

Lesson 4
The Book of Acts

Sharing Good News

Sometimes I feel like we are the weirdos. You ever feel that way.

Well consider this.

You meet someone who hates the God he doesn't believe in.

A colleague says they only believe in things that can be proven scientifically, but believe everything came about by unscientific random chance.

A family member says they don't believe in God but believe that that life on earth was seeded by aliens.

Sound weird? I could go on, but I believe you get the picture.

We have good news. Good news that needs to be shared.

But when someone uses the word "evangelism" you break out in a cold sweat.

If you are in that boat, I have some words of hope for you today.

TURN WITH ME IF YOU WILL TO LUKE 10:1

Background

Jesus was doing great wonders and signs among the people. So he decided to increase his efforts. He appointed 72 to go out

Luke 10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.

Luk 10:2 And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

Luk 10:3 Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

Luk 10:4 Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road.

Luk 10:5 Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!'

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Luk 10:6 And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you.

Luk 10:7 And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house.

Luk 10:8 Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you.

Luk 10:9 Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

Luk 10:10 But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say,

Luk 10:11 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.'

1.) Pray for laborers

Luke 10:2 And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

Pray for laborers. Everyone can do this. This entry level. When we pray for laborers we become concerned of the souls of men. According to Jesus there is an abundance of people there that are ready to receive the good news if only they could have the good news preached to them.

In Jesus' time there was an expectation raised of the coming of the Messiah and of his kingdom. Even today people are looking for something. They have a God sized hole in their hearts and nothing in this world can satisfy it. But who is going to do it? Pray for laborers.

And while, we are at it pray for yourself. God may be calling you to go out and share the good news. There was a time when I prayed for someone to share Christ with. Sure enough God brought me a young man from work that I began to share the good news with.

2.) Jesus sent them out in two's

Luke 10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself

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was about to go.

This is not to say one can't share the gospel alone, The Philip did with the Ethiopian Eunuch, apostle Paul did on Mars Hill.

But there is wisdom in sending out people in 2's Likely it was done so that they might aid one another and that they might help and even comfort one another in their persecutions and trials. One can share the other can pray.

Acts 13:2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

When Barnabus and Saul (later Paul) were sent out by the Holy Spirit they were sent out in 2's. Later when they split up their team, it was still done in two's.

Acts 15:39-40 And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

Why two? It's not all on you.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

Maybe you are not a good speaker, but you have some friends who are seeking answers. Team up with some other person, look at what the scripture says about Paul and Barnabas:

EXAMPLE:

Acts 14:12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

Barnabas, was called the son of encouragement, but when they went out to share the good news, Paul was the main speaker.

And don't second guess the work of the Holy Spirit in you: Don't let your

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limitations limit you!

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

When I look at some of the most meek people out there, I see them doing amazing things in terms of sharing the good news.

Sunday school workers or shine workers, are affecting a generation with the good news.

Bryan Nottingham, always seems like a shy guy to me, but he comes to Men's challenge frequently to share a devotional. He even does shares the good news with people on the streets sometimes during outreaches. What does he say? What are your views on eternity, and why do you believe that? After the other person has a chance to share, he then shares what the Bible says. Simple!

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,
Even the apostles prayed for boldness!

So why not take a further step, from what you are doing now?

3.) Not everyone will receive, but some will.

I heard an amazing statistic, 20% of people will go to church if only someone would invite them to. Right now a bunch of people have a dilemma, where are they going to go to church on Easter Sunday? You can help them with the solution by inviting them to church.

Luke 10:3 Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

That doesn't sound very encouraging, but we have to accept a level of rejection, but remember this: on average a person hears the good news six or seven times before they will receive it. Maybe you were the first one!

Not everyone will receive but some will.

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Even the Apostle Paul didn't sweat the numbers.

When he had an opportunity to speak to the philosophers of the day:

Act 17:17-19 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbling wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"--because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?"

Act 17:22-23 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

It's important to note that this did not lead to a day of Pentecost type revival, but some did get saved! Epimenides of Crete (600 BC).

Act 17:34 But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

And if you are rejected keep this thought in mind, you have the backing of the creator of the universe:

Luke 10:10-11 But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless, know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.'

When you give people the good news, you are bringing the Kingdom of God to their very door stop. You are doing them the ultimate favor. God backs that up!

4.) Finding the man of peace

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Luke 10:6 And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you.

I was at a conference on Discipleship and this concept was brought up and I confess I had never seen it before. When I first became a Christian, I wanted to take on all the hard cases, but that isn't the Biblical model. God calls us to find someone who is spiritually receptive. When the Bible talks about peace here it is actually talking about a person who is receptive to the gospel of peace.

Colossians 1:19-20 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Ephesians 6:15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

At the birth of Jesus God indicated His intention through the angels:
Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

They are not speaking of peace between man but peace with God.

When Jesus started his ministry, he would go to the synagogue where spiritually minded people would gather:

Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.

Paul followed this same model.

Acts 18:4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Acts 17:17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.

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In fact when there wasn't a synagogue he would find an alternative:

Acts 16:13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.

The apostle Paul regularly found people of peace.

In Philippi: Lydia (Acts 16:14)

In Thessalonica: Jason (Acts 17:1-7)

In Athens: Dionysius and Damaris (Acts 17:34)

In Corinth: Titius Justus, and Crispus (Acts 18:7-8)

So when you find a person of peace, don't invite them to church, invite yourself to their house and do a bible study there. Have the person of peace invite their friends to come. Start discipling them before they are saved.

Conclusion

Pray for laborers

Go in Twos

Not everyone will receive, but some will.

Look for the person of peace