**Evangelism - Not a 4 letter word (1st of 3)**

**Evangelism – not a 4 letter word**

We’ll start with some foundations of evangelism.  What is the purpose or definition of the work evangelism?

Dictionary:

* The spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness
* To bring or announce - preach the good news

 Why would we even do this??

 Do you even want to do this??

 Why wouldn’t you do this??

 Ridicule, losing friendships (or what you thought was a friendship), being hurt or attacked physically or verbally?

 There are people out there that are lost, who have never really heard the gospel.  Then there are some others who may have applied Christ to their persona and show him as a pennant for their necklace, others a pin for their sweater, or a sticker on their t-shirt.  But scripture paints a very clear picture of a Christian or better yet – a Christ follower is called to do.

**Matthew 16:  From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.  Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”**

Here Jesus is saying that Peter is being influenced by the lies of Satan.

**Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.**

In this scripture it says “**if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.”** – the Me being Jesus .  Christians, are being told to pick up their cross daily for Christ.  And part of picking up the cross is to share the gospel or to evangelize.  Jesus walked the city streets, visited in synagogues, frequented places where the people were to evangelize.

So, what is the purpose of evangelism??

**Matthew 19:16-22 Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”**

**So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”**

**He said to Him, “Which ones?”**

**Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’  ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”**

**The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?”**

**Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”**

**But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.**

**Jesus knew the heart of this rich man and told him the truth.  The man walked away and had great sorrow, because he couldn’t see letting go of his worldly possessions.**

 Above are listed, just 6 of the commandments.  Well, what is the purpose of the 10 Commandments?

**Deuteronomy 5:28-33 “Then the Lord heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the Lord said to me: ‘I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken. Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!  Go and say to them, “Return to your tents.” But as for you, stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may observe them in the land which I am giving them to possess.’ “Therefore you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.**

10 commandments are written in Deuteronomy 5 / Exodus 20

Do you think the commandments are written to condemn people??

We inherently know right from wrong – right?  How?

Scripture says that the commandments are written on the hearts of all of God’s children.

So, what if we don’t follow those commandments?

Going to end up in hell or the lake of fire for eternity.  Is that concerning to you?

Hell is the default.  People are sinners and break those commandments or God’s law and are simply apart from God.  Which means, as we are sinners, until we come to repentance (meaning turn away from sin) and accept Christ into our lives – that leaves only one place.  God won’t force us to serve and praise Him and He will not force us into Heaven.

Before Christ it was written:

\*\*OLD TESTAMENT\*\*  **Jeremiah 31:33-34 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”**

After Christ it was written:

\*\*NEW TESTAMENT\*\* **Hebrews 10:11-17 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.  But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**

**But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.**

 Why is any of this important???  Can you image speaking to someone hope, love, peace, salvation to someone?  When you ask that person, hey do you want to be saved, what do you think they would say??

**1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

When speaking with someone about Christ whether we just met them or they are lifelong friends or family members that we just got the courage to speak to them – it is important that we tell them the gospel truth, but they need to understand that the alternative is not a very pleasant place and they need to be convicted of that.

Make no mistake, none of this is easy and there will be some people that flat out reject the conversation.

Who thinks it’s best to get to know them first, before speaking with them about the gospel?

Let’s say that you speak with this new friend or even a great life-long friend pretty regularly and you just haven’t quite gotten the courage to tell them about Jesus, because you wanted to wait for the right time or they always seemed put off by anything about God.

Listen/Read this: Letter from an Unsaved Friend

My friend, I stand in judgment now, and feel that you’re to blame somehow. On earth I walked with you by day, and never did you show the way.

You knew the Savior in truth and glory, But never did you tell the story. My knowledge then was very dim. You could have led me safe to Him.

Though we lived together, here on earth, you never told me of the second birth. And now I stand before eternal hell, because of heaven’s glory you did not tell!

So, if this person isn’t saved, where do they go??  Same answer as earlier, right?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATlC4qv5-6o>

23:00-26:27 (woman who says, need to build a relationship first… Gets convicted about speaking to another about Christ) – Opportunity was there the whole time.  Taking the time to build a relationship, really getting to know the person – means, now you have selected who to share the gospel with (your friends)

Ice-breakers:

* Hey nice car there.  Have you heard about the gospel?
* Hey, do you know of any good churches around this area?
* Do you have a Christian background?

Bring up the things of God – and He will lead you through it.

4 Questions from Way of the Master - WDJD

#1 - W-Would you consider yourself to be a good person?

* Book of proverbs (will proclaim his own goodness) Proverbs 20:9

#2 - D-Do you think that you have kept the 10 commandments

* Told a lie – what does that make you
* If I murder someone, what does that make me?
* Have you ever hated someone? – The bible says anyone who hates their brother without cause has committed murder in his heart
* Ever stolen anything – what does that make you? - Thief
* Have you ever looked at a woman with lust? – the bible also says that anyone who looks at a woman with lust has committed Adultry in your heart
* OR the Bible says that look at a woman with lust, adultery in your heart – have you ever looked at a woman with lust
* God’s name in vain – blasphemer
* Not Judging you but by your own admission

# 3 - J – If God Judges you by the Ten Commandments do you think you would be innocent or guilty

* My god loves me and I would be ok
* Civil law – judge – killed someone
* Another of the 10 commandments is that we not create a god that suits us (second?)

#4 – D – Do you think you would go to heaven or hell?

* God would punish someone who murders, right?
* Do you know what God did for guilty sinners??
* Jesus Paid your fine 2000 years ago
* Two things to be saved - Repent and trust the savior

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlpltpZ5b4Q>

 \*\*Worship\*\*

Amazing grace: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3yLV2M0rlc>

Faithful God: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsiZoiqC_HQ>

O the blood: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxeVrMC1qVY>