

Greater Works Christian Church

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Personal Evangelism, Pt. 2

Evangelism (Mirriam-Webster)

- 1: the winning or revival or personal commitments to Christ
- 2: militant or crusading zeal

Personal Evangelism= one on one evangelism. This is not crusade evangelism such as a Billy Graham crusade, but evangelism that is relational and more intimate.

John Bears Witness of Jesus

John 1:6-9

- 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.
- 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.
- 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.
- 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

John was called and anointed to prepare the hearts and minds of the people for Jesus.

John was the one responsible for preparing society and the culture for their Savior.

Note: Sometimes our evangelistic endeavors need to begin with preparing the people to receive the Lord and His salvation.

John Prepared the Soil for the Seed

During his ministry at the Jordan and in the wilderness, John prepared the hearts of the people to receive Jesus.

Jesus speaks of this process in the parable of the Seed and the Sower.

Question: there are people you are to be preparing for Jesus.
Who are they? How do you know them?

Matthew 13:1-9

- 1 On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea.
- 2 And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.
- 3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow.
- 4 And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.
- 5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.
- 6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.
- 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.
- 8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
- 9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

For reference

Soil Types and Conditions:

- ***Wayside*** (and the birds came and devoured them); ***those with a hardened heart***, who hear the word of the Kingdom and does not understand it (Matt 13:19)
- ***Stony Places*** (where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away); ***those who cannot stand the pressure of the persecutions and tribulations on account of the word***, he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles (Matt 13:20, 21)
- ***Among Thorns*** (and the thorns sprang up and choked them); ***those who are moved by their circumstance***, he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful (Matt 13:22)

- **Good Ground** (and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty); **those whose hearts have been prepared for the word**, he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty (Matt 13:23)

Very Important: As this parable points out, when the soil is prepared correctly in not only receives the seed of the word, but produces a greater and healthier harvest. This preparation takes time and is strategic, but the results are well worth the effort.

Question: What are you doing to prepare the “soil (hearts)” of those around you? Please explain what you are doing to plant the seed of faith in the heart of others.

Some things we can do to prepare the hearts of those around us:

- Pray- Pray- **PRAY** and Pray some more.
- Testimonies
 - ✓ Good reports of what God is doing
 - ✓ Good reports of what's happening in the church
- Acts of love and kindness
- Teaching
 - ✓ Specific teaching about specific topics

(This can be done by the individual or through other means, i.e: CD's, DVD's, etc. If you know of someone facing a problem or an issue you can use it as an opportunity to teach them what the Bible says about it and how they can overcome the problem)

Very Important: The CDs we make here are free for you. You can make as many copies as you want and give them to your friends.

- If you know someone that is sick, give them a CD on healing.
- If you know someone that is struggling, give them a CD that will help them in that area.
- Ask your friends to tune into our webcast on Sunday mornings and during our Bible studies.
- Invite your friends to your Home Group.
- Take advantage of what is being given to you.

In the case of John the Baptist he was sent to prepare the hearts of the people by preaching repentance and baptizing them in water for repentance.

Question: What was the most memorable time of evangelism for you (i.e. witnessing to a friend or stranger, being part of a crusade, being an altar worker, etc.)?

The Results of John's Ministry

John 1:33-37

33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples.

36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

John declares to his disciples that Jesus is the "Lamb of God." On account of this they leave John and begin following Jesus. Their hearts had been prepared to receive this word from John; consequently becoming a follower of Jesus was easy because their hearts were right.

Very Important: It is also important to point out that John let his followers go to follow Jesus. He did not hold them back when the greater One was made manifest.

It Continues

John 13:38-42

38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?"

39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ).

42 And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

After Jesus acknowledges these new followers Andrew goes and finds Simon his brother. When Andrew brings Simon to Jesus, Jesus receives Simon and gives him a new name. Not only is Simon received by Christ, but he is given a new identity by Jesus.

Through Andrew, Simon's heart was being prepared for Jesus while Andrew followed John. John brought Andrew to Jesus; in turn Andrew brought Simon to Jesus. Now because of one man's mandate we see families being changed. In this one story we find three "peer group (not age groups)" of people receiving Christ (John- Andrew- Simon).

Question: How far are you willing to go to bring others to Christ?

Conclusion: If we take the concept of "soil preparation" seriously we will see many more come to Christ and remain with Christ.

This principle in a Nutshell:

1 Corinthians 3:6

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

If we take a little time to prepare the hearts of those we are ministering to then the harvest will be greater. If we also take the time to water what has been planted, the harvest will be greater.

Question: Keep in mind, if everyone in a church brought just 1 person a year to Christ and into the church, that church would double in size each year.

Imagine a church of 100 people.

Year 1

100 people will grow to 200 people

Year 2

200 people would grow to 400 people

Year 3

400 people would grow to 800 people

Year 4

800 people would grow to 1600 people

Year 5

1600 people would grow to 3200 people

This is a 5 year projection. If this was to continue, at the 10 year mark we would have a church of 102,400 people.

How many people are saved and planted in the church as a direct result of your ministry (personal evangelism)?

What are you going to do to help us reach these numbers?

Keep in mind, each person would only have to bring in 1 person a year.