Notes: Faith Mission Christian Church *Special Bible Study: Evangelism*

Pastor Jasmine. March 5, 2025

Study background and definitions:

EVANGELISM is about actively calling people to respond to the message of grace and commit themselves to God in Jesus Christ. While many think of evangelism as a New Testament idea, God’s profound concern for all people is also obvious in the Old Testament ([1 Kings 8:41–45](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible.11.8.41-11.8.45); [Ps. 22:27–28](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible.19.22.27-19.22.28); [Isa. 2:2–4](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible.23.2.2-23.2.4)). God’s care for the first couple after they had sinned, His plan to “bless” all people through the Israelite nation, and His continuing attempts through the prophets and through discipline to forge His people into a usable nation all speak of His concern. These are ideas rooted in evangelism, calling all people to Himself through the activity and lifestyle of earth’s citizens to be a witness for Him.

Evangelism requires the message of Jesus to be shared with those we meet, but is not limited to the spoken Word. Many would prefer what might be described as a “holistic” definition or one that takes into account the “good news of the kingdom.” To define evangelism, this might be stated: ***evangelism is the Spirit-led communication of the gospel of the kingdom in such a way or ways that the recipients have a valid opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and become responsible members of His church.***

Evangelism is the proclamation **and** demonstration of the good news of Jesus Christ with the intention of inviting others to believe in him as their Savior and Lord.

[Luke 8:2–56](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible.63.8.2-63.8.56) shows how Jesus brought the good news. He not only preached; He demonstrated His power over the forces of nature in saving His fearful disciples. He exorcised a demon, healed a poor woman who had hemorrhaged for 12 years, and raised Jairus’s daughter from the dead. Clearly He brought the good news by word and deed, and not by word only. We ought to do likewise.

Pastor Jasmine’s notes:

**Evangelism has some pre-requisites.** Though all believers can evangelize because anyone can proclaim the Truth, those who do so must have the right motivations. **Love has to be the center of one’s motivation in order to be effective in evangelism.** Yet, when asked about the ingredients of evangelism, love is the last thing that comes to mind for most believers. We have to know God in order to make him known. Our genuine experience with Jesus, and not a religious infatuation with Jesus, is what gives power in evangelism. There are more people than you realize who are sitting in church to be religious, to belong to a body, because its the right thing to do, because mama did it… the excuses go on - but though they are present, they have not surrendered their self in totality to the love of God such that they can be transformed but His power. They want to follow rules, they want to have ‘good service’, they like the lights, music, sounds. They “FEEL GOOD” when they come to church and they want a get out of hell free card - yet they actually don’t know Jesus well enough to share them with others. There are symptoms to this condition: they are easily disturbed by changes at a church; they are quick to express their dissatisfaction because they uphold tradition over the gospel and they don’t even know it; they say they love others but make no time for them (not realizing that actions really do speak louder than words); they avoid accountability to the real work of the ministry because that’s not why they are there; they want the entire program to center around their idea of what should happen; they use “us vs them” language for every newcomer because they don’t realize they’re in God’s church (they think its their personal social club). They have a rebellious heart, truly - and so they can’t effectively evangelize because love is not there. Self is there instead, and self doesn’t save no one!

If the first pre-requisite is love, then **the next pre-requisite is prioritizing our time**. You can talk all day about what you want to do, what you plan to do, but talk is cheap. *Only what you DO actually gets things done.* You have to arrange your life and prioritize your time such that there is room in your life in your everyday things for evangelism. *What do you mean, Sis. Jas?*

**Evangelism is about building relationships**with people who need Jesus. It is not a transaction that you touch and go and just disappear and think somehow you’ll see them again. It is consistent, intimate, relationship-building. It requires time, like all relationships.

**Evangelism is not likely to begin with strangers, but with friends.** We have a stale and outdated view that evangelism is only accomplished by walking around a poor neighborhood distributing materials. Yet that is not actually the only means or most effective means of evangelism. Why? Because you’re not likely to spend time with a passerby who you never see again, and they are not likely to look at that flyer ever again. That is human behavior, and it’s time we be sober and recognize that. *Build a relationship.* When is the last time you spoke to someone who you met in the street during evangelism? If you’re not in touch with them, then you’re doing it wrong. It’s kinda like dating. If you are a single person, you’re not going to end up married by sitting in your house waiting for the man to break into your window. You have to be available, and you have to actually go out of your way to build relationships with the strangers you meet because one of them might just be the one. You wont know unless the courting takes place, which requires your time and priority. It requires you to put other things in your life to the side and make room for that. It requires a level of vulnerability to have this person have access to you, calling your phone, visiting for lunch or tea, being there when they grieve, celebrating when they celebrate - and eventually doing life together. Evangelism requires that you build relationships, and as that relationship builds, you introduce Jesus…. See, as that person trusts you and your witness, then they will follow you as you follow Jesus. That’s how they’ll end up at Faith Mission.

**Evangelism requires the lost.** We aren’t going to get very far as a church expecting other ‘church people’ to show up here. They already have someplace to be. Evangelism requires the lost because Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. If our preoccupation as a church is not about the lost being found, then we are no longer Jesus’ church, we are just a Christian social club. Jesus’ church follows Jesus’ mission.

Now, we have to get real with ourselves. Do you intend to be Jesus’ church or would you rather be in a Christian social club? Meaning: to just have services only among the friends you know and never intend to invite anyone else, go on trips, sell tickets to fun events, have lunch together every other week, share your favorite scriptures and devotionals via text message, bask in Jesus together. That’s all nice, but it’s not church, because it has no mission. And if it’s not a church, it shouldn’t pretend to be one.

See the urgency of Faith Mission’s membership predicament.

* God did an amazing thing to re-establish this body but has charged you to keep it.
* A church can continue without a building, without printouts, without hymnals, without music, because you can just meet in someone’s home with your voices and keep gathering. The one thing a church must have is an active mission to seek and save the lost.
* It is imperative to get others coming in. Without this flow, you will keep tinkering down the road but you’ll eventually run out of gas.
* Know the difference between a *community church* and a *commuter church*. Which one are we?
* Evangelism is necessary because it leads to new disciples, who become new members, who are involved in their community and their evangelism becomes more effective because it will be easy to have the neighbors to just fall into the building, no geographic barriers, no transit barriers, just THEIR community church.

Closing thoughts:

Our setback in evangelism is that we want to design approaches that are more comfortable and convenient to ourselves rather than take on approaches that are actually effective toward those we’re trying to reach. The biblical mandate remains to “become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some” ([1 Cor. 9:22](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Bnkjv.67.9.22) HCSB). This means there are a *variety* of means, and that necessitates a variety of postures by us, the evangelizing church. **We have to be more flexible.**