

“The future is as bright as the promise of God ... Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.” — William Carey

What are hindrances to sharing the gospel? Why don't many share the gospel with other people?

- ✓ man pleasing —
- ✓ fear (of ridicule) —
- ✓ personality —
- ✓ ignorance (don't know very much) —
- ✓ laziness (care for self more than others) —
- ✓ bad theology —
- ✓ lack of compassion for the lost & lack of understanding about hell —

Background to Mark 4:21-29 [this is essential for proper understanding of the text!]

- Don't miss the context!
 1. Receiving the Word (v.1-20) >> hear! (getting)
 2. Proclaiming the Word (21-25) >> herald! (giving)
 3. Growth of the Word (26-29) >> humbly trust! (growth)

THESIS — What does Jesus want? What does He call for? I want to organize these statements around 3 important exhortations so that we will be faithful followers of the Son of Man!

- >> *our main points derive from the repeated phrase: 'and he was saying' (3x — verses 21, 24, 26)*
1. **GIVE** the Word! (21-23)
 2. **GROW** in the Word! (24-25)
 3. **GLORIFY** the Lord! (26-29)

I. GIVE THE WORD! (21-23)

- A. the point? your job is to *impart* the Word
- B. Be proclaiming!

If you have the truth of God, you have a solemn responsibility to spread that truth in whatever way God gives you opportunity, even as someone who has the cure for a life-threatening disease has the moral responsibility to spread that cure. God didn't light your lamp so that it would be hidden. One must either

Mark 4:21-29 — “Christ Calls You To Sow the Gospel, Grow in Grace & Trust Scripture's Power”

spread the word itself, or spread the influence of God's word by bringing others to a place where they will hear it; and you really should be doing both. — David Guzik

II. GROW IN THE WORD! (24-25)

- A. the point? your job is to *mature* in the Word
- B. be progressing!

More will be given: Jesus reminds us that spiritual growth follows momentum, positive or negative. When we have the godly habits of receiving the word and living it, more is built on to that. When we lose those godly habits, they are extremely difficult to get back.

The degree to which they paid attention to what He said, would be the degree to which they would profit from it. God would graciously bless attentive disciples with even greater benefit than the effort they expended in heeding His words. Their blessing would be disproportionately large. The person who does not use his or her ability to understand and respond to God's revelation, appropriately loses that ability.
(Tom Constable)

★ Listen well to the Word & grow God will give you much more!

1. **Listen with Faith** (believing in the Word; being diligently under the Word believing this is God's primary means of growing you)
2. **Listen with reverence** (b/c it is God's very word)
3. **Listen with prayer** (praying for God's blessing)
4. **Listen with application** (implementing truth to be changed & grow in Christlikeness)
5. **Listen with humility** (knowing this is God's word for you; whatever the Spirit does; receive it meekly & with joy)

The Scottish preacher George H. Morrison said, “Men hear with all that they have made themselves.” Our appetite determines the menu we seek. If we know Jesus Christ and follow him, we will have an appetite for the truth as it is in Jesus and will daily spend time in the Scriptures. “But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night” (Ps. 1:2). Jesus compared the Word of God to seed (Luke 8:11), and seeds must be planted and watered before they can take root and bear fruit. The people who open their hearts and minds to the poisonous seeds of this world are planting lies where they should be planting God's truth. “Take heed what you hear!” (Mark 4:24).

III. GLORIFY THE LORD! (26-29)

- A. the point? your job is to *sow the Word*, sleep well, trust God.
- B. be patient!

★ The **WORD** of God has power — **intrinsic POWER** (see Isa 40:6-8; 1 Peter 1:24-25; Heb 4:12)

- it's alive
- it's piercing
- it's convicting
- it's saving
- it's comforting
- it's unstoppable
- it's infallible
- it's sufficient
- it's clear

“In spite of sorrow, loss, and pain, our course be onward still; we sow on Burma’s barren plain, we reap on Zion’s hill.” — Adoniram Judson [*missionary to Burma, 19th century*]

TELL OUT MY SOUL

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
 Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
 Tender to me the promise of His Word;
 In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
 Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
 His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
 His holy Name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!
 Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
 Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;
 The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!
 Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
 Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
 To children's children and forevermore!

A CHARGE TO KEEP I HAVE

A charge to keep I have, A God to glorify,
 A never-dying soul to save, And fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age, My calling to fulfill:
 O may it all my powers engage To do my Master's
 will!

Arm me with jealous care, As in Thy sight to live;
 And O Thy servant, Lord, prepare A strict account to
 give!

Help me to watch and pray, And on Thyself rely,
 O let me not my trust betray, but press to realms on
 high!

FACING A TASK UNFINISHED

Facing a task unfinished That drives us to our knees
 A need that, undiminished Rebukes our slothful ease
 We, who rejoice to know Thee Renew before Thy
 throne
 The solemn pledge we owe Thee To go and make Thee
 known

Where other lords beside Thee Hold their unhindered
 sway
 Where forces that defied Thee Defy Thee still today
 With none to heed their crying For life, and love, and
 light
 Unnumbered souls are dying And pass into the night

**We go to all the world
 With kingdom hope unfurled
 No other name has power to save
 But Jesus Christ The Lord**

We bear the torch that flaming Fell from the hands of
 those
 Who gave their lives proclaiming That Jesus died and
 rose
 Ours is the same commission The same glad message
 ours
 Fired by the same ambition To Thee we yield our
 powers

O Father who sustained them O Spirit who inspired
 Saviour, whose love constrained them To toil with zeal
 untired
 From cowardice defend us From lethargy awake!
 Forth on Thine errands send us To labor for Thy sake