**■ EVANGELISM FOR INTROVERTS**

**“Sharing Christ the Way God Designed You”**

**■ INTRODUCTION:**

* **STORY: THE RELUCTANT EVANGELIST:**
* **Many of us already know the story of the Reluctant Evangelist named Jonah. Today, I want to tell you about another reluctant evangelist.**
	+ Many years ago, there was a young American named John.
	+ John grew up in the church. His life was radically different from those of his peers in that he had decided to follow Christ whole heartedly.
	+ In his college years, he loved to work with youth regardless of the minimal pay.
	+ The older he got, the more he loved to preach, teach & study theology.
	+ He filled the pulpit whenever necessary because he loved to study and teach God’s Word.
	+ He was usually surrounded by people who sought his views or answers on various Scriptural issues.
	+ Everyone assumed that he was an extrovert.
	+ But once you got to really know him, you would find out that there was no doubt that he was an introvert and cherished his time alone
	+ **■ That man’s full name was JONATHAN EDWARDS.**
	+ Edwards played a critical role in shaping the First Great Awakening, and oversaw some of the first revivals in America between 1733–35
	+ His life and many writings have inspired thousands of pastors and missionaries
	+ However, because of his introverted nature, he would often read his sermons verbatim in his quiet, soft voice, moving slowly from point to point
	+ As he read his sermon, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”, it is said that people would weep and wail as they knelt at the front of the church. His sermons were powerful, Spirit led and brilliantly written
	+ Encyclopedia Britannica referred to him as one of the most brilliant men to ever come out of America.
	+ Can an introvert be used by God to reach people for Jesus?
	+ Just ask John.
* **■ What comes to mind when you hear the word “evangelism”?**

**(Wait for Response)**

* When you hear people talking about evangelism, sharing Christ, witnessing, etc., I think of guys like Paul, John the Baptist, Peter… bold, outgoing, unafraid to approach anyone. In other words, I think of the extrovert evangelists.
	+ constantly interacting with strangers
	+ life of the party
	+ love being around people
	+ get excited by doing street evangelism
	+ getting into gospel conversations with someone in an elevator
	+ a joy for them, comes very natural to them
* When I was told as a young man that I needed to tell others about Jesus, I thought this is who I was supposed to be. So out of a desire to serve Jesus, mingled with some **good ol’ fashioned guilt and obligation,** I…
	+ went out beach witnessing, campus witnessing,
	+ learned a lot of arguments for each objection
	+ handed out lots tracts, etc.
	+ to be accepted by Jesus as finally doing my part to fulfill the great commission.
* Anyone who didn’t evangelize this way was a ‘second class’ evangelist and should learn from the rest of us who were “doing it right”
* However, in the body of Christ, not everyone is an extrovert when it comes to sharing the Gospel.
* Yet ALL followers of Jesus must share the Gospel as a way of life.
* We must allow people, specifically introverts, to share Christ the way God has made them if they are to reach the ones God has prepared especially for them…
* I really want this morning to be one of the most practical lessons you have heard on sharing the Good News about Jesus in a way that God has designed you so that you can experience the joy of watching others come into an eternal personal relationship with the Almighty, Holy, Awesome God of Creation.

 **WHERE DO I BEGIN?**

1. ■ **LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS**
	* Matthew 22:34-40 *“Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.  One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:  “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied:****“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.  And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments”***
	* **If you Love God in this way and you truly love others, NOTHING will bring you greater joy than to introduce the people you love to the God you love so they can love Him too. MAKE SENSE?**
2. ■ **KNOW THE GOSPEL MESSAGE WELL**
	* All of the evangelistic zeal in the world cannot make up for an insufficient or false presentation of the Gospel.
	* Make sure you know what the Gospel is AND isn’t.
	* Don’t be guilty of adding works or removing repentance.
3. ■ **KNOW YOUR OWN STRENGTHS**
	* What are you good at?
	* What do you love to do?
	* Who did God create you to be?

**■ 7 EVANGELISM MYTHS**

* + Before we get into some very practical ways to share our faith, I think we need to look at some of the myths that have been floating around in the church regarding evangelism.
	+ People have used these excuses for years, believing that they are excused from sharing the Good News of Christ based on a number of technicalities.
	+ **Let’s look at 7 of those myths.**
1. **■ Myth: “I don’t have that gift or calling.”**
	* EVERYONE has the calling… YOU are no exception.
	* **Matthew 28:18-20*,*** *“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore* (Literally: as you are already going) *and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*
	* **This is YOUR Great Commission.**
	* It is true that there are those within the Body of Christ with a special Holy Spirit given gift for evangelism. They love it. They are good at it.
	* But that doesn’t negate YOUR responsibility.
	* Just because there are those with the gift of hospitality doesn’t mean you don’t have to be hospitable.
	* Just because there are those with the gift of mercy, doesn’t mean you can stop being merciful.
	* Understand where I am going here?
2. **■ Myth: “I evangelize through actions, not words”**
	* **Saint Francis of Assisi**, an Italian Catholic mystic who founded the Franciscan order of monks, is often quoted as saying, *“Do all you can to preach the gospel and if necessary use words!”.* This saying became very popular during the 70s. However, the problem with this saying is obvious. **THE GOSPELCANNOT BE SHARED WITHOUT WORDS.**
	* Many people use this excuse to justify NOT sharing the Gospel
	* If the Gospel were just a matter of people looking at your good works and deciding to follow God, their conception of salvation would be that “Salvation = Good Works.”
	* For someone to be able to respond to God’s Words, they must hear God’s Words.
	* REMEMBER… You are bringing GOOD NEWS! The BEST News!
	* You are not bringing them an execution order; or an increase in taxes; or a doctor’s notice of a terminal disease.
	* YOU ARE BRINGING THEMTHE WAY TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE
3. **■ Myth: “Evangelism is for extroverts”**
	* God made you as a special person different from the billions who have come before you and all who will come after you.
	* **Psalm 139:13-16,** *“For You created my inmost being. You knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.”*
	* *“You created my inmost being”* Literally *qanah kilyah* (ka-NA’ kill–YA’) meaning to design and create my innermost mind, emotions, and affections; all I am and enjoy; the way I think and feel… WHO I AM.
	* He has called you to share the Good News of His Son Jesus with certain people in your life. He designed you EXACTLY the way He needs you to be to reach the people He will call you to reach.
4. **■ Myth: “Evangelism is the church’s job!”**
	* The word church is from the Greek word *ekklesia*.
	* The first time ekklesia (church) is used in the spiritual sense is in Matthew 16: 18, where Jesus promised to build His church (ekklesia). “on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell will not overcome it.”
	* Applied spiritually, ekklesia (church) refers to the “ones who have been called out of the word” (as in John 17).
	* A church is a gathering of Christians; believers; those already saved.
	* In the Bible, the word "Church" (ekklesia) is used to denote all the saved around the world as well as gatherings of local believers.
	* "Church" denotes those who have been saved that have banded together and live by a standard that has been set by the Lord in the Scriptures.
	* The local church, when fully organized has elders, deacons, organization, fellowship, discipline, ordinances of baptism and the Lord’s Supper, worship times, and sermons to train Jesus’ followers.
	* The role of the CHURCH is that of the family of believers.
	* Evangelism is OUR RESPONSIBILITY. We individuals who have been called by Christ and trained by our church to share Jesus with the people in our lives. WE ARE THE MISSIONARIES TO THE WORLD.
	* If a church is designed to accommodate the needs and desires of those who have not yet been called out (unbelievers, so-called ‘seekers’) …
		+ - they will never accomplish their objective of making disciples
			- they will nurture an attitude of ‘church evangelism’ rather than a personal, missional mindset that we are ALL to share Christ
			- They cannot corporately worship as a body since many are not part of Christ’s Body
			- They cannot partake together in communion
5. **■ Myth: “If they don’t accept Jesus, I’ve failed”**
	* YOU don’t save anyone.
	* The Father draws them. The Holy Spirit convicts them of their sin and need for salvation. Jesus saves them. You simply participate where needed.
	* Do you want tp be guarantees success EVERY TIME you share the Gospel? It’s simple. You just need to understand what successful witnessing IS…
	* “Successful witnessing is sharing JESUS CHRIST in the power of the HOLY SPIRIT and leaving the results to GOD.”
	* **1 Cor. 3:5-13** (The Message version) Paul hears of some arguing among the believers over who they follow as Christian celebrities…
	* He says to the church, *“Who do you think Paul is, anyway? Or Apollos, for that matter? Servants, both of us—servants who waited on you as you gradually learned to entrust your lives to our mutual Master. We each carried out our servant assignment. I planted the seed, Apollos watered the plants, but God made you grow. It's not the one who plants or the one who waters who is at the center of this process but God, who makes things grow. Planting and watering are menial servant jobs at minimum wages. What makes them worth doing is the God we are serving. You happen to be God's field in which we are working. Or, to put it another way, you are God's house. Using the gift God gave me as a good architect, I designed blueprints; Apollos is putting up the walls. Let each carpenter who comes on the job take care to build on the foundation! Remember,* ***there is only one foundation,*** *the one* ***already laid:*** *Jesus Christ.”*
	* Sometimes you will be asked by God to plant a seed. Sometimes you will be asked to water a little. Eventually, when the time is right, God will send the one He has prepared to harvest the plant.
	* On a farm, do you ONLY pay the harvesters or do you also pay the planters and waterers? ALL jobs are equally important.
	* If you try to do all three jobs at once, you will…
		1. Kill the plant and prevent further growth
		2. Cause them to disobey Christ’s command to 1st count the cost!

**TURN IN YOUR BIBLES TO LUKE 14: 25-33,***“A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, “If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.* ***“But don’t begin until you count the cost.*** *For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’ “Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him?  And if he can’t, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away.****So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.”***

1. **■ Myth: “Everyone will reject my message.”**
	* Firstly, It’s NOT your message
	* Secondly, EVERY TIME you share God’s Word, it accomplishes exactly what God intended it to accomplish THAT time
		+ **Isaiah 55:10-11*,*** *“The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with My Word. I send it out, and it* ***always*** *produces fruit.* ***It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.”***
	* Thirdly, IF it were true that the message is always rejected, then how is it YOU are sitting here and millions have given their lives over to Christ?
2. **■ Myth: “They are already a good person”**
	* Good has nothing to do with salvation.
	* Hell is spilling over with GOOD PEOPLE waiting for the judgment day when they will forever be separated from Christ.
	* Also, there is NO SUCH THING as a GOOD person.
	* **■** VIDEO**: “SO YOU THINK YOU’RE A GOOD PERSON?”** (6 MIN)

**■ 10 PRACTICAL EVANGELISM OPENERS**

**■** To help us remember these 10 PEOs (Practical Evangelism Openers), we are going to use the acrostic EVANGELISM

1. **■ EMPATHY**
	* **Rom.12:15**, *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”*
	* GO – LISTEN – SIT when people are hurting; lonely; in need of company
	* Theodore Roosevelt is quoted as the first to say in a speech, ***“People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care”***
2. **■ VIRAL MEDIA**
	* FaceBook (Post daily messages, praises, verses, photos, etc)
	* Website (on our cards and bulletins)
3. **■ ANSWERS**
	* **1 Peter 3: 15** (NLT)*“…You must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.”*
	* Again, know the Gospel. Learn how to explain it.
	* YouTube videos: Type in “What is the Gospel” and listen to notable preachers explain it (MacArthur, Driscoll, Chandler, Jeremiah, etc.)
	* Read a variety of Gospel tracts.
	* “Gospel Tracs usually do NOT tell the whole Gospel. They are meant to be used as an opener to a discussion, not a substitute for one.
	* Write out your testimony. Be able to tell “your story” in 15 minutes or less
	* If you do not know an answer, say, *“That’s a great question. I do not know the answer. But I will look it up for you and we can talk about it when we get together next time.”*
4. **■ NEEDS**

### If your friend is sick, bring meals, mow lawns, offer to help run errands, etc

### The Bible equates the meeting of needs of others with the strength of faith

### 1 John 3:17 *“But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?”*

### James 2:14-17 *“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”*

### Hebrews 13:16 *“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”*

### Philippians 2:4 *“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”*

1. **■ GROUPS**
	* People need identity groups / we all have friendship groups
	* Many people will be more comfortable learning about Jesus in a small group than in a church service or one-on-one.
	* Many a person has opened their heart to Christ after becoming a part of a Women’s Bible Study, Men’s group, Mid-week Growth Group, Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class, etc.
	* Use every opportunity to get your unbelieving friends to meet your Christian friends.
2. **■ EATING**
	* Eating together is a very intimate act.
	* That’s why we don’t like to share tables in the food court.
	* But we ALL must eat regularly.
	* Invite your unbelieving friends to dinner – to Holiday meals if they have nowhere else to go – take them out to lunch –
	* **1 Cor. 10:31** – *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”*  Eating or drinking with friends can bring glory to God. Love grows – trust develops – the Gospel is shared
3. **■ LAUGHTER**
	* Share comedy, old life stories, funny tracts, etc.
	* **TELL STORY OF CONSTRUCTION BOSS’S CONVERSION**
4. **■ INVITE**
	* This may sound simple but it can be the hardest for some of us
	* When the church has events, movies, Men’s Breakfast, retreats, etc
	* When we promote a sermon series with bulletin flyers
	* Also, invite unbelieving friends to common interest events (movies, sports, plays, beach, concert, museums, community events, etc.)
5. **■ SUPPLICATION (Prayer)**
	* Ask them if you can pray for them (then and there or at home)
	* PRAY (sincerely – continually – in love)
	* Follow up
6. **■ MUSIC**
	* Music reaches a place in us that words alone cannot
	* If a song touches you in a particular way, share it with your friends
	* Put it on Facebook and explain what it means to you
	* Most people are honored you think highly enough of them to share an intimate part of your life
	* Play Christian music at your place of business, home, car, etc.
	* Find out what STYLE THEY LIFE (not you) and buy them some similar music with a Christian message (comparison charts available on the internet or through Al Menconi Ministries)

**■ CONCLUSION**: A FEW FINAL THOUGHTS ***McBee***

* + Being an introvert is not a sin. It is God’s design on your life.
	+ Do not try to turn an introvert into an extrovert.
	+ Introverts are not immature believers or wolves in sheep’s clothing.
	+ **Being an introvert does not exclude you from the mission.**
	+ God stretches ALL of us a bit outside our comfort zone in order to grow.
	+ An evangelist isn’t a personality type or a personality disorder,
	+ An evangelist is one who brings good news