

EVANGELISM

- I. At the moment a person becomes a Christian, why doesn't God just take them to heaven immediately to be with Him?

In Acts 1, we have recorded Christ's last conversation with the disciples before He ascended into heaven.

- A. What does Christ tell His disciples they will be in Acts 1:8? Witnesses
- B. Is this a suggestion or command?
- C. Without salvation, our unsaved friends will exist forever, apart from God, in hell (John 3:36)

- II. When you think of evangelism, what comes to your mind? (Going to Farmer's Market Thursday nights)

A. Program Mentality - Dessert Theatre, Sportsmen's banquet, outreach events
There is nothing wrong with such events, but if you believe that all you need to do is invite someone to an event and you've fulfilled your responsibility, you are mistaken.

B. Lifestyle Evangelism - Evangelism is to be something that comes out of a natural overflow of our lives.

1. Evangelism is a process of each of us living a transformed life in front of those who need Jesus.
2. It is each person taking personal responsibility for showing Christ with their lost friends.

- III. What occurred in this passage that allowed Peter and John to share the gospel?
Read Acts 3:1-10

A. They performed an act of kindness - healed a crippled beggar.

B. Can you share an act of kindness with someone who has a need you can meet? (As God brings opportunities into our lives to share our faith, we need to take advantage of it.)

Read Acts 3:11-12a

C. Notice how Peter took advantage of the opportunity to share the gospel.

- IV. Evangelism is to be the natural outflow of our lives. Read Acts 4: 7, 12-14.

A. Testimony

These men handled themselves in such a way that people could tell they had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)

1. They were unschooled - didn't have all the answers
2. They were ordinary - just like you and me, but they did astonishing things.
Why?
3. They spent time with Jesus. Acts 4:13 (When people watch our conduct, do they conclude we have been with Jesus?)

Read Acts 4:18-20

- B. Their relationship with Jesus compelled them.
How could they not share about Jesus? (Acts 4:20) They loved Him and He had radically changed their lives. Is that true of your life? Are you compelled to speak about Jesus like they were?

V. What is it that keeps you from sharing about Jesus?

A. Fear - Acts 4:13, II Tim. 1:7

Pray that God would give you boldness. Read Acts 4:29 answered 4:31

B. Don't know what to say - Acts 4:13 (unschooled, ordinary men)

1. Testify about what happened to you - Read John 4:14
(Pharisees don't want to believe, but don't know what to do with this healed man who now is standing in front of them.)

2. Every true believer has a testimony of how God has changed them.
Can you articulate your testimony clearly?

C. Apathy - You aren't excited about Jesus Christ any more

If you had a favorite football team that was undefeated and was doing some incredible feats, would you tell your friends about it?

Why not be just as excited about Jesus and the wonderful feats he can do?
Football is only a game. Jesus means the difference between life and death.

1. Statistically teens are more open to the gospel than older people. 80% of people who accept Christ do so before age 18.
2. Who do teens listen to the most? Other teens.

VI. Where do you start if this is you?

A. Repent and confess this as sin if you have not been obeying the command to be a witness for Jesus.

B. Spend time with Jesus

God wants to take ordinary people and use them to do extraordinary things for the Kingdom, but it only happens when we spend time with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

C. Walk in obedience even if you don't feel like it.

Philemon 6

I believe that without evangelism in the believers life, the Christian life doesn't make sense. Why maintain my testimony, why try to grow in my faith, why practice the spiritual disciplines? Sure it will be good for me and we know it is pleasing to God, but God left us here to share the good news.

The point is the world is going to hell without your testimony of Christ.

Application- Friendship Evangelism Challenge

- A. Ask God to burden your heart for some unsaved peers
- B. Pray for their salvation
- C. Commit to doing the Friendship Evangelism Challenge- handout

small groups

1. Do you know how to share your testimony with someone else? Have you ever?
2. Do you know how to share the gospel with someone else? Have you ever?
3. Have you ever led someone to Christ? Tell us about it.
4. Are you willing to do the Friendship Evangelism Challenge?
5. What scares you the most about doing the challenge?
6. Will you commit to praying about it?