

## Practical Evangelism 2019 Pt. 3

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, February 17, 2019

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**Main Theme** – A multipart series concerning evangelism and practical application & techniques.

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### WORSHIP & PRAYER

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Workshop – Biblical Principles of Finance w/ Ginger (Feb. 22–23)
- Potluck Supper – Taking place Sunday, February 24 (Post-Service)
- Children’s Church Worker Training & CORI Checks – Potluck Supp.

### MORNING OFFERING

At this time, I want to call forth our ushers.

-Thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the Lord/His work

-Your giving fuels the work of Christ in and through this church

May the Lord bless you as you give! May you experience His faithfulness in kind!

### HAITI UPDATES/MISSION E4

At this time, I want to play a video from our friends at Mission E4 **VIDEO**

**POST-VIDEO** – I want to welcome Taran to share a few words and/or remarks.

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- **CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN’S CHURCH**
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### **INTRODUCTIONS**

As always it is wonderful to see you. I look forward to these moments of corporate worship and instruction. I pray that you are ready to receive what the Lord has for you today. Please have your Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes.

### **SETTING THE STAGE**

We are in the midst of an extended series on PRACTICAL EVANGELISM. This series is designed to equip you to more effectively share your faith (as a witness, ambassador and representative of Christ).

**NOTE** – Last Sunday I outlined 3 of 6 methods/means of practical evangelism. If you were NOT here last week I would STRONGLY recommend listening to the sermon online/reading the notes. However, I will take a moment to recap what we covered briefly (before we move on to new material). Consider the following:

#### **SLIDE**

- 1) CONFRONTATION** – Confronting people with the reality of their sin and its consequence(s)
- 2) PERSUASION (INT.)** – Contending with the Q's people have in a sincere, respectful 'manner'
- 3) PERSONAL TESTIMONY** – Sharing how the Lord has operated in your life and on your behalf

**NOTE** – This morning I would like to conclude this particular portion of our extended series by examining the REMAINING 3 elements/methods of practical evangelism.

LET'S DELVE IN.

## METHOD #4 ANIMATION

The FOURTH method/means of evangelism is INVITATION

**KEY** – inviting someone to a CONTEXT where they can encounter Jesus and/or hear the Gospel is a PROFOUND means of evangelism. It is also a means of evangelism that we often FAIL to practice.

**NOTE** – There are TWO biblical accounts that I want to consider as ILLUSTRATIONS of this evangelistic method. Please turn to the Gospel of John. I want to examine a sizeable portion of the opening chapter. Consider the following:

### John 1:35–40 (NIV)

35 The next day John [the Baptist] was there again with two of his disciples [i.e., John and Andrew]. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

37 When the two disciples [i.e., John and Andrew] heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

39 “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

40 Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. 41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

**NOTE** – Herein we see the FIRST interaction between Jesus and the man who would become known as the apostle Peter. **Q.** HOW did Peter come to a place of interaction with/eventual faith in Jesus? It all connects to the activity of his brother, Andrew!

### John 1:40–42 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

40 Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. 41 **The first thing Andrew did** was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). **42 And he brought him to Jesus.**

**KEY** – When Andrew was moved by the Person and Preaching of Jesus Christ, the FIRST thing He did was go and INVITE Peter to come see Jesus for himself! And we know how this story plays out – both Peter and Andrew become eminent apostles of Christ!

**Q. Would there have been an apostle Peter apart from that INVITE given by Andrew?**

**John 1:43–49 (NIV)**

43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”

44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

46 “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” 48 “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

49 Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

**Q. What do we see herein?**

A. We see ANOTHER soon-to-be apostle coming to faith in Christ! First interactions...

**Q. And HOW did Nathanael first come to know of/connect with Christ?**

A. Must like Peter and Andrew, Nathanael was INVITED by Philip to experience Christ!

**Q. Would there have been an apostle Nathanael apart from these THREE words of Philip?****John 1:46b**

... “Come and see”

**APP.** NEVER underestimate the power or the impact that your invitation can have on an individual. Of course, we CANNOT invite someone to come and hear/interact with Jesus in the flesh. However, we CAN invite people to a context where His presence is made manifest and the Gospel is clearly proclaimed!

-We can invite to Church

-We can invite to Sm. Grp. Events

-We can invite to Special Events & Retreats

**NOTE 1** – Maybe you’re hesitant to confront people with the reality/consequence of their sin

**NOTE 2** – Maybe you do not feel prepared to engage people in the art of persuasion (Q’s & A’s)

**NOTE 3** – Maybe you balk at openly sharing the story of what God has done ‘in & for & through’

**Q. But do you think you could INVITE someone to church, a small group or an event?**

## METHOD #5 ANIMATION

The FIFTH method/means of evangelism is SERVICE

**KEY** – The offering of PRACTICAL service can be a profound means of practical evangelism. Of course, the term ‘service’ is an umbrella term that can refer to ANY practical MINISTRY that you can offer someone in the Name of Jesus Christ.

- Perhaps your act of service/ministry is the offering of a prayer to one in ‘need’
- Perhaps your act of service/ministry is offering a kind &/or encouraging word
- Perhaps your act of service/ministry is offering a listening ear to one in crisis
- Perhaps your act of service/ministry is the making of a good meal or a card
- Perhaps your act of service/ministry is offering your time/unique talent(s)
- Perhaps your act of service/ministry is offering some financial assistance

**NOTE** – There are LIMITLESS acts of kindness, compassion and love that we can offer, but such acts ARE the HALLMARKS of a healthy Christian experience and EXPRESSION to a lost/dying world.

**KEY** – And it is impossible to MEASURE the eternal impact an act of MINISTRY/SERVICE can have! I would like to consider one example of this from the pages of the Book of Acts. Consider the following:

### Acts 9:1–9 (NIV)

1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

5 “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. 6 “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

**KEY** – Consider the sp. condition of Paul at this point. Even IF he is a believer, he is disconnected from the Body of Christ. He’s a blind, isolated and scorned outsider. Essentially – one who’s lost.

**Acts 9:10–19 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)**

10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered.

11 The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

13 “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

15 But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. **Placing his hands on Saul**, he said, “**Brother Saul**, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

**NOTE** – This is a **TURNING POINT** for Saul/Paul in nearly every way...

**PHYSICALLY** – he was blinded but now he could see (physical healing/wholeness)

**SPIRITUALLY** – he who was so opposed to Christ would now begin to ‘advocate’ for Him

**SOCIALLY** (i.e., Body of Christ) – Paul was baptized/began to make connection w/ the Church

**Q. And what precipitated this turning point?**

**Q. What was the catalyst for this change in his life?**

**A. There was a disciple who was willing to SERVE Saul.**

i.e., Someone who was willing to OFFER his time, energy and spiritual service (despite pers cost)

**Q. Would there have been an apostle Paul apart from the humble prayer/service of this man?**

**APP.** NEVER underestimate the power or the impact that your simple act of service can have on an individual. What if your small act of kindness is the turning point for the next Saul of Tarsus, Billy Graham or the disciple who will go on to impact your son, daughter or loved one? Amazing!

## METHOD #6 ANIMATION

The SIXTH method/means of evangelism is RELATIONSHIP

**KEY** – The offering of YOURSELF (personal connection) is a vital facet of practical evangelism. There is an old ADAGE attributed to Theodore Roosevelt that is worthy of continual remembrance: “People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

**NOTE** – There are many reasons WHY a figure like Paul was an effective witness for Christ. Besides an unwavering love for God, Paul genuinely LOVED people. He was personally interested and invested in the people he sought to impact for Christ.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:8b (NIV)

8 . . . Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

**KEY** – As much as it hurts to say, I DON'T think we often love the people we are trying to reach. At least NOT enough to take the time to build meaningful relationship/connection with them. We are CONTENT to give them the Gospel BUT we are NOT willing to offer our lives as well.

-AFTER ALL, ministry and relationship is messy, time consuming and costly. It's NOT easy to be a good FRIEND to people (particularly people that might NOT share our value system, beliefs and perspectives).

**Q. But isn't that ex. what Jesus did/He was known for? He who was called friend of sinners...**

### Luke 19:1–9 (NIV)

1 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. 7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

9 Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Consider the TRANSFORMATION in Zacchaeus from this brief encounter. Clearly something had CHANGED within his heart! He was willing to recognize his evil and make reparations for his wrongs (v. 8).

**NOTE** – The change was SO apparent, Jesus recognized the reality of this man’s salvation!

**Q. And what LED to this change? What precipitated this?**

**Q. Did He hear Jesus preaching a sermon that brought conviction?**

**Q. Did He see Jesus perform some sign or wonder that spoke to his heart?**

-NO! Rather, we see the following:

**Luke 19:5 (NIV)**

5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

**KEY** – Jesus invited Himself over to his house! i.e., Jesus was willing to demonstrate love, concern and genuine DESIRE FOR CONNECTION to a man universally deemed unlovable and unworthy! Though this was a man that NO ONE wanted to befriend, Jesus was willing to seek him out and THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING!

**Q. Would there have been such a change in his life apart from Jesus’ offer of conn/friendship?**

**APP.** NEVER underestimate the power or the impact that your willingness to connect with people can have. More often than not, it is the MOST vital element of evangelism (as it sets the stage for ALL others). It is when you have a sense of relationship/connection that you can more freely CONFRONT, PERSUADE, TESTIFY, etc.

**KEY** – Relationship gives you the opportunity to EARN the right to speak into someone’s life...

**Q. Jesus was known to be a friend of sinners (w/out compromise) – is the same true of you?**

## CONCLUSION

**Q. Do you want to GROW in effective evangelism?**

**NOTE** – Consider the operation of the following methods/means of evangelism...

- 1) CONFRONTATION** – Confronting people with the reality of their sin and its consequence(s)
- 2) PERSUASION (INT.)** – Contending with the Q's people have in a sincere, respectful 'manner'
- 3) PERSONAL TESTIMONY** – Sharing how the Lord has operated in your life and on your behalf
- 4) INVITATION** – Inviting people to a context where they can encounter Christ/hear the Gospel
- 5) SERVICE** – Operating as a vehicle of kindness, love and compassion to those who are in need
- 6) RELATIONSHIP** – Demonstrating the willingness to share not only the Gospel – but “yourself”

**NOTE 1** – Consider your **UNIQUE** wiring/inclinations (play to your strengths)

**NOTE 2** – Be willing to let the Lord use you in **MULTIPLE** areas (flow in the Lord)

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING** – An analysis of John 4 (Jesus & the Woman at the Well). Consider the operation of **ALL** of these elements and their **IMPACT** upon a sinful person and community. See you then!