

The Discipline of Evangelism

INTRO: Spiritual Disciplines

- Discipleship is about following Jesus → being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and doing the things that he did
- Spiritual disciplines are God's means for being WITH Jesus and becoming LIKE Jesus
- I often think about what Pastor Isaac from India said over the summer
 - Simple Obedience → Significant Obedience → Radical Obedience
- Spiritual Disciplines are acts of Simple Obedience.
 - They are the foundational stones of a healthy disciple's life, built on the cornerstone of King Jesus
 - When they are in place, God does amazing things through ordinary people
- Things are different... changing... since we started this series...
 - Because more people are embracing simple obedience → to pray, fast, etc
- So far: Word, prayer, confession, worship, stillness, stewardship; Today: Evangelism

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT EVANGELISM

- Evangelism simply means to share the Good News of Jesus → That Jesus Christ came to seek the lost and save sinners
- When I was young in the faith, and I heard the Word evangelism, I had a few thoughts:
 - Street evangelism (street preachers, handing out pamphlets, debating)
 - Event evangelism (Billy Graham, Greg Laurie, FCA Surf Event)
 - Church evangelism (Christmas, Easter, or special services)
- When we moved overseas to work with Muslims in Spain, I suddenly realized that I was in trouble b/c these were cultural methods that didn't necessarily translate:
 - They wouldn't come to your church;
 - They might come to an event if they weren't working one of their two jobs;
 - Everywhere in the world, people get a little hesitant about street preachers (don't get me wrong, I still believe it's a valid thing)
- Now, all three of these categories work and have worked to bring people to Christ, but I don't think they are God's ordinary means for the average Christian.
- In other words, maybe some of you are street preachers and highly gifted evangelists, but most are not. So, if everyone is supposed to evangelize (share the gospel), what does evangelism look like for the other guy, the Ordinary Joe?

MATTHEW 9:35-38; 10:1

[35] And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. [36] When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. [37] Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; [38] therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." [1] And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.

I want to suggest to you that this picture of Jesus is, in my opinion, the simplest form of evangelism and the one I wish I had known about when we moved overseas. Simply stated, it is evangelism as overflow. Jesus is simply being himself. From a place of abundance in his relationship with the Father, he is going about his life, full of the Holy Spirit, sharing good news

I. Jesus WENT

- A. Jesus was on a mission. He had no time to dilly dally, no time to waste, but he was never rushed. No place to lay his head, but he must have been the most even-keeled man alive
- B. Jesus' ministry was marked by intentional movement.
 - 1. He didn't stay in one safe, comfortable place → he traveled.
 - 2. But his going was purposeful. He wasn't living that #VanLife.
 - 3. He went where he was sent, in obedience to the Father. Wherever he traveled, he carried out his mission.

II. Jesus went with a heart of COMPASSION

- A. *Matthew 9:36, "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."*
- B. Jesus had spiritual eyes and physical eyes to see. So often we just see with physical eyes. I wonder what Jesus saw when he saw the Demoniac, or Mary with 7 evil spirits, or Matthew
- C. Why was it that Jesus preferred to hang out with prostitutes and drunkards? Was it b/c the Pharisees were stuffy and lame, and didn't know how to have fun?
- D. No, it was b/c Jesus said those who are sick are those that need a doctor
- E. Situations that made Jesus uncomfortable drew Jesus' in... that's his heart
- F. Helpless... Harassed...? Wolves... overgrazed... flystrike
- G. Sheep NEED a shepherd, and our Good Shepherd sees us and has compassion
- H. Ask God to help you see people through His eyes... when it's uncomfortable
 - 1. Ex: Muslims after 9-11
 - 2. Ask God for a heart that breaks for what breaks His.
 - 3. Ask God for a heart that doesn't go, "Oh that's weird" or "Ew, that's gross," but says, "They need the Good Shepherd!"

III. As Jesus went, he taught the truth, proclaimed the gospel, and healed people

- A. In Matthew 9:35, we see three actions → teaching, proclaiming, and healing
- B. This is, in my opinion, the snapshot of the evangelistic life on mission that I want for Revolve → for each one of you
- C. Full of the Spirit, embracing on mission, with the heart of the Father, a heart that is loved and full of compassion, Jesus fed the lost sheep
- D. He taught... he proclaimed... What's the difference? Teaching unpacks the HOW and WHY, and proclaiming declares the WHAT → namely, that the Kingdom of Heaven was near.
- E. Proclaim says "Repent and believe!" // Teach says, "This is why you need a savior and why he had to die."
- F. **Teaching in their synagogues**
 - 1. To teach is to train, equip, or to instruct. It is to give someone truth.
 - 2. Jesus said, freely you have received, freely give to one another (Lk 10)

3. Jesus would open the Scriptures, explain the truths of God's kingdom, and clarify misconceptions about God's character.
4. He taught in the synagogues with authority b/c he wasn't guessing about the meaning of life or the Scriptures.
5. There were hungry sheep who needed food, and Jesus was ready to feed them
6. Teaching isn't reserved for a stage.
 - a) Just because this is what you see of me doesn't mean this is the main place it happens or even the most effective way
 - b) You can sharpen other people every day in normal conversation as you share about your QT, share verses, pray for one another, answer questions, read and explore the Word together, etc

G. Proclaiming the gospel (the good news) of a NEW kingdom

1. As he was going, Jesus announced the arrival of God's reign
2. God gave a promise in Genesis to undo the impact of sin on the world
3. He gave a promise that through a man named Abraham, God would bless the entire world (this is why Matthew and Luke begin tracing Jesus' lineage back to Abraham, by the way)
4. Jesus' message that the KING had arrived was about liberation, hope and redemption
5. It is to say, "You don't have to be enslaved anymore to the king of this world (Satan), the prince of the air, or his demonic league.
6. Jesus came proclaiming Good News! The Son of Man (his favorite title for himself) came to suffer and die for the sins of the world so that guilty men like me and you might be forgiven!
 - a) For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life!
7. One of the things we see in the Hub class all the time is that people think they need to argue their friends into Christianity. No, you don't
8. Proclaiming the gospel can be as simple as:
 - a) Sharing a personal testimony of what God has done
 - (1) There was a time in my life when I was depressed and aimless, but then Jesus rescued me, and now I have joy and incredible purpose for my life! Don't you want that?
 - b) It could be reminding someone that there is hope, and that God sees them in their pain and proved it by sending his son to die
 - c) It could be sharing a scripture or an encouraging verse that points them to Jesus
 - d) Evangelism is best when it is overflow

H. Healing every disease and affliction

1. Jesus didn't just talk "at" people → He didn't just say, "The king is here. Sorry for your leprosy, but you'll get freedom when you die at 87 years."
2. He demonstrated the kingdom in tangible ways

3. Seeing with spiritual eyes, Jesus saw the chains that hold people: the spiritual and physical bonds... and he loved BREAKING them
4. We are called to heal people, like Jesus, and there are many tangible things we can do: kind words, listening to someone's struggles, meeting practical needs, or offering emotional support.
5. This all reflects God's heart of compassion
6. But guess what... God also still does miracles. I've seen them happen... in the last month...
7. Only God's Spirit can do the miraculous, but he won't do it if you don't ask. And he doesn't owe you anything so just bc you ask doesn't mean he is obligated
8. So I like to replace this word healing with PRAYING
 - a) Pray for the sick. Pray for the oppressed. Pray for the wounded. Pray for the depressed.
 - b) Share with them, speak to them, listen to them – Yes. But also PRAY!
 - c) Prayer is our greatest tool in healing every disease and affliction

IV. Jesus' Words to His Followers

- A. *[37] Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; [38] therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." [1] And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.*
- B. Jesus paints a picture of a field ready for harvest—souls longing for truth
- C. The problem isn't the lack of a harvest but the shortage of workers.
- D. So what does he say?
 1. Pray
 - a) Pray earnestly: Recognize that God is the one who sends laborers. Ask Him to stir hearts, open doors, and equip people to share His love.
 - b) Pray for workers: Prayer aligns our desires with God's heart and reminds us that we're not alone—God raises up others, too.
 2. Go
 - a) Matthew 10:1: After telling them to pray for laborers, Jesus calls the twelve and gives them authority to do what He's been doing!
 - b) Our authority in Christ: We don't go timidly; we go confidently, knowing that Jesus backs His mission.
 - c) Teaching, proclaiming, healing: We continue the same kingdom ministry. God still works through our availability
 3. In HIS authority, not your own awesomeness

V. Conclusion: Step Out in Overflow

- A. **Abide:** Spend time in prayer, worship, and Scripture, cultivating a heart that overflows with God's love.

- B. **Pray:** Ask God to send more laborers and be willing to be the answer to your own prayer // Luke 10:02 Prayer
- C. **Go:** Be mindful that your daily routines—your “circuit”—are full of divine appointments.
- D. **As you are going... teach, proclaim, heal:** Everyone you encounter needs one of these three things
- E. This simplest and purest form of evangelism—living in overflow—starts with your relationship with God and extends to wherever He sends you. As you lean on His love and authority, you become a living testimony of the good news, just like Jesus did when He went, taught, proclaimed, and healed. The harvest is waiting. The invitation is open. Go in His compassion and power.