

Evangelism – Wednesday 2/15/2017

These notes were taken from a 14-week class on evangelism that is being taught on Sunday evenings by Delbert Summey. The class is intended to both equip you and exhort you to be active and intentional in taking the Gospel to the people God has placed around you.

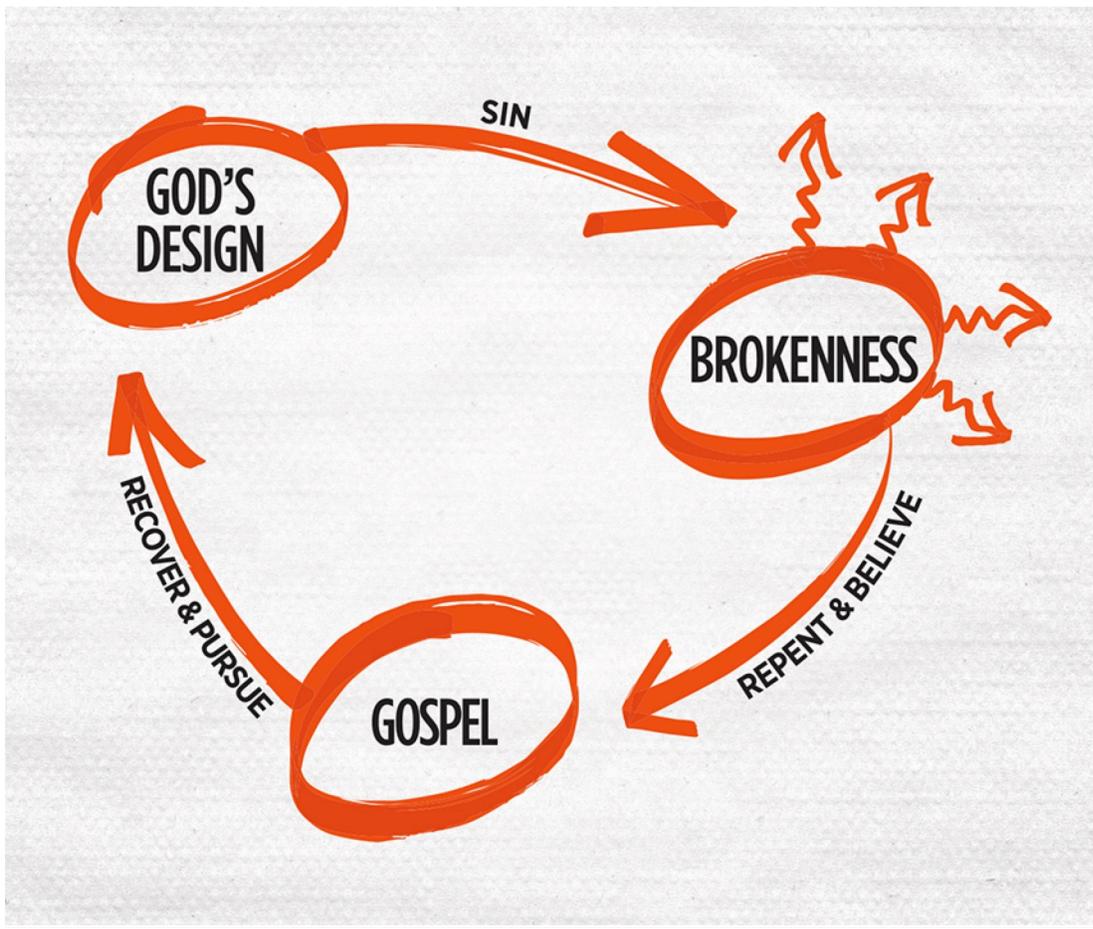
Introduction

We must recognize the following:

1. The purpose of history is to bring God _____!
2. God is the _____, He delights in saving sinners!
3. We've been entrusted with the _____ and _____ of proclaiming the gospel!

The Gospel is the only message in the world through which God brings souls from death to life!

I. Life on Mission – 3 Circles



II. Personal Testimony

A personal testimony is the story of how you came to be _____ to God through the Gospel. Our personal testimonies are not the _____, but rather a testament as to how the Gospel has proved itself true in our lives.

A personal testimony is a wonderful thing. The Bible is full of examples of it, and we should testify to the wonderful experience of receiving God's mercy. But consider (John 9) and the man born blind. He gives his testimony but doesn't even know who Jesus is. His words glorify God, but they don't present the gospel. This is not evangelism. Unless you're explicit about Jesus Christ and the cross then it is not the Gospel.

Now let's grasp how the act of sharing our testimonies can be an effective _____ for the purposes of evangelism.

***Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul.
(Psalms 66:16)***

A. Why & How You Should Share Your Personal Testimony

1. Why should you share your personal testimony?

To _____ conversations with unbelievers towards the Good News and bear _____ to its truth in your life.

Although sharing a personal testimony does not take the place of sharing the Gospel, it can be an extremely effective tool in moving into evangelism; it is a great way to move a conversation with an unbeliever towards the Gospel.

2. How should you share your personal testimony? –

Let's consider the text from John 4 and the story of the woman at the well.

a. First, the woman testifies to others about her _____ with Christ.

The fact that the woman leaves her water jar at the well speaks to her astonishment over Jesus' apparent omniscience, which is shown clearly in His revealing of the hidden sins in her life, and of her amazement at Jesus' claim to be the Messiah. Look at her response, she had to find somebody and tell them what Jesus had done, she had to tell somebody about what had just happened to her.

And that's exactly what she does. Back in town, the text says, she goes and finds a group of people – people who presumably have known her all their lives (Sychar being a small town), and she tells them how Jesus, whom she had never met before, knew all about her many marriages and her many sins.

Before we move to the next observation, we should make an application here: Often it is the people who know us the best that we fear sharing our testimony with the most! The people include:

- (1) _____ members who have been with us through our rough times,
- (2) _____ with whom we fellowship and,
- (3) _____ who have witnessed our grumbling or dishonesty at work,
- (4) _____ who have witnessed how we treat others on a daily basis.

We fear that they will call us out, point out the inconsistencies and failures in our spiritual walk, and therefore not take seriously our testimony of changed, regenerated lives.

This is where we take cues from the woman at the well. We should not fear sharing the Gospel with the people who know us best. And when/if they point out that they see inconsistencies in our statement of faith and how we live our daily lives, we may also need to explain that while we are justified at once (salvation through repentance and faith) the work of _____ is a process. God is still working in our life to transform us into the person He desires us to be:

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. (Phillipians 1:6)

We live not a perfect life, but a transformed life which drives us to grow more like Jesus Christ every day.

b. Second, she _____ them to Jesus.

After testifying to others about her experience with Christ, the woman then points them to Jesus. She directs them back up to the well, and the testimony of these Samaritans is pretty revealing – afterwards, the text tells us they said to the woman:

“Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.” (John 4:42)

It is never our _____ that brings someone, finally, to salvation. Salvation is a work of God! God is the one who saves. But, our testimonies can be a wonderful way, as we have seen in (*John 4*) to steer people towards the Savior and give them hope that it is possible for this transforming change to take place in their lives. Unlike the woman at the well, we don't have the option of literally taking our friends and family to Jesus. Instead, we have the charge to introduce them to Jesus through the _____.

B. A General Framework for Sharing Your Personal Testimony

1. What your life was like _____ Christ.

This is not a place to brag about your sin (if you sinned widely or publically) or to minimize your sin (if you came to Christ at a young age and didn't publically rebel as much), but instead, this is a place to talk about how you were apart from Christ.

2. How you came to _____ of your sins and _____ in the Gospel.

Again, some people may have a dramatic circumstances around their conversion while others may have a seemingly “*less dramatic*” conversion...the point is that there is a time you turned from your sin and trusted in Christ.

3. What your life has been like _____ knowing Christ.

This is not a time to highlight how great you are, but instead it is a time to show them how great Christ is and how he has transformed your life.

III. Sharing the Gospel – Roman Road Presentation

ROMANS 3:23 – for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

The Bible says that all of us are sinners. I am a sinner. We sin anytime we disobey God.

If God tells us not to do something, and we do it, that is sin.

If God tells us we are supposed to do something, and we do not do it, that is sin.

Do you understand that you are a sinner also? **1**

ROMANS 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A wage is what you deserve because of what you do. God says that because we are sinners, we deserve death. But when the Bible speaks of death, it does not just mean physical death. It means spiritual death also. Spiritual death is separation from God forever.

This is what I deserve because of my sin – to be separated from God for eternity. This is what we all deserve, because all of us are sinners. But this is not what God wants us to have. He wants to give us a gift, the gift of eternal life. He does not want us to be separated from Him, so He offers us the free gift of eternal life.

The Bible says that the gift of eternal life is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Why is the gift of eternal life in Jesus?

ROMANS 5:8 – But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This is the reason Jesus left heaven and came to earth. He looked down at all of us, and He said, “They are all sinners. They will be separated from God forever. But I do not want them to be separated from God forever. I want them to live with God forever. But, the wages of sin is death.”

So Jesus said, “I will die in their place.” So He left heaven and came to earth. He became a man, because God cannot die. He allowed other men to take Him and put Him on the cross. While He hung on the cross, the Father took all of my sins and put them on Jesus. And Jesus died for my sin.

But not just for my sin. He died for your sin also. We are all sinners. The wages of sin is death. Jesus paid the death penalty for us.

But not only did Jesus pay the price for our sin, but by His death, He purchased the gift of eternal life. When you buy something at the store with your own money, if you want to give it to someone, you can do so, right? The same is true of eternal life. Jesus paid for it by His death on the cross. Now, if He wants to give it to somebody, He can. The good news is that Jesus wants to give it to us!

That is why the Bible says, “the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” However, every gift must be received. If I were to hold out a box to you wrapped in pretty paper with a bow, and I said, “I bought this for you. It is free. I really want you to have it.” Before it is yours, what must you do? (Receive it!) That is right, you have to receive it. Because if you cross your arms and shake your head and say, “No, I do not want it,” then you do not have it. You must choose to receive it.

This is why many people will not be in heaven after they die. Jesus died for their sins. He offered them the gift of eternal life, but they would not receive it. And if you do not receive it, you do not have it.

ROMANS 10:9 – that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

This says there are two things we must do to receive the gift of eternal life:

1. We must believe in our heart. We must believe that Jesus, God’s Son, died on the cross for our sins and that He rose from the dead.

Do you believe that? **2**

2. The second thing we must do is “confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus.” This does not mean just saying magical words. When I say, “Jesus, You are my Lord,” I am saying that I want Jesus to be the Lord, the master, the boss of my life. I am saying that I yield control of my life to Him. I am saying that I trust, I believe, in Him, and that He is Lord.

Are you willing to confess Jesus as Lord?

When we do those two things:

1. We believe in our heart that Jesus died for us and rose from the dead.
2. And we say Jesus, I want you to be the Lord and Master of my life.

The Bible says, "You will be saved." That means you have received the gift of eternal life.

Notes on Answers

- 1. Almost everybody admits they are a sinner. If not, ask them if they ever told a lie, ever disobeyed their parents, ever said a bad word, were ever unkind to somebody, etc. As soon as you get an admission, ask, "Is that a sin?" Then conclude with "Then that makes you a sinner like me, right?"**
- 2. By this time, rarely will someone say they do not believe. However, if they say they do not, ask them why they do not believe this is true. If you can help them with their objection, do so. You may not be able to. However, if they do not come to the point of acknowledging belief, do not proceed. They must believe to be saved. You can ask if you can pray for them, and if they allow it, pray for God to give them the faith to believe that Jesus died for them on the cross and rose from the dead.**