

Evangelism is not simply a matter of bringing individuals to personal faith, though of course that remains central to the whole enterprise. It is a matter of confronting the world with the good, but deeply disturbing, news of a different way of living...the way of love.

N.T. Wright

We see it in every child who loves to tell of his happiness and to bring others to share his joys. Missions is the automatic outflow and overflow of love for Christ. We delight to enlarge our joy in Him by extending it to others. As Lottie Moon said, "Surely there can be no greater joy than that of saving souls."

John Piper

The great principle of 'incarnational mission' (teaches us that)...the ministry of Jesus was one of involvement, not detachment; and therefore we must face the fact that we cannot minister to a lost world if we are not in it.

Alistair Begg

First, we must admit that we were silly ever to think that any evangelistic technique, however skillful, could of itself guarantee conversions; second, we must recognize that, because man's heart is impervious to the word of God, it is no cause for surprise if at any time our evangelism fails to result in conversions; third, we must remember that the terms of our calling are that we should be faithful, not that we should be successful; fourth, we must learn to rest all our hopes of fruit in evangelism upon the omnipotent grace of God.

J.I. Packer

So far from making evangelism pointless, the sovereignty of God in grace is the one thing that prevents evangelism from being pointless. For it creates the possibility- indeed, the certainty- that evangelism will be fruitful. Apart from it, there is not even a possibility of evangelism being fruitful. Were it not for the sovereign grace of God, evangelism would be the most futile and useless enterprise that the world has ever seen, and there would be no more complete waste of time under the sun than to preach the Christian gospel.

J.I. Packer

A Helpful Book: ***Tell the Truth***, by Will Metzger: This amazing book is a training manual on the message and methods of God-centered gospelizing. The author's intent is that the whole gospel be spoken to the whole person by whole people. Great book!

Stewards of the Story

Stewards of the Story in our Speaking

2 Timothy 2:23-26; 1 Peter 3:15

Introduction: For too many years "evangelism" has been understood as "us vs. them." It has largely been seen as "telling", and has, in our day, even turned at times to "yelling." But, is this true to the Gospel and the model we find in Jesus? What does it mean to "speak" the Gospel in the course of life, among the people with whom we live and work? Today we examine how the Apostles understood Jesus' command to share the Gospel, and we will find that it not only relates to our mouths, but also our ears, our hands, our feet ... to all of who we are in Christ!

How do I view myself?

1 Peter 3:15a

The Lord's steward: *Christ is the Lord of my life*

The Lord's story: *Christ is Lord of the Gospel*

How do I view people?

2 Timothy 2:26

In need of rescue: *held captive*

In need of reformation: *dead in sin*

What is my Gospel privilege?

1 Peter 3:15b; 2 Timothy 2:25

An excited anticipation: *always ready*

A prepared compassion: *gently correcting*

How do I live up to this privilege?

1 Peter 3:15b; 2 Timothy 2:23-25

Relationship

Respect

Reliance

Applying these truths to life ...

Do the "risks" really exist? Do they matter in light of the "reward?"

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Think about this . . .

- Jesus’ Command: *Go, and make disciples (Christ-followers) of all nations!*
- Today’s version: *telling? yelling?*
- The Apostle’s version: *winsome, caring conversation*

Paul: 2 Timothy 2:22-26: *22 Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. 24 The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

Peter: 1 Peter 3:15: *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;*

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“O Lord, put me in a place to have a conversation about life with someone today, for my good and theirs, and all for your glory. Amen”

Kids Notes

Stewards of the Story in our Speaking

The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. *The best reason to have a conversation about Jesus is:*

- A. that you love them, and want them to know Jesus.
- B. you want to feel good about yourself.
- C. you want them to know how bad they are.
- D. all of the above.

2. *Our good works build a platform of good will so we can:*

- A. raise money.
- B. gain entrance into heaven.
- C. share the Good News of the Gospel.
- D. all of the above.

3. *Speaking the Gospel really means:*

- A. building a relationship with people.
- B. respecting them and God and treating each truthfully.
- C. relying fully on the Spirit of God to change lives.
- D. all of the above.

For Family Discussion: Do you know someone whose life needs Jesus? How can you build a relationship with them? How can you engage them in a conversation about life, and share your trust in Jesus?

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

YELLING _____	TOTAL: _____
GOSPEL _____	_____
RESPECT _____	_____
RELATIONSHIP _____	_____
SPIRIT _____	_____
PEOPLE _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

YELLING GOSPEL RESPECT RELATIONSHIP RELIANCE SPIRIT
 PEOPLE RESCUE BLIND DEAD SINS TRANSFORMATION REFORMED
 JESUS LIFE TELLING BUMPER STICKERS VERBAL VIOLENCE PEACE
 FAITH REPENTANCE WINSOME GENTLE CORRECTION DEFENSE

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E Z S I E W P E Y R Y Y R T N F E
P C D T M F S E E K E E R Q O A M
E K N M I N I C A L S A F L I I O
O L T A E C N L L C N L O X T T S
P R A F T A K I U S E A H X C H N
L S E B I N N E F T C E P S E R I
E D G L R G E O R E B M U B R W W
P K E X P E R P K S N I S V R E H
G R V C D M V H E S K V S I O R C
S N I N A R E F O R M E D O C Z E
V P I T P I H S N O I T A L E R L
Z L I L G O S P E L Y D M E J L T
B O J R L J E S U S E V U N G G N
N P P T I E G H P A O J N C I J E
K M M Y S T T R D A P G S E D R G
    
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