

Evangelism: The Presence and Power of Holy Spirit

June 3, 2012

ACTS 16:13-18

Vol. 2 Num. 22

Core Competency:

Giving Away My Faith- I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. For this I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might be bold enough in Him to speak as I should. (Ephesians 6:19-20)

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

❸ LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFE GROUP.

Introduction

Julius Caesar was appointed governor of Gaul by the Roman Senate in 58 B.C. At the time, Gaul comprised what is now northern Italy and southern France. Caesar was not satisfied that barbarian tribes should control the rich countryside north of his domain, so he launched into his Gallic wars. It was too much trouble to wait for Senate approval, so he began on his own authority and at his own expense.

Caesar's journals of his campaigns to conquer the territory which is now France and to consolidate his power against strong and crafty adversaries have been models of strategy studied by military tacticians ever since. The first stage of his conquest was to sweep through the Gallic territory from south to north following the path of least resistance. This broke up the established patterns of rule, commerce, and supply of the patchwork of tribes in central and northern Gaul.

Caesar established major military camps, multiple outposts, and a logistical network to supply his occupying forces. All of this was the prelude to the hard work of rooting out the entrenched enemies in their strongholds, but it was the preliminary thrusts that found the receptive areas, the future allies, and the rough shape of the future province of greater Gaul.

The Holy Spirit also thrusts out advance parties to blaze the trail of missionary evangelism, to find the receptive peoples, and to mark out the rough shape of the future established church. Later there would be strongholds to overcome and local churches to multiply and strengthen.

When Paul and Silas left the familiar cities of southern Galatia, they did not know where the Spirit of God wanted them to go. They knew where it seemed logical to go, but they didn't know that God had in mind an area where there were people ready to volunteer to believe.

"Cross over to Macedonia and help us!" This is what the apostle Paul heard a man say in a vision while staying in the coastal city of Troas. Immediately, he and his traveling companions made their way to the Roman colony of Philippi in Macedonia, where God prepared ahead of them an audience for the gospel.

This Week

Did you know that God does the same thing today? No, not that God will necessarily guide us with a vision, but did you know that he already has people ready to hear the gospel? Our job is to be willing to share the good news and cooperate with what God is already doing. Notice what the Holy Spirit does through Paul when he makes himself available in this way.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage:

Acts 16: 13-24

13 On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate by the river, where we thought there was a place of prayer. We sat down and spoke to the women gathered there.

14 A woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God, was listening. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was spoken by Paul.

15 After she and her household were baptized, she urged us, "If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

16 Once, as we were on our way to prayer, a slave girl met us who had a spirit of prediction. She made a large profit for her owners by fortune-telling.

17 As she followed Paul and us she cried out, "These men, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation, are the slaves of the Most High God."

18 And she did this for many days. But Paul was greatly aggravated and turning to the spirit, said, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out right away.

② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the following questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

1. Instead of finding a synagogue in which to preach, (evidently a synagogue did not exist in Philippi), verse 13 says that Paul went on the Sabbath day outside the city gate by the river to find a place for prayer.
 - a) Why do you suppose Paul searched out synagogues or places of prayer when engaging in evangelism (cf. Acts 18:5-7)?

 - b) How is John 6:37, 43-45 related to Paul's practice of searching out converts in these places?
2. What are some necessary elements to conversion (cf. John 4:23-24; Luke 24:30-34, 44-45; Rom 10:9-13; 2 Cor 3:14-16, 4:6)?
3. How could the principles discovered in questions 1 and 2 shape the way you approach your evangelism efforts?

4. After her conversion and baptism, Lydia asked Paul and his companions to stay at her house.
 - a) Culturally speaking, how was the hospitality of Lydia beneficial to Paul efforts to evangelize Macedonia? How was her hospitality beneficial to Lydia and her household?

 - b) How was the fellowship with the new believers beneficial to Paul? How was the fellowship beneficial to Lydia and her household?

5. In vv. 16 – 18, we read of an unusual obstacle to evangelism.
 - a) What motive do you suppose the slave girl/spirit had for its actions?

 - b) Why was what the spirit did such an aggravation to Paul?

6. In what similar ways does the Enemy use people to create obstacles to evangelism today?

③LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFEGROUP.

There sometimes confusions among God's people about what constitutes a clear presentation of the gospel. Some people leave out essential elements, while others add unnecessary elements, or requirements to the gospel presentation. In your group:

- Give everyone a piece of paper, and have him or her write down ONLY those essential elements a person personally needs to KNOW and DO in order to be saved. (HAVE FUN! Put some ridiculous elements in to shake things up.)
- Fold up the pieces of paper, stick them in a hat and then let each person draw one.
- Each person read the response and then as a group, evaluate together what is missing, or what is unnecessarily added.
- Try to conclude with a succinct list of the essential elements.

Sermon Notes:

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away God's Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish