

Five Goals for Personal Evangelism
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Introduction: “You cannot achieve what you neither conceive nor believe.”

- A. What does it mean to be committed to a cause? **(Mt 6:22-24)**
1. It means that you will pursue it.
 2. It means that you will build associates based on that commitment.
 3. It means that your greatest joy will come from successes in this cause.
(Luke 15:4-7)
 4. The church is filled with committed people. But *what* are they committed to?
 5. Sadly, I know of very few people committed to evangelism. How about you?
- B. Most churches and Christians have no vision of evangelism therefore they do not have a commitment to evangelism.
1. We cannot see because we are not “seeing” by our faith. **(Heb 11:24-27)**
 2. If we judge by our sight then the world around us is doing just fine.
 3. I challenge you to open your eyes and see what Jesus sees. **(Jn 4:34-35)**

I. We must have the goal to see and tell others about what Jesus has done for us.

- A. If you learn nothing else from this lesson, please learn this!
1. What is the gospel? **(Rom 1:16)**
 2. εὐαγγέλιον, ου, τό good news; in the NT only of God's message of salvation *gospel, good news*; (1) as denoting the act of proclamation *preaching of the gospel* (1C 4.15); (2) as denoting the work of evangelization *cause, service, or spread of the gospel* (PH 4.3); (3) as denoting the content of the message as an offer of salvation *gospel, good news, God's message* (1C 9.14a)
- B. **The issue is not just how much knowledge and experience I possess.**
1. Where does successful teaching come? It comes from a heart of faith.
 2. Many have great knowledge, but that does not assure one that he will have a strong faith! **(1 Cor 8:1-2)**
- C. **Consider two examples during the ministry of Christ.**
1. Would you have sent a previously maddened, demon possessed man back to the people to teach having almost no knowledge? **(Mk 5:17-20; Lk 8:40)**
 2. What made this man successful? How many of you **have greater knowledge** than this man?
 3. **(John 4:25-30)** – Again, would you use this woman in evangelism?
 4. In both of these cases these people served to open doors for further teaching by someone more capable. There is not a Christian among us who cannot be as effective as these if we would have the same measure of faith!

II. We must have the goal of exposing a heart so that a decision can be made

- A. Mary received a chilling prophecy from Simeon. **(Lk 2:34-35)**
1. Look at the pain and opposition because "the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

2. When a man starts opening hearts he is in dangerous territory.
- B. Jesus knew what was in the hearts of men. He wanted them to see too.
 1. He would not commit to those who just looked like supporters. (**Jn 2:24-25**)
 2. Most men will hate and oppose those who show them their hearts. (**Jn 3:19-20; 15:18-23**)
- C. The work of exposing hearts is where the great work of God is done!
 1. The opening of the heart in the scriptures is described as a "cut."
 2. Some were "cut" and obeyed while others were "cut" and attacked! (**Acts 2:36-37; 7:54-55**)
 3. Do churches that appeal to entertainment reach the heart?
 4. What really brings God glory? Numbers? Buildings? (**2 Cor 2:14-17**)
- D. Jesus often received harsh responses when he opened the heart.
 1. Why did the Pharisees hate him? (**Mt 15:12-13; Lk 4:28-29**)
 2. Jesus knew men's thoughts and tried to get them to see themselves! (**Lk 5:22; 6:8; 11:17**)
 3. Personal evangelism is dangerous business! (Ex. Approach in teaching Jehovah's Witnesses, 7th day groups)
- E. These same dangers can exist in teaching Christians.

III. We must have the goal of opening our lives and our homes

- A. **Those on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41-42, 46)**
 1. We should have social meals together and enjoy each other's company. Sadly some think the collective work of the church is this!
 2. How do I get to know someone? This rarely takes place in the assembly alone!
- B. **Later growth at Jerusalem (Acts 5:42, 8:3-4)**
 1. In the homes they could powerfully teach individuals.
 2. When Christians were scattered their work in teaching in the homes continued!
 3. How would these have time for home studies after losing all they possessed?
- C. **The conversion of Cornelius. (Acts 10:24, 48)**
 1. You will find men excited about hearing the gospel in their home.
 2. Do you have any relatives and close friends? Would they come to your home where they might not come to the services of the church?

IV. We must have a strong knowledge of how God's grace has come to us

- A. We must be able to clearly convince others that Jesus Christ is Lord.
 1. They heard the evidence and were changed! (**Acts 2:32; 3:14-15; 13:27-31**)
 2. The resurrection of and thus the judgment of all men is assured. (**Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor 4:13-14**)
 3. We too are "raised" because of our faith in the resurrection. (**Col 2:12-13**)
 4. Could you teach someone who is not sure the Bible is from God the evidence that Jesus is the son of God? (**1 Pt 3:15**)
- D. We must have a clear understanding of the grace of God.
 1. What ultimately are we teaching? We want others **to trust in God.**

2. It is the love of God that brings men to God. (**Psa 36:7; 1 Pt 2:1-3; 1 Jn 4:19**)
3. More specifically we must center on the cross of Christ. (**Gal 6:14; Phil 3:7-9**)
4. Again, we must have a clear view of where we stand before God or we will present a false view of the Christian life! (**Psa 51:7-13; 1 John 4:17-19**)

V. We must be committed to training others

A. Good leadership will provide training. (**1 Cor 11:1; Acts 20:26-28**)

1. In personal work you learn best by seeing someone else do it.
2. How many of you have ever been in a home study to teach the lost?

B. Do we want a preacher or a pastor?

Conclusion: Will there be those committed to evangelism at Williamsburg?

“I am only one, but still I am one.

I cannot do everything, but I can still do something.

And because I cannot do everything,

I will not fail to do something that I can do.”

THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER'S HAND

"Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin, But he held it up with a smile. "What am I
bid, good folks?" he cried, "Who'll start the bidding for me? A dollar, a dollar,
now two, only two-Two dollars, and who'll make it three?"

"Three dollars once, three dollars twice, Going for three" --but no! From the room
far back a gray-haired man came forward and picked up the bow. Then wiping the
dust from all the strings, He played a melody pure and sweet, As sweet as an angel
sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer, With a voice that was quiet and low, Said:
"What am I bid for the old violin?? And he held it up with the bow. "A thousand
dollars - and who'll make it two? Two thousand, and who'll make it three? Three
thousand once and three thousand twice-And going and gone!" said he.

And the people cheered, but some of them cried, "We do not quite
understand-What changed its' worth?" The man replied; "The touch of the master's
hand." And many a man with life out of tune, And battered and worn with sin, Is
auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd, Much like the old violin.

A "mess of pottage", a glass of wine, A game, and he travels on; He's going once,
and going twice, He's going -- and almost gone; But the Master comes, and the
foolish crowd Never can quite understand The worth of a soul and the change
that's wrought By the touch of the Master's hand.

The outline, PowerPoint and audio files for this lesson will be posted at:

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