

WHATEVER IT TAKES

**SHARING CHRIST
SHARING HOPE**

HARVEST AMERICA



INTRODUCTION

- Be obedient to share the Gospel, and leave the results to God.
- This is the first of three lessons on evangelism.
- Today we will address the expectations that a believer should hold concerning the process of evangelism.
- God's role is to save the lost. Man's role is to share that Gospel with the lost.

KEY PRINCIPLES

- Pray for opportunities, and be aware of God-directed appointments.
- Be authentic and open about your life.
- Ask questions and spend time listening.
- Ask for a response - “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).



GOD'S ROLE

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- Many fears that surround evangelism could be extinguished if the process were better understood.
- God's role in salvation is clear: God saves people.
- He desires that no one would live or die separated from Him.
- He provided a way that everyone could be united with Him, and He draws those who are lost to Himself.

GOD'S ROLE

- God desires that none should perish (1 Timothy 2:4)
- God's desire is that everyone should come to a saving knowledge of Jesus.
- Scripture clearly speaks to the fact that no one was created with the intention that he or she should be destined for Hell.
- Although God's wish is the none should perish, He chooses not to force salvation on anyone.

GOD'S ROLE

- There are different aspects of God's will: two of these are his "perfect will" (what pleases God) and His "sovereign will" (everything that happens is either permitted or willed by Him).
- It is God's perfect will that everyone would be a Christian and yet, in His sovereignty, God allows us to accept Him or reject Him.
- This is the reality of human free will.

GOD'S ROLE

- Jesus gave His life so that no one would have to perish (1 Peter 3:18).
- In His death and resurrection, Jesus provided a way for everyone to become a child of God.
- 1 Peter 3:18 - explains the theological concept of substitutionary death.
- The results of sinfulness is death and eternal separation from God (Romans 6:23).

GOD'S ROLE

- As a means to accomplish that restoration, Jesus became a sacrifice for man.
- Although He was sinless, He became sin for humanity so that His righteousness would be transferred to the believer.
- He took the punishment that man deserved, becoming a substitute for us. We, therefore, can experience a restored relationship with God.

GOD'S ROLE

- The Holy Spirit convicts and draws non-believers to God (John 16:18)
- This should be a relief to us anxious about evangelism: God does the work for you.
- The Holy Spirit is the active element that works on the heart of the lost, leading that person to a place where he or she is prepared to commit to Jesus.
- John 6:44 - God draws people to Himself.

GOD'S ROLE

- Without the movement of the Holy Spirit, the message of the Gospel is foolishness to man (1 Corinthians 1:18).
- Without the drawing of the Holy Spirit, not even the most skilled speaker could convince someone of the validity of Jesus.

GOD'S ROLE

- Upon the acceptance of Christ, the Holy Spirit regenerates and seals the believer (John 3:6, Ephesians 1:13)
- The saving part of salvation is a work of God, not man. No one can work enough to earn salvation.
- Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

MAN'S ROLE

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- Every believer has a personal account of the gospel to share.
- Every believer has a three-part story: life before Christ, how he or she met Christ, and what life is like now with Christ.
- Training, strategies, and study will assist in becoming better in the art of evangelism. But every believer has a story upon the moment of salvation.

MAN'S ROLE

- Christ-followers are called to share the gospel (2 Corinthians 5:19; Matthew 28:16-20).
- Christians are called to be ministers of reconciliation, recipients of grace who are charged with sharing that grace with other.
- The Great Commission was a charge to a particular group of disciples, but it also applies to us today. We are to share the hope of the Gospel.

MAN'S ROLE

- Romans 10:17 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."
- Before we can believe, there must be something for us to believe.
- That something is the word of God, which we preach and they hear.
- Both the act of hearer and preacher are involved, but the final response is on the hearer.

MAN'S ROLE

- Believers are responsible for faithfully living out that call (1 Corinthians 3:5-9).
- In 1 Corinthians, Paul addresses a problem in the church of Corinth: the congregation was giving man credit for God's work.
- They praised Paul for his skill in evangelism, and praised Apollos for ushering believers to maturity.
- Paul explains that only God can produce this fruit.



