**Teaching The Good News!**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday May 31, 2020

Text: I Corinthians 9:22-23

### Intro

1. *Luke 24:13-27:* The good news spreading from Jerusalem was that Jesus was alive!
2. *Mark 16:*15-16: Jesus sent His disciples into all the world to preach the good news!
3. *I Corinthians 15:1-11:* Paul said he preached the good news of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection to the Corinthian saints, and they were saved by the gospel.
   1. *Romans 1:16-17:* The risen Christ is the Good News (gospel) that is the power of God for salvation! (His resurrection from the dead is the cornerstone of our faith – I Cor. 15:1-19)
   2. *I Corinthians 15:13-19:* If Christ wasn’t raised from the dead, our faith is in vain.
4. *II Timothy 2:24-26:* Saints are to be “able to teach” and save the lost from the snare of Satan!
5. I Corinthians 9:22-23: Paul became “all things to all men” that he might “by all means save some!” We need to teach by finding the methods that fit our personality and suit the situation!
6. Saints are to teach the good news that brings salvation to all men, using approaches that suit the need or style of the teacher!

#### Everyday Examples

* 1. Use everyday examples like Jesus did
     1. *John 4:1-43:* An example of this is seen when Jesus came into Samaria and went to a well where Jesus used water to start a spiritual conversation with the Samaritan woman there.
     2. The result was many of the Samaritan townspeople believed in Him!
  2. Use everyday landmarks like Paul did
     1. *Acts 17:* An example is seen in Athens when Paul saw the idolatry of the city and used their statue to “The Unknown God” (17:23) to preach a sermon on the risen Christ and the judgment to come!
     2. He even quoted one of their poets! *(17:28: Aratus, ca. 310-245 B.C., Phaenomena 5)*
     3. The result was a handful of men and women believed in Jesus!
  3. From everyday examples we may start teaching someone where they are and with what they are familiar with! *(Example: Rainbow – Gen. 9:9-17: God’s promise to all men)*

#### Daily Living

* 1. Be an example of Christ’s teachings
     1. Matthew 5:13-16: Jesus said His followers are salt and light, and that as His followers they are expected to live in such a way as to bring glory to God!
     2. I Timothy 4:12: Paul told Timothy to be an example of believers in his “speech, conduct, love, faith and purity.”
     3. I Peter 3:14-16: Peter says saints are to always be prepared to give a defense (answer) for the hope that is in us. Others ought to observe our godly conduct!
  2. Does your life, your marriage, your work ethic, and your parenting exemplify Christ’s word in your speech and conduct?

1. Colossians 3:17: “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”
2. As people ask you about your parenting, your choices at work, or what they observe in your marriage and life, take those opportunities to teach the good news!
3. An old adage: “Your life may be the only sermon someone hears. Make it a good one.”
   1. In being godly servants of the Lord, we may use the opportunities in everyday living to teach the gospel!

#### The Right Approaches

* 1. There is no “right way” to teach the good news – You must find the approach that suits you as well as the situation.
     1. Some respond in obedience to the gospel out of fear, love, guilt, confrontation, reasoning and persuasion, a question, or by example and influence! (etc.)
     2. Be the example of godliness and righteousness in your life, and as you teach, be yourself that you might have the maximum spiritual effect!
  2. Matthew’s Interpersonal Approach
     1. Luke 5:27-29, 30-32 (Mt. 9:9-13)
        1. Matthew (Levi) invited Jesus and His disciples to his house for “a big reception” (NET: “a great banquet;” NKJ: “a great feast”) and invited many of his tax collector friends (“a great crowd”).
        2. This was a great way for his friends to meet Jesus. Tax collectors and sinners were eating with Jesus, which bothered the religious leaders (Luke 5:30-32), who complained to Jesus’ disciples.
        3. Jesus pointed out that the ones who need healing are the sick!
     2. Perhaps you have friends or family that you want them to meet godly influences and could invite them to Christian get-togethers!
  3. Jesus’ Personal Approach
     1. Luke 19:1-10
        1. Jesus stopped in the middle of a crowd that was following Him to look up into a tree and speak to Zacchaeus, a short tax collector who climbed into a Sycamore tree to see Jesus as He passed by, and told him to come down as Jesus desired to spend time with him!
        2. Jesus taking time to bring him from the curiosity stage by investing his personal attention to the man led the tax collector to change his life.
        3. Jesus said He came to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10)
     2. Perhaps you know someone interested in spiritual matters, and maybe they just need someone to give them personal attention so they might meet Jesus!
  4. Andrew & Philip’s Invitational Approach
     1. John 1:40-42: Andrew
        1. Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist (John 1:35-39) and after meeting Jesus he ran to his brother Simon and brought him to Jesus.
        2. This led to Simon becoming Peter and one of Jesus’ closest friends and apostles!
     2. John 1:43-51: Philip
        1. Philip met Jesus and followed Him, then went to Nathanael and told him to come meet Him.
        2. Nathanael was skeptical but went. (“Can anything good come from Nazareth?” – 1:46)
        3. Upon meeting Jesus and hearing just a little of what Jesus knew of him, he declared Him to be the “Son of God” and “King of Israel!”
        4. *(Many people identify him as Bartholomew, and if so, he became an apostle of Jesus!)*
     3. Perhaps you have friends or relatives that need to meet Jesus and just need an invitation!
  5. The Blind Man’s Testimonial Approach
     1. John 9
        1. A man born blind is healed by Jesus and receives his sight!
        2. When confronted by the Jews about this miraculous healing the man who now sees didn’t argue or get into an intellectual debate with them, but simply stated what Jesus did for him: “One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see” (9:25)
        3. While they wanted to dismiss the healing and dismiss the Healer, the man who now sees gave them a history lesson they could not dismiss: “Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind” (9:32).
        4. Healing the blind is not recorded in the O.T., but it is prophesied of the Messiah in Isaiah 35:5-6 and Jesus confirms it in Matthew 11:1-6.
     2. Perhaps your relationship with Jesus has changed your life in such a way that you are willing to share your story with someone else!
  6. Peter’s Confrontational Approach
     1. Acts 2
        1. Peter’s words are recorded, though the other apostles were also speaking (Acts 1:26; 2:1-4, 14).
        2. Peter was the right man for the sermon, for he held the people’s (Jews) feet to the fire, so to speak!
        3. “…this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death” (2:23)
        4. “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified” (2:36)
        5. The result was 3,000 people were baptized and added to the church! (2:41, 47)
        6. Some people respond to the gospel call to obey when they are challenged and confronted with their sin.
     2. Perhaps you know someone in sin who may wish for a way out, and you could be “the Peter” they need!
  7. Philip’s Conversational Approach
     1. Acts 8:26-40
        1. Sent by an angel, Philip was on a desert road and overheard the Ethiopian Eunuch, the Treasurer for the Queen of Ethiopia, reading from Isaiah 53 as his chariot passed by.
        2. He ran to the chariot and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”
        3. This led to an invitation to join the man in the chariot and starting where he was at (in Isaiah 53) he preached to him Jesus!
        4. This resulted in the man stopping the chariot to be baptized in a body of water they were passing, and he went away rejoicing!
        5. Philip started the conversation with a question on understanding.
     2. Perhaps you could start a conversation with a simple question like Philip did, or start where they are at (their understanding is) and preach to them Jesus!
  8. Tabitha’s Service Approach
     1. Acts 9:36-43
        1. YLT: “…this woman was full of good works and kind acts that she was doing.” (NIV: “she was always doing good and helping the poor”)
        2. Tabitha (Dorcas in Greek) of Joppa died and the saints there sent for Peter in nearby Lydda to come.
        3. When Peter came the widows that were gathered there were crying and showing him all the clothing Tabitha made for them while she was still alive!
        4. Acts of kindness can go a long way to demonstrate the love of Jesus! (James 2:15-17; I John 3:17-18)
     2. Perhaps there are people in your life you can serve in some way to show them the love of God and bring them to Jesus!
  9. Paul’s Intellectual Approach
     1. Acts 17
        1. Paul was the right man to send to Greek philosophers in Athens!
        2. These philosophers may not have responded to Peter’s “turn-or-burn” approach but would listen to logic that proved the point!
        3. Paul “was reasoning” with the Jews and God-fearing Gentiles every day (17:17).
        4. Paul started with their own statue “To An Unknown God” and taught them about the only true and living God, the resurrected Messiah, and repentance because of the Judgment Day to come!
        5. He even quoted one of their poets to make his case in 17:28! *(Aratus, ca. 310-245 B.C., Phaenomena 5)*
        6. The result was that a handful of men and women went away with him believing.
     2. Perhaps you know someone who enjoys to study and could, like Paul to the Thessalonians (Acts 17:2), “reason with them from the Scriptures!”
  10. People respond in many ways, and you can find the approach to teaching that best suits you and the need!

## Conclusion

1. We need to have the mindset that all people matter to God and are worthy of our time, love and concern! (II Timothy 2:24-26)
2. With that mindset we ought not to “judge a book by its cover” in our approach to teaching people, and that we might do away with our own bias, prejudices, and false image that the church is for perfect people!
3. Jesus said He came to heal the sick and save the lost (Luke 5:31; 19:10)
   1. The blood of Jesus was shed to forgive the sins of a repentant sinner (Acts 10:34-35; Ephesians 1:7)
4. Hopefully these approach styles will give us all ideas on how to be more effective in reaching the lost of the world, by starting on those in our own circle of influence!
5. Praise God for the example of Paul, who became “all things to all men” that he might “by all means save some!” (I Corinthians 9:22-23)
6. Like Paul let us in humility of mind think of others as more important than ourselves and labor for the kingdom in love and concern for others, teaching them to obey the gospel and be forgiven of their sins!
7. If not obeyed Christ yet, repent, be baptized, and hold fast to His word!
8. If a Christian, let your life show it – live *for* Him now so you may ever live *with* Him!
9. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!