

Evangelism Part 1 - Matthew 28:16-20 - 2018-01-28

Call to Worship: Isaiah 66:23

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-9 - Roel van Eck

Sermon: "Evangelism Part 1" Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:45-47

Benediction: Hebrews 13:5b-6a

Hebrews 13:5b-6a He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU." (6) So we may boldly say: "THE LORD IS MY HELPER; I WILL NOT FEAR."

INTRODUCTION

Evangelism

-from the New Testament word *euaggelizo* to proclaim the gospel, the good news

-the spreading, the making known the gospel

G2097 *euaggelizo* to proclaim the good news; this word passed from Greek into Latin and into English virtually unchanged as "evangelize"

G2099 *euaggelistes* a preacher of the good news; this word also made it into English virtually unchanged as "evangelist"

G2098 *euangelion* the good message; the good news; as this word attempted to cross over into English a storm came up and it sank in the channel between Calais and Dover; we have this word in English as "gospel" or sometimes "good news"

The term "evangelism" is based on those words for "good news" and "proclaim the good news" and "preacher of the good news." It is an old term, at least from the 1600s, and properly means making the gospel known where it is not yet known. Often it carries the connotation of making persuading people who already have *heard* the gospel *believe* the gospel.

The term "evangelistic" is used

-to describe people who are perceived to be involved in evangelism; or

-to describe activities or methods that are intended to accomplish evangelism

Two observations about the disciples of Jesus Christ here, regarding evangelism:

1. our genuine desire to spread the gospel by which we ourselves have been saved and are being saved and will be saved
2. the criticism from our friends and relatives that we are not evangelistic or don't care about evangelism

Do not be moved in your conscience by people who are doing things that they say are evangelistic, but the bible does not; instead, be moved in your conscience to do the things that the Word of God says are evangelistic.

TEXT

Matthew 28:16-20

Luke 24:44-49

BODY

- I. Many people may tell you what you must do to be evangelistic; but what does the Word of God tell you is indeed evangelistic? That is, what does your Savior and Lord tell you to do, that will have the effect of convincing unbelievers to believe the gospel, and so be saved?
(By now this is not new to you - good!)
 - A. Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against your soul - 1 Peter 2:11-12
 1. Jesus said this: Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
 2. Peter took up that theme and applied it to us: 1 Peter 2:11-12 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, (12) having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.
 - a) this will produce in you honorable conduct in the sight of unbelievers
 - b) unbelievers naturally will speak against you and what you believe
 - c) but when God is pleased to save, it may be your good works that convince the unbeliever that what you believe truly is of God
 3. APPLICATION
 - a) often you think that indulging your fleshly lusts is okay because everyone else is doing it, too
 - b) if you do what everyone else does, what does that say to the unbeliever about what you believe?
 - B. Submit to your husband
1 Peter 3:1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,
 - C. Work faithfully for whoever you are working for
Titus 2:9-10 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, (10) not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.
 - D. APPLICATION: There is the power of the Holy Spirit at work in you, to help you do what the Lord has commanded.

II. Many people may tell you what you must do to overcome people's bad attitudes toward the church, toward the bible, toward the gospel; but what does the Word of God tell you will actually do that?

A. Undeniably, unbelievers have a bad attitude toward the gospel; and so a major component of evangelism must be the overcoming unbelievers' hangups, misconceptions, hostility regarding Christians and the gospel; but around us people are saying we must do extraordinary, radical things to accomplish that

B. What does the word of God tell you to do? What actually works? What does the bible say is actually effective in this area for the cause of evangelism?

1. consider the person you are working for as being worthy of honor

1 Timothy 6:1 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, **so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.**

a) is it true that many times you work for someone who, by behavior, is not very honorable? yes

b) but is it also true that the person who is paying for a job to be done deserves to be honored by those he is paying? does the customer or the boss or the client or the owner deserve honor because he is the customer or boss or client or owner? yes

c) therefore let Christian concerned for overcoming the world's bad attitudes toward the gospel treat whoever he's working for with honor

2. for you brothers, you men and boys

Titus 2:2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;

Titus 2:6-8 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, (7) in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, (8) sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

a) a young pastor is to set the example for the other young men

b) what he does should be "good works"

c) what he says should be sound speech; his doctrine should show

(1) integrity

(2) reverence

(3) incorruptibility

d) APPLICATION

(1) older men:

(2) young men: Justin, Noah, Nevin, etc.

(a) we want to reach our generation for Christ

(b) instead of doing what the world of young men

around you is doing, look to those men just ahead of you; see what they are doing? instead of doing

what comes naturally to your flesh, or what the young men of the world around you are doing, do what they are doing

(c) do you know what the men just ahead of you are saying? instead of saying what occurs to you to say, or what the world of young men around you are saying, listen to what these men just ahead of you are saying, and say that

3. for you sisters, you women and girls

Titus 2:3-5 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- (4) that they admonish [instruct, teach, train] the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, **that the word of God may not be blasphemed.**

a) people don't seem to care about the gospel; the culture seems to be rejecting Christianity instead of embracing it; people more and more don't even believe in God; what can I do about it?

b) older women: train the young women; young women: be trained by the older women

(1) to love their husbands

(2) to love their children

(3) to be discreet

(4) to be chaste

(5) to be homemakers

(6) to be good

(7) to be obedient to their own husbands

NOTE: look for a moment at Titus 2:15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

4. for you who have children in your life: Read the scriptures to children 2 Timothy 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, **which are able to make you wise for salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

5. for you who have dealings with the government (we all do, but this is a much bigger part of life for some than for others)

1 Peter 2:13-15 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, (14) or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. (15) For this is the will of God, that **by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men**

a) government officials deal constantly with people who are trying to get out of complying with the regulations that they are supposed to

be enforcing; or who gripe and grumble about having to comply with them; think of what it is for that government official to hear that such a person is a Christian; what if he accepts an invitation to church, and there he sees two such people among the members; then the preacher stands to preach, and it is none other than the grumbliest, complainingest one of all!

- b) think of the government official who keeps encountering people, just a few, just one here and there, who speak to him respectfully, cheerfully fill out all his paperwork the way he wants it, and don't ever try to get away with something; does he notice that? does that mean anything to him?
- c) e.g. septic; e.g. driver's license

CONCLUSION

Today we have not covered everything about evangelism!

Another week: How do we speak to other people about the Lord, about the gospel?

Another week: How do we participate in evangelizing the world?

Consider what honor and glory it is to our Lord to evangelize as He commanded!

Consider what power is at work in you when you seek to evangelize as He commanded!

Consider what joy it is to know you are evangelizing as He commanded!

Consider what joy it will be to be found so doing when He returns!

Ephesians 6:18-20 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- (19) and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, (20) for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Pray for the government

1 Timothy 2:1-4 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, (2) for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. (3) For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, (4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Live so as to help others be convinced of the truth of the gospel

Titus 2:10 not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, **that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior** in all things.

Live so as to counter the enemies or critics

1 Timothy 5:14 Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, **give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.**

1 Timothy 6:1 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, **so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.**

Titus 2:3-5 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- (4) that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, **that the word of God may not be blasphemed.**

Titus 2:7-8 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, (8) sound speech that cannot be condemned, **that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.**

Matthew 28:16-20 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. (17) When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. (18) And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

INTRODUCTION

3. our genuine desire to spread the gospel by which we ourselves have been saved and are being saved and will be saved
4. the criticism from our friends and relatives that we are not evangelistic or don't care about evangelism

Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ to His church.

See that there are three basic things Christ's church is to do:

1. make disciples, then
2. baptize those disciples, then
3. teach those disciples

READ THE TEXT: Matthew 28:16-20

See that there are three basic things Christ's church is to do:

1. make disciples, then
2. baptize those disciples, then
3. teach those disciples (as similar to Deuteronomy 6)

This morning we take the first one and look to understand it.

What does He mean when He says, "make disciples"?

Well, I always thought that . . .

Yes, what you always thought may well be wrong. So, let's find out: when the Lord Jesus commissioned His church to "make disciples," what did He mean for the church to do?

BODY

- I. From the Word Used in the Great Commission
 - A. Greek *matheteusate* to enroll someone as a student, as a pupil, as a learner
 - B. Make people into students
 1. presently a person is not a student
 2. the church is to make him into a student
 - C. The word student is correct, but doesn't go far enough
 1. the kind of student who is devoted to the teacher
 2. in a way it is more like an apprentice indentured to his master
 3. that's why we use the word "disciple" since this means someone who learns from a teacher, and is devoted to that teacher
 - D. Very important to the right understanding is this:
 1. It is not to train an apprentice, but to indenture someone to be an apprentice
 - a) there is the daily training of the apprentice to do the craft
 - b) but first there was the initial signing of the indenture that binds the apprentice and the master to each other
 - c) this word the Lord Jesus used is not the training, but the initial indenture
 2. It is not to teach a student, but to enroll someone as a student
 - a) there is the daily teaching of the student in class
 - b) but first there was the enrolling of the student in the class
 - c) this word the Lord Jesus used is not the teaching, but the enrollment
 3. It is not to teach a disciple, but to make someone start being a disciple
 - a) there is the ongoing work of teaching the disciple to observe all the command of Jesus Christ
 - b) but first there is the initial making of the person who is not a disciple to become a new disciple of Jesus Christ
 - c) this word the Lord Jesus used is not the teaching of the disciple, but the initial making him to be a disciple
 4. This is a BIG corruption in our present day Christian environment.
 - a) people talking about "discipling" someone or about "discipleship"
 - b) but they mean the ongoing process of teaching someone to walk with Christ
 - c) this is the third part of the commission, but they use the language of the first

E. So, the commission is for the church to enroll people as students or intendure people as apprentices of Jesus Christ, to make them disciples of Jesus Christ

F. OBJ: We know we cannot do that.

1. We don't have the power to make a sinner, a rebel against God, a prideful, unloving enemy of God, become a disciple of Jesus Christ.
2. Therefore It must be that we are to do something, and when we do, the Holy Spirit works in power to make people become students, apprentices, disciples of Jesus Christ
3. We still dont' know what that is, but we are not at a dead end.

II. From the Great Commission Given to Another Apostle

A. This is a helpful method for understanding the bible:

1. you aren't sure you understand something in the bible
2. go read where a different audience is addressed; often the same concept is given in a different way

B. read Acts 26:15-18

1. open their eyes
2. this will turn them
 - a) from darkness to light and
 - b) from the power of Satan to God
 - c) which means, this will make them repent
3. having turned, having repented, they will then receive
 - a) forgiveness of sins
 - b) an inheritance
 - (1) among those who are sanctified by faith in Jesus Christ
 - (2) oh, faith in Jesus Christ; we need to go back and add something to what we just said
4. **So, the commission is for the church to open people's eyes**
 - a) this will make them repent toward God
 - b) this will give them faith in Jesus Christ

C. OBJ: This doesn't seem to help us, because

1. we don't have the power to do this either!
2. again, it must be that we are to do something, and when we do, the Holy Spirit works in power to open people's eyes
3. So, we still don't know what that is, but we are not at a dead end here, either.

III. From the Great Commission Given in Other Terms

A. This is another helpful method for understanding the bible:

1. you aren't sure you understand something in the bible
2. go read where the same concept is expressed in different terms, different words, comparing scripture with scripture
 - a) the analogy of faith
 - b) the best interpreter of scripture is scripture

- B. read Luke 24:46-47
 - 1. preach repentance and remission of sins
 - 2. specifically, preach this message:
 - a) Jesus Christ has died for sins and risen from the dead, just as the scriptures said He would
 - b) now repent and your sins will be forgiven
 - C. NOTE: Okay, now we know what the church is supposed to do: **preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in the Name of Jesus Christ.** We can understand Jesus' words as this: "Go preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in the Name of Jesus Christ to all nations."
- IV. From What the Church Actually Did in Obedience to the Great Commission
- A. This is another helpful method for understanding the bible:
 - 1. you aren't sure you understand something in the commands of Jesus Christ
 - 2. go read what the apostles actually did in obedience to His commands
 - B. read Acts 2:36-42 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." (37) Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (38) Then Peter said to them, **"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (39) For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." (40) And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." (41) Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. (42) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.**
 - C. read Acts 11:20-21 But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, **preaching the Lord Jesus.** (21) And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number **believed and turned to the Lord.**
 - 1. the church preaches the Lord Jesus
 - 2. the hand of the Lord works powerfully
 - 3. people believe and repent
- V. Summary
- A. What, then, do we understand the Lord Jesus to mean by saying to His church, "make disciples"?
 - B. We understand Him to mean, "Preach that Jesus Christ is crucified and risen again, and that sinners should turn from sin and believe in Him, and so receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life."
 - C. The main application of this to yourself today is simply to understand this.
 - 1. leave wrong understanding

2. embrace right

D. There is much to be built on this basic understanding;

1. refuse to understand it, and much else will not make sense
2. understand it, and much else will make lots of sense

VI. Application

- A. In Titus chapter 2, the apostle Paul tells each of us what his part is in fulfilling this commission to make disciples; it consists of this basic formula: behave yourself well in your daily life, so that you will 1) not make the gospel look bad, but will 2) make the gospel look good
1. Titus 2:9-10 workers who work for someone
 - a) obey
 - b) do not answer back
 - c) do not steal
 - d) show all good faithfulness
 - e) in doing these things you will adorn the gospel
 2. Titus 2:4-5 women who have a husband and children
 - a) love your husband
 - b) love your children
 - c) be discreet
 - d) be chaste
 - e) be homemakers
 - f) be good
 - g) be obedient to your own husband
 - h) in doing these things you will make those who speak against the gospel look foolish
 3. Titus 2:6 young men
 - a) be sober minded; be serious
 - 4.

Luke 24:46-47 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, (47) and that **repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations**, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 26:15-18 So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. (16) But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. (17) I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, (18) **to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive**

forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

JRY:

The One commissioning
The ones being commissioned
The reason for the commission

The reason
The order
The intent
The promise

Do these things for a reason
Do these things in this order
Do what I mean by these things
Do these things with confidence in Me

The order of the words
 discipline
 baptize
 teach
The meaning of the words

“make disciples”

NKJV, NIV, ESV the same

Greek *matheteusate*

Broadus:

- make disciples of, or more exactly, disciple
- we greatly need an English verb “disciple” for this passage
- quite distinct from “teach” but Latin unable to keep distinction, which failure was reproduced in early English translations

-”Teach” in all early English versions was a very imperfect translation, confounding this term with that in John 4:20, which really means “teach.”

JRY:

KJV “teaching” here is very unhelpful, at least now
“enroll” the student, then “teach” the student
enroll the student, then dress him in the uniform, then teach him
sign up the player; dress him in the jersey, then teach him to play
enlist the soldier, then dress him in his uniform, then teach him to be a soldier

Authority, therefore

go make disciples of all the nations [KJV “teach”]
baptizing them in the name
teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you

JRY:

you have the authority to go all over the world making disciples

Calvin:

The meaning amounts to this, that by proclaiming the gospel everywhere, they should bring all nations to the obedience of the faith, and next, that they should seal and ratify their doctrine by the sign of the gospel.

Trapp:

Greek “disciple them” Discipulate, make them Christians first, and then teach them to observe, as in baptism they have promised

Poole:

the Greek is *mayhteusate*, make disciples all nations; but that must be first by preaching and instructing them in the principles of the Christian faith

Henry:

Go into all nations, preach the gospel to them . . . and persuade them to come . . . into the church of Christ

Sam Waldron:

church-centered; it is the church’s great commission
who are the recipients? the 11 apostles
common to Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20, Acts 1
“you shall be my witnesses” means eye witnesses, as Acts 10:39-41
Acts 1:8 it is the apostles who receive this power

the apostles were not given this commission exclusively, but foundationally; therefore, through them to the church; to the church built on the foundation of the apostles
“make disciples”

pupil, learner, apprentice

Acts 14:21 made many disciples, they returned

we use the word ‘disciple’ and often we mean the third part of the commission; that’s not the way the Lord Jesus used the word in the commission

baptize

“credible profession of faith”

“I am with you always”

all the originals are dead

the “you” is plural, and refers to the church, or it doesn’t make any sense

making disciples of the Trinity

the Trinity is One; “the name” singular

the Trinity has an order: Father, Son, Holy Spirit

persons distinct

applications

relief - you don’t have to do it all by yourself

rebuke - evangelistic individualism in rebellion against authority of the church

responsibility

-responsibility of every local church

-responsibility of every local church member

roles

reliability - we can count on His promises

Mike Reihan:

He has authority; He authorizes the 11

One-time event: baptize

Ongoing: make disciples

one compound word in the original

Luke 24:46-47 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, (47) and that **repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations**, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 2:36-42 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." (37) Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (38) Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (39) For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." (40) And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved

from this perverse generation." (41) Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. (42) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 14:1 Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed.

Acts 14:7 And they were preaching the gospel there.

Acts 14:21-23 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, (22) strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." (23) So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 11:20-21 But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, **preaching the Lord Jesus.** (21) And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number **believed and turned to the Lord.**

Acts 11:25-26 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. (26) And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year **they assembled with the church and taught a great many people.** And the **disciples** were first called Christians in Antioch.

Prelude: Trinity 190 "Glory Be to Jesus"

Camille: piano

Noah: trumpet - see attached in G

Anna: clarinet - see attached in G

Trinity 50 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Camille: piano - see attached in F

Noah: trumpet - play from hymnal in G

Anna: clarinet - play from hymnal in G

Grace 99 "Jesus, Your Name"

Camille: flute

Noah: Trumpet - see attached in B

Anna: piano

Grace 81 "I Will Glory in My Redeemer"

Camille: sing

Noah: sing

Anna: piano

Trinity 687 "He is Coming Again"

Camille: piano - transpose

Noah: trumpet

Anna: sing