

02/22/04 – “YOU WERE MADE FOR A MISSION – EVANGELISM”

Many of us mistakenly think that evangelism is only for extroverts, when in reality all of us are to do the work of an evangelist

*“But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, **do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**” – 2 Timothy 4:5*

We have been commissioned by God to win people to His kingdom? It is of eternal significance & importance

The consequences of our mission will last forever – Nothing else will matter as much as an eternal relationship with God

Luke 5:17-26 – Story of healing of the Paralytic who is **lowered through roof by four friends**

The Principle of Compassion

(in Luke 5:17-26) Concerned about their friend & did all they could to bring him to Christ - **compassionate**

Compassion is love in action –It’s implies action not just a feeling or thought

Love is the essential ingredient of **compassion** - People don’t really care how much we know until they know how much we care

Important to spend time with non-Christians – Some of us don’t have a single non-Christian friend

We need to be in the field – We need to pray that God will soften our hearts as well as the hearts of people we are trying to reach

The Principle of Faith

The four had to take their paralytic friend to Jesus...Not everyone can get there on their own...**need our help**

Without **faith** it is impossible to please God – All things are possible except the impossible - **We walk by faith not by sight**

They **believed** Jesus would save their friend no matter how many difficulties they faced...**They believed**

People can be paralyzed with fear, guilt, loneliness, circumstances & problems, beyond physical paralysis – can’t get to Jesus without your help

The Principle of Action

It’s not just **compassion** or **faith**...but **action** that brought him to Jesus...Doers of the Word!

*“Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, **making the most of the opportunity.**” – Colossians 4:5*

They didn’t just pray for their friend, they brought him to Jesus...They had a **plan of action**

Saying, “My life is my witness.”...can be presumptive & incomplete – Evangelism is a two-edged sword – both words & deeds

The Principle of Persistence

It’s not just **compassion, faith & action** but also **persistence** – Not giving up!

*“The Lord is not slow about His promise,...but is patient toward you, **not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**” 2 Peter 3:9*

They did not let difficulties discourage them – When someone says “I’m not interested in Christ,” **it doesn’t mean** they’re not interested in Christ

Paralytic’s friends took a personal interest & got him to Jesus - They climbed to the roof, removed the tiles, & lowered him to Jesus

Are we willing to go through the roof for a friend? Are we willing to pay for the repairs to the roof after you’ve tried? Do we really care?

Four Principles of Mission

Compassion – Being concerned – Bearing the burden for someone else

Faith – Believing past logic or experience – We walk by faith not sight. 2 Cor. 5:7, Heb. 11:6

Action – Bringing someone through the roof – Doers! – “...about all that Jesus began to do and teach...” Acts 1:1

Persistence – Not letting difficulties and setbacks discourage and defeat and stop our attitude and acts of faith & prayer

Here for a God Given Purpose

Is anyone going to be in heaven because of us? Imagine the joy of greeting those in heaven that we helped get there

The eternal salvation of a single soul is more important than anything else we’ll achieve in life - Only people are going to last forever

He’s made us a member of His family, a model of His character, a magnifier of His glory, a minister of His grace & a messenger of His good news

We only have a short time on this earth to fulfill our mission, a short time to make an eternal difference!