

Evangelism - Part 2

Extending the Kingdom to Unbelievers

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe things whatsoever I have commanded you,” (Matt. 28:19-20). In the Great Commission we find not just the command to go out and witness, but also the principle that we are to make disciples (disciplined learners) of those who receive the Gospel. The question is not just whether we are actively witnessing, but whether we are actually reproducing ourselves. This is the goal of evangelism. Our purpose in sharing our faith with unbelievers is to find those who are willing to lay down their lives for the kingdom and then train them for a life of obedience to the Lord.

I. The Role of Children “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain,” (Jn. 15:16). God has called us to go and witness, to bring forth new believers, and to help the believers remain faithful to Him.

- A. Taking Dominion. The Lord desires to see His kingdom established in the hearts of men.
 - 1. God commanded man to be fruitful and multiply in a natural way, and later in a spiritual way through birthing others into a relationship with Jesus. (Gen. 1:23; Matt. 28:19-20).
 - 2. He promises that none of our men or women will be childless. (Deu. 7:14).
 - 3. Through the process of multiplication, the least one can become a mighty nation. (Isa. 60:22).

- B. Demonstration of Jesus. By concentrating on a few men while He ministered to the masses, Jesus was able to prepare twelve to become the foundation for a mighty revival in the First Century church.
 - 1. When Jesus first began His ministry, He chose men to be with Him. (Ac. 1:21-23; Mk. 3:14).
 - 2. By seeing and experiencing how Jesus ministered, they would learn the secrets of the kingdom. (Lu. 8:9-10).
 - 3. This training rotated between instruction and assignment. (Mk. 6:30, 8:19).

- C. Children as an Inheritance. New believers are what the Lord provides Christians in order to continue taking dominion in the earth.
 - 1. Children are a gift from God. (Gen. 33:5, 48:9).
 - 2. They are esteemed and highly valued. (Ps. 127:3-5, 128:3).
 - 3. They bring great joy to parents. (III Jn. 4; Gen. 5:29; Col. 4:11).
 - 4. To not bear children is a disgrace. (Gen. 30:25; I Sam. 1:6-7, 2:1-11; Lu. 1:25).

IMPORTANT POINTS

What role do spiritual children play in the life of a Christian?

II. The Role of Compassion. Fear often hinders Christians from witnessing and reproducing themselves. But instead of focusing on themselves, believers should become preoccupied with the needs of those who do not know the Lord. When we see people's needs from this perspective, we are able to respond with compassion. "There is no fear in love," (I. Jn. 4:18).

A. The Father's Compassion. As we see the Father's compassion and broken heart for a dying world, we will become closer to Him and understand Him better.

1. Throughout time, the Father shows compassion:
 - a. Past. (Ps. 78:38).
 - b. Present. (Ps. 86:15, 111:4, 145:8).
 - c. Future. (Lam. 3:32)
2. He is committed to having compassion. (Mic. 7:19; Lam. 3:22; Eze. 16:5).
3. God identifies with people's needs to the extent that He refers to them in the first person. Matt. 25:35-40; Ac. 21:7.
4. He longs to be gracious and redeem. (Hos. 7:13; Isa. 30:18).

B. The Son's Compassion. Clearly Jesus did not coldly preach the Gospel and minister to needs around Him, but became involved in His work.

1. Jesus longed to gather the people together and shepherd them. (Lu. 13:34).
2. Even at the death of Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, the Lord could respond to others' needs. (Matt. 14:9-14).
3. Jesus' compassion led Him to act in meeting people's needs through:
 - a. Healing (Mk. 1:41).
 - b. Feeding (Matt. 15:32).
 - c. Teaching (Mk. 6:34).
 - d. Resurrecting (Lu. 7:13).

C. The Church's Compassion. Rather than waiting for a feeling or "burden" to drive a believer to witness, the Christian should begin to simply obey the

command to share the Gospel. The feeling of compassion will follow as a result.

1. God's people are commanded to be compassionate. (Zech. 7:9; I Pet. 3:8).
2. In fact, we are to clothe ourselves with compassion. (Col. 3:12).
3. Compassion should be shown to one another. (Heb. 10:34; I Jn. 3:17).

D. Paul's Compassion. If Christians are accustomed to having all their needs met, they will become so comfortable that they will be unable to reach out properly to the lost with compassion. Paul is an example of one who suffered before responding with compassion. (Ac. 21:26-40).

1. Men stirred up the crowd against Paul by falsely accusing Him. (vs. 27-29).
2. They surrounded Paul and shut him within the temple gates. (vs. 30).
3. The crowd then tried to kill him by beating Paul. (vs. 31-32).
4. When the soldiers rescued him, he had to be carried because of the violence of the crowd. (vs. 35-36).
5. At this point of rejection and pain from being beaten, Paul did not try to escape, but rather asked to speak to the people. (vs. 39).

IMPORTANT POINTS

Describe the compassion which God and the church have shown to the lost

III. The Role of Prayer. It's to the degree and by the specificness with which we pray that God moves in the lives of men. First we pray to the Lord that He would increase us through new converts, then we break the bonds of Satan over those whom God chooses. Weeping is experienced as we wait for the fulfillment of these prayers.

A. Prayer to God. In the lives of Sarah, Rebekkah, Leah, Rachel, Hannah, and Elizabeth, prayer to the Lord was a key to giving birth.

1. Rachel wanted children so badly that she preferred to die than live without them. (Gen. 30:1).
2. God answered her heart's desire twice, but during the second birth with Benjamin, she did in fact lose her life. (Gen. 35:16-20).
3. Likewise, our prayer to bring forth spiritual children should become just as intense until we give birth. (I Sam. 1:1-20).

- B. Prayer Against Satan. Because we are in a spiritual battle for the souls of men, we must attack the influence of the Devil in the lives of those whom God is calling us to bring into the kingdom.
1. The Devil has people bound and hid in prisons. (Isa. 42:22).
 2. Before we can release the prisoners, Satan must be bound. (Matt. 12:29; Isa. 49:24-25).
 3. In this way we break unbelievers' blindness that keeps them from salvation. (II Cor. 4:3-4; I Jn. 2:11; Isa. 59:10).
 4. As we take our authority, God is then able to give us spiritual children. (Isa. 43:6-8).

IMPORTANT POINTS

What attack must be made against Satan for souls to be saved?

- C. Prayer through Weeping. As we become locked in prayer for those whom God takes us into battle, we may often experience weeping. This is not emotionalism, but a result of the Spirit working within.
1. Those who go out weeping, or with a right heart, are those who return with fruit. (Ps. 126:6).
 2. As Jesus approached Jerusalem, He was overcome by grief and broke down and wept. (Lu. 19:61-62).
 3. Likewise, Paul experienced great sorrow desiring the salvation of his own people. (Rom. 9:1-3).

IV. The Role of Purity. We must realize that our whole lifestyle is passed on to new believers with whom we spend time with. Our habits, good and bad, will become the pattern for the new Christian to base his life in. Therefore, our lives must be holy before we should work closely in training others. "Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit: but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit," (Matt. 7:17).

- A. God Opening the Womb. As a believer walks in holiness, he will bear fruit.
1. Jesus taught that there must be a death to self before there is reproduction, or rather, multiplication of our lives. (Jn. 12:24).
 2. We died to the Law in order that we might bear fruit to Him. (Rom. 7:4).
 3. As long as the children of Israel followed the Lord's command, He promised that they would live and increase. (Deu. 8:1).

4. As we stay holy before Him, we will continue to bear fruit. (Jer. 17:7-8).
5. Believers face God's judgment when consistently not bearing fruit. (Lu. 13:6-9; heb. 6:7-8; Isa. 5:1-7).

B. God Closing the Womb. God has promised to answer our prayers. If He does not hear our requests to bring forth fruit, it becomes a wonderful thing in that He is speaking to us that there is something wrong.

1. Having no children could be a judgment from God. (Gen. 20:17-18).
2. However, Elizabeth, a righteous woman, did not have children for much of her life. (Lu. 1:6-7).
3. Before Manoa's wife conceived, an angel spoke of the need for a blameless life and to do all that God commands. (Jug. 13:2-14).
4. Because of the people's sin, Hosea prophesied that people would have miscarrying wombs. (Hos. 9:9-14).

IMPORTANT POINTS

If someone has not brought forth fruit in the kingdom, are they in sin?

V. The Role of Weighing Costs. The disciples saw Jesus make sacrifices of time and effort for others, suffer the rejection of those He ministered to, and ultimately suffer His personal rights violated. The disciples were faithful to follow His example by suffering in the same areas to bring forth fruit. "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you," (Gal. 4:19).

A. Sacrificing for Others. Believers should choose to sacrifice pleasure for the lost.

1. We must be willing to have difficulty in finding time alone with God as He makes us a source of life to others.
 - a. Jesus. (Mk. 7:24; 1:35-37).
 - b. Disciples. (Mk. 3:20, 6:30-34).
2. In the same way, rest and sleep will become difficult.
 - a. Jesus. (Mk. 1:35; Lu. 6:12)
 - b. Disciples. (II Cor. 7:5, 11:26-27; Ac. 16:25).
3. Worldly treasures and relationships must be sacrificed.
 - a. Jesus. (Isa. 53:8; Matt. 8:20; II Cor. 8:9).

- b. Disciples. (I Cor. 9:3-6, 4:11; Matt. 19:27-29).
- 4. There should be a willingness to experience failure and disappointment.
 - a. Jesus. (Matt. 11:20-21; Jn. 6:70).
 - b. Disciples. (II Tim. 4:20; Ac. 8:1).
- 5. Accompanying these disappointments is great sorrow.
 - a. Jesus. (Isa. 53:3; Jn. 11:33-35).
 - b. Disciples. (II Cor. 11:28-29, 1:8-9).

IMPORTANT POINTS

What type of sacrifices must be made for unbelievers?

- E. Persecution from Others. Many in the world will not receive our message and will turn on us.
 - 1. Men of God who are reaching out will be hated.
 - a. Jesus. (Jn. 15:24-25; Lu. 19:14).
 - b. Disciples. (Lu. 21:17; I Jn. 3:13; Isa. 66:5).
 - 2. They will be falsely accused.
 - a. Jesus. (Matt. 26:59-61; Lu. 23:2; 10).
 - b. Disciples. (Rom. 3:8; Ac. 6:13; 25:7).
 - 3. One of the cruelest ways to hurt someone can be through mocking and insulting.
 - a. Jesus. (Lu. 23:11, 36; Matt. 27:41-43).
 - b. Disciples. (Heb. 10:33; I Cor. 4:12-13).
 - 4. Christians will be excluded and asked to leave others alone.
 - a. Jesus. (Mk. 15:6-13; Matt. 8:34).
 - b. Disciples. (Lu. 6:22; Ac. 18:6).

- F. Rights Violated by Others. There must be a willingness to risk our lives while proclaiming the Gospel.
 - 1. Believers will be humiliated.
 - a. Jesus. (Lu. 2:7; Ac. 8:33).
 - b. Disciples. (I Cor. 4:9-11).
 - 2. Some will be thrown into prisons.
 - a. Jesus. (Jn. 18:12)
 - b. Disciples. (Ac. 4:3, 8:3, 16:24).
 - 3. Others will be physically beaten.

- a. Jesus. (Matt. 27:28-30; Jn. 18:22).
 - b. Disciples. (II Cor. 11:23-27; Ac. 16:23).
4. Many have even lost their life.
- a. Jesus. (Jn. 19:30)
 - b. Disciples (Jn. 21:19; Ac. 12:2).

IMPORTANT POINTS

What rights may a Christian see violated?

VI. The Role of Parenting. As we see new believers come into the faith, there must be a commitment on our part to see them become established Christians. We nurse them as babies and then train them as children.

- A. Nursing. The description from the Bible of “follow-up” as a woman nursing her child emphasizes the tenderness of the relationship. (Num. 11:12; I Thes. 2:7).
- 1. The Word pictures new Christians as new-born babies. (I Pet. 2:2).
 - 2. Just as with natural children, the church is to nurse these younger believers. (Isa. 60:16, 66:11).
 - 3. The milk that is transferred to the new believer is the Word of God. (I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14).
 - 4. The nursing process for those who bring in a new believer is to take priority over other activities. (I Sam. 1:21-23).
 - 5. An open heart and a holy life are required before God can give the increase. (Lam. 4:3; Hos. 9:14-15).

IMPORTANT POINTS

Describe the process of nursing a baby Christian.

- B. Teaching and Training. As believers become older in the Lord, they will require the teaching and discipline of parents. In Christ, we become spiritual fathers and mothers when we birth someone into the kingdom. “For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the Gospel.” (I Cor. 4:15).
1. A great amount of prayer should be offered for these spiritual children. (Gen. 17:18; II Sam. 12:16; Job. 1:5).
 2. They are to hear the Word of God, pray and rejoice right alongside older believers. (Josh. 8:35; II Chr. 20:13; Neh. 12:43).
 3. We correct them as we see best. (Pr. 13:24; I Thes. 2:11; Heb. 12:9-10).
 4. They have special responsibility to be obedient to us (just as God required Joshua to be obedient to Moses). Josh. 1:7; Pr. 4:1-4).
 5. Ultimately, God takes the responsibility of raising children. (Ex. 22:22-24; Pr. 27:10).

IMPORTANT POINTS

How are spiritual children to be raised?

VII. Point of Decision. God does not intend that His church would witness without a sense of purpose. Sharing your faith is more than a duty; it is an expression of the life of Christ within desiring to see others founded in God. Through grace, we fully train others in the ways that we ourselves have learned, that they in turn would teach a greater number. “Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also,” (II Tim. 2:1-2).

PERSONAL APPLICATION – EXTENDING THE KINGDOM TO UNELIEVERS

1. Do I have compassion for the lost?

2. Am I regularly praying that unbelievers would see the light?

3. Am I prepared to pay the price for bringing others the message of the Gospel?

4. At this point of decision, I commit myself to the role of parenting, and will....
