

LESSON 12

EVANGELISM IN THE END TIMES

**"Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season;
correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful
instruction."
(2 Timothy 4:2)**

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CONCEPT OF THE PICTURE

1. **Smiling person** The first rule of evangelism is to become a winsome person.
 - You are aware of your special rights as a Child of God.
 - There are no sins you have not confessed.
 - You are certain of the filling of the Holy Spirit.
 - You know the methods of evangelism.
2. **4 people** There is no one who does not need to be saved.
3. **Painting of the Samaritan Woman** The method used by Jesus is the most effective method of personal evangelism.
 - (1) **Coffee cup** speaks to the heart.
 - (2) **Illustration from Section 1** Speaks to the intellect.
 - (3) **Illustration from Section 2** Speaks to the conscience.
 - (4) **Illustration from Section 3** Speaks to the spirit.
 - (5) **Illustration from Section 4** Speaks to the will.
4. **Illustration from Section 5 onwards** The goal of evangelism is to make disciples.
5. **Scenery of dusk outside window** There is not much time left for evangelism.

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INTRODUCTION

There is only one way for the Great Commission of the Lord to be realized in a concrete fashion. That is, personal evangelism by the believers.

The reason for Christianity's explosive expansion during the first generation of the Church is not only due to the participation of leaders such as Paul and Peter. People whose names are not known spoke of Jesus as their Savior in their local areas and in all parts of the Roman Empire, and so Churches were born throughout the land.

As a summary of this seminar, let's learn about "personal evangelism by the believers."

1. The first rule of evangelism is to become a winsome person.

It would be difficult for a person with unresolved issues within themselves to help others. It also does not make sense to preach about what you have not experienced yourself.

What reaches and moves people's hearts is love. People will be saved if evangelism is without selfish motives and is rooted in love (this does not mean you would be free from all problems. If that were the case, it would be impossible to preach since it is impossible to sustain such a condition in life on this earth).

- To be aware of the special rights as a Child of God (ref. Romans 8:14-17).
- To be without unconfessed sins (ref. Leviticus 16:6-10, 20-21, 1 John 1:8:-10).
- To be certain of being filled by the Holy Spirit (ref. Ephesians 6:18, 1 John 5:14-15).
- To know the methods of evangelism (ref. 1 Peter 3:15).

2. There is no one who does not need to be saved.

What becomes a roadblock to evangelism is negative faith. We will subconsciously have thoughts such as the following within our hearts:

- Those who are wealthy do not need to be saved.
- Those who are successful do not need to be saved.
- It is difficult for a stubborn person to be saved.
- People in poverty are just getting by and have no capacity to listen to the message of the Gospel.

Before you know it, you will be convinced that “that person” cannot be saved.
There is, however, no one who does not need to be saved. All people are invited by God.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”
(Matthew 11:28)

3. The method used by Jesus is the most effective method of personal evangelism.

The book of John contains several parts where Jesus speaks to a person, or a group of people. His method was to always speak from the perspective of the listener, as was Paul’s (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

People make decisions based not on reasons given to them by others, but on reasons that they think of themselves. Let’s be sure to remember that.

- Conversation with Nicodemus (3:1-21)——— “God’s Kingdom and a new life”
- Conversation with Samaritan woman (4:1-42)— “Living water”
- Message after feeding 5000 people (6:22-71)—— “Bread of life”
- Healing of the blind (9:1-41)——— “Light of the world”

(1) Speaks to the heart.

“When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Will you give me a drink?’”
(John 4:7)

The way Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman immediately gave her a good impression;

- A Jewish man;
- speaks to a Samaritan woman;
- asking for water.

People only listen to those they have opened their hearts to, or those who have given them a good impression. You must be aware that our personalities themselves become our messages. You must speak to the heart; only then can you move on to the next step.

(2) Speaks to the intellect.

“Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.’”
(John 4:10)

The Samaritan woman was interested in water. So, Jesus begins to talk about “living water.”

The Japanese lack a Biblical background and often think of Christianity as one of the many religions. In order to preach to those people, you must first indicate that the Bible is a unique book.

Let's now take the illustration from Section 1, Encounter with the Bible, and evangelize. Find a friend or a family member who has finished Step 1 above, and tell them that there is a process of learning the Bible that can be done in four simple steps and invite them.

- Let them decide the place and time.
- Take it lightly—think of it as just a chance to get to know them a little better.
- Go step by step, while being attentive to their reactions.
- Do not make them feel under pressure.

(3) Speaks to the conscience.

"He told her, 'Go, call your husband and come back.'" (John 4:16)

To speak to the voice of the conscience doesn't mean to be condescending or hurt their pride. Jesus respected the personalities of those whom he spoke to at all times, even if he was speaking to a sinner and was always full of grace.

When speaking of sin to the Japanese, most of whom have little or no knowledge concerning the Bible, it is easy to create an unnecessary awkwardness, or a conflicting relationship if you do not interact with them with utmost care.

- How do you talk about idol worship?
- How do you answer the question
“what happens to those who died without knowing Christ?”

Take the illustration from Section 2, Meeting Yourself, and discuss the appearance of man. Do not take the stance of teaching, but share your own experiences. Be attentive to their reaction, determine whether they have opened or closed their hearts, and go step by step. If they begin to talk about deeper issues within themselves, you can take it as a good sign.

(3) Speaks to the spirit.

"Then Jesus declared, 'I, the one speaking to you—I am he.'" (John 4:26)

Here, Jesus revealed Himself—in other words He declared Himself as the Messiah—which is surprising, since he hadn't made this known even to His disciples. Christ responded to the deepest need of the woman.

Take the illustration from Section 3, Meeting Christ, and discuss the necessity of the spirit.

(5) Speaks to the will.

"Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?' They came out of the town and made their way toward him."
(John 4:28-30)

The woman made a decision and left Christ. The words "leaving her water jar" represents the meaning of her action.

Take the illustration from section 4, Meeting A New Life and speak to their will. What is important here is whether the person's heart is ready; in other words, if the time has come yet. You cannot force an immature baby out of its womb. The result is left up to God, but be careful so that you can keep a good relationship no matter the outcome.

4. The goal of evangelism is to make disciples.

The goal of the Great Commission was to gain apprentices. The Samaritan woman immediately became the evangelist to the people in her town. As such, our goal, too, is to lead and protect new believers, and make them our disciples.

5. There is not much time left for evangelism.

"Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest?' I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35)

Lift your eyes and see:

- The Lord of the harvest.
- The time of the harvest.
- The field of the harvest.