**DFI SCHOOL of MINISTRY**

**Lesson 4: Using God’s Approach in Evangelism - Part 1**

**Why Evangelize**

**Evangelize** means to proclaim the gospel or good news.

**Why We don’t Evangelize?**

1. Fear of people and their response.
2. Time factor – have other issues of higher priority.
3. Don’t know how to do it – not trained.

**Why Should we Evangelize?**

1. Jesus commanded us.
2. To grow our church – Problem with this is when the church grows big then we stop!
3. Because the good news is not personal to us…Can you keep good news to yourself?

**The Main Reason Why we Don’t Evangelize:**

**Because the Gospel is not personal to us**…the other 2 are not effective.

**Question:** Can you keep great good news to yourself?

**Question:** If the Gospel is good news, why do we have a hard time sharing it?

* Do you really believe it’s the greatest thing that has happened to you? If you did, you’ll spread it!
* Example of the Samaritan woman – Did anyone tell her to proclaim? Wash she trained? Look at her testimony – “Come and see a Man who has tome me…”

**Example of Paul - ACTS 26:21-29**

**21**That is why some Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me. **22**But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— **23**that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

**24**At this point Festus interrupted Paul’s defense. “You are out of your mind, Paul!” he shouted. “Your great learning is driving you insane.”

**25**“I am not insane, most excellent Festus,” Paul replied. “What I am saying is true and reasonable. **26**The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. **27**King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do.”

**28**Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”

**29**Paul replied, *“Short time or long—I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today* ***may become what I am****, except for these chains.”*

* It was in a stadium with a big crowd
  + A free organized open - air meeting.
  + He was supposed to defend himself but did more preaching than defend himself.
  + He actually defended the gospel.

**Pause:** If it were you, would you think of sharing Jesus here?

* **Listen to his prayer**: I pray to God… (V.29).
* He wasn’t praying to God about his case but to his listeners…
* He saw an opportunity for evangelism through bad situation.
* Listen: God opens many doors for witnessing but are veiled through bad situations/circumstances – we focus on our salvation, not of those around us.
* Example – Sick in hospital, stranded, in court, etc.

**Principles for Being an Effective Witness:**

1. **Let the gospel (Good news) be personal.**

**May Become What I Am**…except for these chains.

* Didn’t say become a Christian…but as I am.
* Paul didn’t admire the pomp and power of the king (25:23 – “*The next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and entered the audience room with the high-ranking military officers and the prominent men of the city.).*
* People today admire a lot of vain things…
* The gospel needs to be personal to you…the greatest news. If not, you’ll never share it with others! Unless it is the greatest news to you, you’ll never… share it with others!

1. **Prayer Should Always Precede “I Pray…”**

* I don’t think that this was the first time Paul is praying for this group!
* It’s the first time Paul is voicing his prayer publicly but not first time he’s praying…
* I believe as Paul knew he would stand before the king, he started praying, “Father, here is an opportunity to share the gospel…I pray for everyone who will hear my testimony, and I take charge over the powers of darkness assigned over this group, the prince of the power of the air over this group and area, in Jesus name…”…How about when you go to salon you pray, when you go for hair cut, you pray, when you open your business you pray, when you go shopping, you pray, when you go to work, you pray, etc.
* Without prayer you can’t do nothing in evangelism. There is no evangelism without prayer.
* **Matt 12:12-29** – “How can someone enter a strongman’s house and plunder his good unless he first binds the strongman?”
  + Look at the bend of the question: How can…implying it’s impossible.
  + **Who is the strongman?** Eph. 2:2 – *“…in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.”*
    - The Ruler of the power of the air – not the president or the governor. The real ruler is spiritual. He’s at work in the sons of disobedience. That’s the strongman.
  + **What is his house**?

Matt. 12:43 – 45 – ***43****“When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it.****44****Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ (What is the house it left?). When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied (Not the person, but the house, it’s house. It calls you its house), swept clean and put in order.****45****Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.”*

* **Prayer is very important**. See Acts 26:17 – 18 :

*“****17****I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them****18****to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’*

* Paul’s mission (and our mission too) was to turn non-believers from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God.
  + Not from power of Satan to power of God but to God. We don’t come under God’s power or control, but non-believers are under the power of Satan.
  + The power of Satan through the blinding their eyes keeps them from **receiving forgiveness** of sins…They are already forgiven. They just need to receive.
  + Prayer binds the enemy and destroys his power for them to see and receive the message of the gospel – Good news.

1. **Take Charge through Prayer**

**Acts 27:9-15**

**9**Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Day of Atonement. So Paul warned them, **10**“Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.” **11**But the centurion, **instead of listening to what Paul said**, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship. **12**Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should sail on, hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there. This was a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest.

When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. **14**Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. **15**The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.

* Paul spoke to them (V.9)…**but they ignored Paul and chose to listen to**:

1. Experts – Pilot and the owner of the ship (V.11)
2. Majority
3. Circumstances

* That’s what many people do in life – listen to majority, circumstances, experts…but not the word of God, not to preachers!
* **Now who was in Charge here – Paul or Centurion?**

**Acts 27:20-25**

**20**When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

**21**After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before **(Among)** them and said: “Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. **22**But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. **23**Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me **24**and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.’ **25**So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.”

* Earlier they didn’t listen to Paul (V.10), but now, everyone is listening to Paul. **What happened or what changed**? The shake up.
* Do you remember another place that it happened like this? **Philippian jail**.
* “*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”* What would have happened if Paul had just witnessed to this prison captain before the earthquake? What about the prisoners? What were Paul and Silas doing at midnight?
* What do you think caused this midnight shake up? Sung hymns and **Prayed**.
* **Who was in charge now, the jailer or Paul and Silas**?
* Evangelizing without prayer is like freeing the captives (entering the strongman’s house to plunder his good without binding the strongman) while they are still under the influence of the strongman.

1. **Know that You are on a Mission: Know Your Mission**

* **Your main mission in life** is not your job, family, business, etc. Your main mission is to be a witness!
* V. 24 – What was Paul going to do in Rome? (V. 24 – You must stand trial before Ceasar…” To preach the gospel.
  + Paul could not die because he had a mission…to preach the gospel.
  + V.24 – “God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you…graciously.
  + They were to die, but because of Paul, God extended mercy to them.
  + That included the owner of the ship and the pilot…
* God preserved all these people just because of a man of God among them – Paul..
  + It was clear they were all going to die – *“God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.”*
* **But it was more than because there was a man of God among them**…but **a man of God on God’s mission**: “You must appear before Ceasar…”
  + Phil 1:12-13, “Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%201%3A12-13&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29374a)] that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. **13**As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%201%3A12-13&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29375b)] and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.”
  + Example: Story of George Muller
  + Do you think this people would ever be the same again…we are not told but they probably all got saved.

**Read: 33**Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. *“For the last fourteen days,” he said, “you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food—you haven’t eaten anything.****34****Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head*.” **35After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat**. **36**They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves.

* + V. 24 – Who was in charge, the pilot or Paul? Obviously Paul.
  + What do you think must have happened? Paul must have been praying and taken charge.

1. **Why God allowed you to be AMONG Them**

Acts 27:21 *“But after long abstinence from food, then* ***Paul stood in the midst of them*** *and said, “Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss.”*

* Paul stood **among them**. Why among them? God could have saved him from the trial but had to allow him to be among them. Why?
* If Paul was not there they would have died without any witness. Right? And they would have all been lost in hell!
* Do you see why God made Paul to be among them, go through what he went through?
* Everyone has been placed “Among” people – family work, friends, etc.
  + At some point, as you pray for them, you’ll need to rise up among them and witness…Imagine he prayed for food!
  + Do you know why God has kept us in this world? He could have saved us and taken us to heaven right away…but kept us with non-believers. Why? To pray for them and ultimately be able to rise up among them and witness…
* That’s your mission!

**SUMMARY**

1. Let the good news be personal first.
2. Prayer Should Always Precede – “I pray…”
3. Take charge spiritually through prayer.
4. Know that you are on a mission – know your mission,
5. Know that you are Among them for a Reason!