christ to the world. **II Cor. 5**
2. We have been assigned to take the gospel to the whole world. (**Individually**)
3. Often we feel more overwhelmed by this than we need to be.

B. Vince Lombardi was one of the most successful coaches in pro football history.

1. He started each season by reviewing his pro players on the fundamentals. S#2.
2. This is a football, this is a football field, the object of the game is ...

C. There are certain fundamentals that we must understand about evangelism. S#3.

1. We must have these basics engrained until they become our instinctive response.
2. With this lesson we want to remind us of some of the basics and sharpen our focus.
3. We will focus on three elements of evangelism. S#4.
 - a. The ingredients of evangelism.
 - b. Some primary concerns
 - c. A few strategies

I. What are the basic ingredients of evangelism.

S#5.

A. The first ingredient is the MESSAGE.

1. Jesus made His disciples by giving them the word of God.
Vs. 14 – I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. S#6.
2. Those who are made disciples by the word, are responsible to make disciple by it.
 - a. **Vs. 20 – I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;** S#7.
 - b. So, every saved person is responsible to share the same message that saved them.
I Pet. 2: 9b – ... a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into ... S#8.
3. The gospel is communicated verbally. S#9.
 - a. **Rom. 10: 17 – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.**
 - b. **I Cor. 1: 21 – ... God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.**

- c. Setting a good example is important, but it **cannot** be defined as evangelism.
- * **Many good things that can contribute, but the gospel must be verbalized.** S#10.
- 4. It can be presented in many ways but the core of the message must include : S#11.
 - a. The message of the gospel is totally ABOUT JESUS.
 - 1) **I Cor. 1: 23 – but we preach Christ crucified,**
 - 2) **I Cor. 2: 2 – For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.**
 - b. They must be told WHO Jesus is. S#12.
 - 1) He is God incarnate.
 - 2) He is thee Savior of lost people.
 - c. They must be told what Jesus DID.
 - 1) He left Heaven and took the form of a man.
 - 2) He lived a perfect, sinless life. (Demonstrated it could be done.)
 - 3) He offered Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of others.
 - d. They must be told what Jesus OFFERS.
 - 1) He offers forgiveness of sins and imputed righteousness.
 - 2) He offers reconciliation / peace with God.
 - 3) He wants to give and eternal home in Heaven.
 - e. They must be told what Jesus DEMANDS.
 - 1) He demands people put their full faith and trust in Him.
 - 2) He demands that people turn from sin and live obedient to Him.
 - 3) He demands that people surrender to Him and obey the gospel.
- * **How you tell these essentials is not important, just be comfortable enough with it to share it from your heart to theirs. It can be shared a little at a time.**

B. The second primary ingredient is the MESSENGER. S#13.

- 1. ALL who follow Jesus are charged to be carriers of His message.
 - a. Vs. **18 – As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.**
 - b. **John 20: 21 – So Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father #14, has sent Me, I also send you.” (cf. Jn 4 .. Jesus was sent .. Lk 19:10)**
 - c. **Matt. 28: 19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing#15, them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**

2. Some nominal Christians say this is just for the Apostles, but it is for ALL.

- a. It is for all nations. **S#16.**
- b. It is until the end of the age
- 3. The prayer of Jesus includes all who will hear as a result of a disciple telling them.
 - a. Vs. **20** – **I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;**
 - b. Every generation of Christians is required to produce the next generation.
II Tim. 2: 2 – **The things which you have heard from me ..., entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**
- 4. Jesus set this as our highest priority in life. ... **Matt. 6: 33** ... **seek ye first**

C. The third primary ingredient in evangelism the MISSION FIELD.

S#17.

- 1. Jesus has a message and a messenger for the purpose of evangelizing someone.
 - a. Vs. **15** – **I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from ..**
 - b. Vs. **18** – **As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.**
- 2. The scope of the mission field is the whole world. **S#18.**
 - a. **John 3: 17** – **“not to judge, but that the world might be saved through Him.”**
 - b. **Matt. 28: 19** – **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, ...**
 - c. **Mark 16: 16** – **“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”**

II. What are the primary concerns about these three basic elements.

S#19.

A. The primary concern about the message is the CONTENT.

- 1. **Accuracy ...** We must communicate the gospel message accurately. **S#20.**
 - a. As His ambassadors Jesus trust us to deliver His message faithfully.
 - b. **I Cor. 4: 1-2** **Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.**
- 2. **Clearly ...** The message must be delivered in a clear coherent manner. **S#21.**
 - a. **Col. 4: 3-4** **praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, ... ⁴ that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.**
 - b. We don't have to be a bible scholar to share the gospel with others, but we need to but we need to be comfortable enough with the message to articulate it clearly.
 - 1) It's okay to have an organized printed presentation. (*Doesn't guarantee success*)
 - 2) Practice verbalizing it out loud in front of the mirror or other people.
 - c. The gospel wins souls, not excellence of speech, but it needs to be understandable.

B. The primary concern about the messenger is that he be CREDIBLE. S#22.

1. The messenger's life must not make the message unbelievable.
 - a. If Carla and I both held a seminar on weight loss, which one would you attend ?
 - b. One who leads a worldly life is not a credible advocate for godliness.

2. There are two aspect to credibility. S#23.

- a. Personal ... Sanctified living in a sinful world. S#24.

1) Vs. 16-17 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

- 2) The message must be communicated verbally. A good example is NOT evangelism, **but** it will either reinforce or discredit the message.

** Silence is denial and it is the loudest sermon one can preach.*

- b. Congregational ... Shining a clear and focused light on the cross. S#25.

1) Vs. 21 – that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

- 2) Love and unity is essential for both growth and survival.

John 13: 35 – By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

* c. Whether individually or congregationally a censorious attitude prevents evangelism

C. The primary concern about the mission field is CONTACT. S#26.

1. As we've seen, Christians are specifically sent out into the world.
 - a. Vs. 18 – As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

- b. Jesus was sent into the world to save sinners. **Matt. 1: 21** S#27.

I Tim. 1: 15 – ... that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, ...

Luke 19: 10 – For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

- c. Therefore, being sent as Jesus was sent, we are sent to save lost people. **Mk 16**

2. There is the constant danger that Christians will become isolated from the lost. S#28.

- a. Closer relationships with Christians less comfortable among those who aren't.
- b. We have a tendency to form "holy huddles" and exclude others. (*cocoon*)
- c. God forbids us to make the church into a monastery. *We must be leaven.*

3. We must be cautious not to confuse separation with isolation.

- a. Isolation violates Vs. 18 ... I also have sent them into the world.

- b. The Apostle taught us NOT to isolate ourselves from the evil world. **S#29.**
I Cor 5: 9-13 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; ¹⁰ I did not at all *mean* with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. ¹¹ But actually, I wrote to you not to associate **#30** with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? **#31** Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? ¹³ But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.
- c. To break off contact with the world is to eliminate evangelism.
- 4. While **IN** the world, we must not allow ourselves to become **OF** the world.
 - a. Sin is deceitful and very seductive. **Heb 3:13** hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
 - b. We must not fall in love with the things of this world. **I John 2: 15**
 - c. We must not develop a friendship with this world. **Jas 4: 4** (*not seek approval*)
- 5. Christians must always stand out in stark contrast to the world. (*Light in darkness*)
 - a. **Phil. 2: 15** – yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God **S#32.**
 above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation,
 among whom you appear as lights in the world,
 - b. Being different will not necessarily make you popular. (cf. **Jn 3: 20**)
Vs. 14 – I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them,
 because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

III. Some practical strategies.

S#33.

- A. Any strategy must include the verbal communication of the gospel.
 - 1. Everyone on the planet is either a missionary or a mission field. **Which R U**
 - 2. Evangelism is the outgrowth of one's commitment to Christ.
 - a. If you're a Christian, you know how to tell someone how to be what you are.
 - b. If you can't you need to be questioning your conversion to Christ.
 - 3. We don't all have to communicate the gospel the same way, **but** we must all do it.
 - a. Every Christian must be ready, willing and able to verbalize the gospel.
 - b. **I Pet. 3: 14-15** But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, ¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;
 - c. The original recipients were being persecuted and did not have the N.T. (*post 200*)

B. We must build what one writer called “redemptive relationships.”**S#34.**

1. Just as people who sell things cultivate prospects for sales, Christians should make relationships with lost people in order to teach them.
2. Consider the example of Jesus : (**Luke 19:5ff .. Zaccheus, Matt 9: 9ff .. Matt**) **S#35.**
Luke 15: 1-2 Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. **2** Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.
 - a. The perfect sinless one associated with sinners.
 - 1) **Matt. 11: 19** ... Called the “**friend of sinners.**”
 - 2) **Heb. 7: 26** ... Said to be “**separated from sinners.**” How is this possible ?
 - b. **Vs. 1-2** are followed by three parables about seeking the lost. (*sheep, coin, son*)
 - c. In **Luke 15: 28** the older brother is the Jews, specifically the Pharisees of **Vs. 2**
3. We must diligently guard against the “*holy huddle*” ... against “*cocooning.*”

C. It must be our practice to introduce outsiders to the church and its fellowship.

1. How will people learn of our love which proves that we are Christians ? **S#36.**
John 13: 34 – **By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**
2. The N.T. church welcomed visitors into their assemblies. **S#37.**
I Cor. 14: 23 – **Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad?**
3. THEREFORE, let us all be challenged to invite at least one visitor each week.

CONCLUSION :**A. SO, we’ve seen that there are three elements required for evangelism.****S#38.**

1. A message ... The gospel of Christ
2. A messenger ... You, me and every other Christian
3. A mission field ... Everyone you know outside Christ (*Meet people*)

B. Make a concerted effort to develop the ability to verbally communicate salvation.

1. Learn the gospel story well. **S#39.**
2. Practice presenting it in your own way. (*Hear yourself say it.*)
3. Don’t hide your faith ... **express your love for God and His Son.**

Invitation :**S#40.**

Lesson Text :**John 17: 13-26**

13 “But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. **14** I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **15** I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*. **16** They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **17** Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. **18** As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. **19** For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

20 “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; **21** that they may all be one; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. **22** The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; **23** I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. **24** Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

25 “O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; **26** and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

* Sermon ran 10 min. long.