

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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EVANGELISM, JESUS STYLE

John 4

When you bring up the word evangelism it makes a lot of people nervous. Your mouth goes dry and you are afraid to do it. The number-one fear that most Americans have above every other fear is public speaking. Studies show that the fear of public speaking is greater than the fear of death. The thought of talking to a complete stranger about God freaks us out.

There was no greater communicator than Jesus Christ. He gave us a template to use when sharing our faith with others. Here in John 4, we are in part two of a three part series on the topic of sharing our faith with others, hence the title “Evangelism, Jesus Style.”

To do evangelism Jesus style, you will have to do the following:

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **You have to start with a burden.** It starts with a concern for lost people. Verse 4 says, “He needed to go through Samaria” (NKJV). No orthodox Jew would ever go through Samaria for any reason, but Jesus needed to go there because there was a woman in need, and He cared about her.
2. **We need to use tact.** Jesus, the Master Evangelist, used tact, which is “skill and grace in dealing with others” and is something that many Christians seriously lack. Say the right thing, at the right time, in the right way. Be tactful!
3. **We must adapt to the situation.** Sometimes before a person can appreciate the Good News, they need to know the bad news. The bad news is that they are a sinner in need of a Savior. Acts 3:19 says, “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (NKJV).
4. **You won’t deal with any two people exactly the same way.** There is not a one-size-fits-all approach to evangelism. Everyone is different. Jesus engaged people in different ways, with the same result: people believed in Him.
5. **We stay focused.** The Samaritan woman gets uncomfortable, and is trying to get Jesus off of the topic when she says in John 4:20, “Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.” When you evangelize, always bring it back to the main topic.

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RELEVANT REMINDERS

- Sharing the gospel is a dialogue, not a monologue. Start the conversation by listening. This is about winning souls.
- When you evangelize, use your testimony, but don't glorify or exaggerate your past. Don't talk about what you gave up; talk about what God gave up for you.
- Your story is merely a bridge to the greatest story ever told: the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. His death, His life, His resurrection—that's the message.
- You know more than you think you know. You know John 3:16; that's a beginning. You are armed and dangerous.

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

Evangelism is not an option for a follower of Jesus Christ. You and I are commanded by the Lord Himself to go into all of the world and preach the gospel. It was never a mere suggestion of Jesus that we, His followers, go and make disciples of all nations. It was, and is, His command. If we are His disciples then we are commanded to make disciples of others. If we are not making disciples of others, then we are not being the disciples that He wants us to be.