

Evangelism: From the Inside Out

June 10, 2012

ACTS 16:19-34

Vol. 2 Num. 23

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

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.

② DISCOVER His Word

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

③ 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

The story has been told of a missionary to China who was in language school. The very first day of class the teacher entered the room and, without saying a word, walked down every row of students. Finally, still without saying a word, she walked out of the room again. Then she came back and addressed the class.

"Did you notice anything special about me?" she asked. Nobody could think of anything in particular. One student finally raised her hand. "I noticed that you had on a very lovely perfume," she said. The class chuckled. But the teacher said, "That was exactly the point. You see, it will be a long time before any of you will be able to speak Chinese well enough to share the gospel with anyone in China. But even before you are able to do that, you can minister the sweet fragrance of Christ to these people by the quality of your lives. It is your lifestyle, lived out among the Chinese people, that will minister Christ to them long before you are able to say one word to them about personal faith in Jesus."

It is like that with us as well. Though we may not be eloquent speakers, unbelievers we encounter will be ministered to by the Christ-likeness of our daily lives, if indeed we are walking in relationship with Him.

"We are the only Bible
The careless world will need,
We are the sinner's gospel,
We are the scoffer's creed,
We are the Lord's last message,
Given in deed and word.
What if the type is crooked?
What if the print is blurred?"

This Week

This week, we witness a powerful example of how God uses our own personal relationship with him as a means to bring people to himself. This is not something that can be faked, or manufactured. Our relationship with God is not best demonstrated when things are going well. It is when his people are in a dark place among others who are in darkness, bound by the chains of sin that Christ shines most brightly.

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: 19-34

19 When her owners saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

20 Bringing them before the chief magistrates, they said, “These men are seriously disturbing our city. They are Jews

21 and are promoting customs that are not legal for us as Romans to adopt or practice.”

22 Then the mob joined in the attack against them, and the chief magistrates stripped off their clothes and ordered them to be beaten with rods.

23 After they had inflicted many blows on them, they threw them in jail, ordering the jailer to keep them securely guarded.

24 Receiving such an order, he put them into the inner prison and secured their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and

immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s chains came loose.

27 When the jailer woke up and saw the doors of the prison open, he drew his sword and was going to kill himself, since he thought the prisoners had escaped.

28 But Paul called out in a loud voice, “Don’t harm yourself, because all of us are here!”

29 Then the jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

30 Then he escorted them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

31 So they said, “Believe the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

32 Then they spoke the message of the Lord to him along with everyone in his house.

33 He took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds. Right away he and all his family were baptized.

34 He brought them into his house, set a meal before them, and rejoiced because he had believed God with his entire household.

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. Notice verse 25, how is Paul and Silas’ response to their arrest related to what Jesus said in John 7:38 and Matt. 5:14-16?
2. The apostles could have easily escaped, but did not try. Explain the reason for Paul’s response to the jailer in verse 28 (1 John 4:20 – 21; Luke 10:27). Why is this so important as a witness?
3. Notice that the jailer was not saved by witnessing the worship and good works of Paul and Silas, the gospel (the good news) still had to be explained, understood, and embraced (Acts 16:30 – 32). How would you explain the relationship between witnessing and evangelism (1 Peter 3:13 – 16)?

4. From the response of the jailer in vv. 33 and 34, what would suggest that a genuine conversion took place?
5. In response to the witness of Christ in your life, suppose someone asked you to explain how to be saved. What essential truths would they need to embrace about God's character, about their condition, and about Jesus' atonement to receive Him as their personal Savior?
- a) About God's character:

 - b) About their condition:

 - c) About Jesus' atonement:

Sermon Notes:

③LIVE His Word

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

Evangelism is an event in the process of disciple making. God must first prepare a person for evangelism and he knows just how to do it! He does however, give us the privilege of participating in the process. Below is a chart that generally represents the way God brings a person from unbelief, to belief, to maturity in Christ.

In your Life Group this week, each of you will:

- Place two (2) people on the chart who are unbelievers and with whom you are in regular contact (friend, coworker, family member, etc.);
- Briefly explain your reasoning for the placement;
- As a group pray for each person by name, and ask God to reveal ways he wants to use you in the process of bringing them to Christ.

The Dynamics of New Birth Modified Engel Scale

Level	Description	God's Work	Our Privilege
	Romans 3:10-11 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.	Eph. 1:4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.	2 Tim 4:5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.
-12	No God framework	Revealing	Prayer
-11	Experience of emptiness		Presence
-10	God framework		
-9	Vague awareness and belief in God		
-8	Wondering if God can be known		Preparation
-7	Aware of Jesus	Guiding	
-6	Interested in Jesus		
-5	Experience of Christian love		Love
-4	Aware of the basic facts of the gospel	Convicting	Proclamation
-3	Aware of personal need	Woing	
-2	Grasp the implications of the gospel		Honesty
-1	Challenged to respond personally	Converting	Asking
0	Repentance and faith	Adopting	Rejoicing
NEW BIRTH			
+1	Holy Spirit and baptism	Transforming	Encouragement
+2	Functioning member of local Church	Empowering	
+3	Continuing growth in character, lifestyle and service	Sanctification	
+4	Part of Team Leadership		Support
Please note that the characteristics of our "ministry of reconciliation" are cumulative: at stage -9 for example, we are to pray <i>and</i> reveal God's presence. For the sake of clarity this has been omitted from the diagram.			

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