

Evangelism Class #1 11.3.10

Three things to touch on tonight

- What is Evangelism?
- Why do we do it?
- What are we sharing? (Want to share with you how and what I share with people and what I teach our students to share)

Intro: (interactive)

- What comes to your mind when you hear the word “evangelism”?
- What feelings arise in you when you start thinking about evangelism?

I. What is Evangelism?

What Evangelism is not:

- Shoving something down someone’s throat
- Awkwardly forcing a spiritual conversation
- Making sure I get my point across or winning an argument

A. Everyone does Evangelism!

1. This might surprise you, but the fact is everyone does evangelism! Everyone evangelizes in someway.
 - i. Anyone who has sung the praises of their baseball team and wants you to root for that team too is evangelizing. They are sharing the good news of the San Francisco Giants with you and want you to share in their joy right?
 - ii. Or have you ever had someone go, “Look at that sunset, isn’t that the most amazing sunset?! Wow its just beautiful! They want you to share in the beauty of these bright colors that appear when the sun goes down. They find it attractive and breath taking and they want you to share in their experience. The good news of a beautiful sunset.
 - iii. Or lately, you should vote for Jerry Brown or Meg Whitman for Governor, they are great leaders and really care about the people of CA.
2. Everyone evangelizes whether they know it or not. So it is a myth to say that only Christians evangelize.
3. **But here’s the deal, Christians should be the best at it!**
4. Because we have the best message to share with this world and the strongest motivation to share it.

B. Simple Def of Evangelism: Sharing the “good news” of Jesus with those who don’t know Him. Shorthand: “Sharing your faith.”

1. Evangelion-“good news”

C. Common misconception: Evangelism =talking with strangers about Jesus

1. First experience sharing my faith was in youth group cliff Scamara at the Pismo pier. That was when I began to equate evangelism with talking to people you don't know, and usually the most intimidating person you could find, because they *really needed Jesus* right?!
2. Got involved in Campus Crusade as a student, well guess what, they are all about evangelism and here I learned how to share my faith more effectively, to build relationship, to ask good questions. But I still had it in my mind that evangelism=talking to strangers about Jesus.
3. When I joined staff with CCC, I realized that what I was doing as I was sharing my faith with strangers was preparing me to share my faith in all contexts with all kinds of people, not just strangers. And even more that evangelism was to be natural part of my Christian life rather than this set aside sharing time that I clocked in, did my evangelism duty, then clocked out when I went home to my roommates or to work.

D. Most likely the primary context in which you will be sharing your faith with be in your *Natural* relationships.

1. At work with co-workers
2. Maybe with friends who don't know Christ
3. The Starbucks barista you see every morning
4. Your mechanic
5. Possibly someone in your own family

E. Sometimes people you know can be the hardest to talk to about spiritual things.

1. Because you are going to see them again so you worry about how it will affect your relationship.
2. The great thing is though that you will see them again so you can continue the conversation, answer questions, and you don't have to give them everything at once but rather as opportunities present themselves

However I want make an important point here:

F. ALL evangelism is *initiative* evangelism, because ALL evangelism takes *initiative*.

1. If you don't ask questions about people's lives or their spiritual backgrounds, chances are you will never get an opportunity to share with them about Jesus.

2. If are not looking for opportunities to share the gospel with your friends, most likely they will never ask you to share it with them.

G. Definition of Successful evangelism: "Taking the initiative in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results up to God."

1. This should really take the pressure off us.

2. God is the one who is in charge of the outcome

Before we get to the message of the gospel and what it is we are actually sharing I think its important we understand the heart behind Evangelism.

II. Why do we do it? (The Motivation)

What is our motivation? Remember I said that Christians should be the best at evangelism because we have the best news in the world and the strongest motivation.

So what is our motivation to share this message? LOVE.

A. Because love compels us

2 Cor 5:14

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

1. Love has to be our motivation. Not Christian duty or because we think that's what we are supposed to do as Christians.

i. If duty or guilt is our motivation we will feel guilty when we don't share our faith

ii. We will be driven by agenda, getting our point across, instead of loving the person where they are at and sharing with them in appropriate ways.

2. Love for Christ and love for people who don't know Christ. That is why you are sitting in this room tonight is because someone loved Jesus enough and was grateful enough for their salvation that they told people who didn't know Jesus about the gospel, and on and on till we come to you and me.

Closely following Love our second motivation is...

B. Need: Because people *need* to hear the message

Romans 10:14-16

¹⁴ *How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?* ¹⁵ *And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

¹⁶ *But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?"* ¹⁷ *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.*

1. People need to hear the message of the gospel in order to respond to Jesus, to place their trust in him. Faith comes by hearing.
2. Jesus said in Matt. 9:37-38 That the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Not only is there a need to hear the gospel, there is a need for gospel proclaimers. That is us.

Now let's talk about the message. What it is exactly that we are sharing.
(this is where I want to spend the bulk of our time)

To be effective in evangelism we have to know the gospel backwards and forwards.

It has to be internalized in us.

We need to be gospel-saturated people.

III. What are we sharing? (The Message)

-If you were to share the gospel with someone what would you share? What elements would you want to make sure to get across? (groups of 3 talk about it and report back)

A. Gospel in a nutshell: In Jesus God is rescuing broken people and a broken world.

B. The power of Story

1. The gospel, the good news about Jesus, about his death and resurrection, about forgiveness of sins and new life, about life with him after we die, all that is located in a bigger story, a larger drama of what God has been doing since Creation.

2. Think about it as 4 Acts in a play:

Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration

3. Story is a powerful way to communicate truth

4. We all see ourselves and our lives as living in a story, that's how we make sense of life and why we love books and movies.

4. So how can we share the gospel located in the larger story of what God is doing in rescuing his creation from sin and death?

5. Because really its in this larger story that the gospel is truly good news and we gain a sense of how are lives fit into God's plan for this world.

This is what we are going to focus on over the next few weeks. Over the course of these three weeks I want to teach you guys a way that I share my faith on campus and that I teach our staff and students to engage with people and convey the good news about Jesus.

Its called the Narrative Gospel and we are going to learn to tell this story together.

And to tell it in such a way that leaves the people we are sharing this with wanting to hear more and even more importantly, desiring this story to be true.

Now I generally share this story with people after asking some key questions, which I call my World View survey.

1. Why are we here? (purpose)
2. What is wrong with the world? Do you play a role in what is wrong with the world?
3. Is there hope that the world can be made right? Do you play a role in this?

These questions give me a sense of where the person is at spiritually and how they view the world.

It will give me information about how I want to share this story and what I need to emphasize or make clear regarding the gospel.

And my last question is this: Can I share with you how Jesus attempted to answer these questions and then see what you think? “Yes”
Im going to share it as kind of a story, more fun that way.

[Share Narrative Gospel]

Follow up questions:

Have you heard this story before?

What do you think about it? Does this story make sense of the questions I asked you earlier?

If this story could be true, would you want it to be true?

Making it personal:

Now this is a story that can be tailored to really deal with the heart issues of the person you are talking to and you will see what I mean by that more next week.

But as you get to know the person you are sharing with, whether a friend, acquaintance, or stranger, you will be able to see more and more where the gospel needs to come in to their lives so they see it as Good News.

Small groups:

- Have them read over the narrative to one another, split up the sections
- Talk about the themes that you see running through the story
- What things would you emphasize in telling this story?

Homework:

- Familiarize yourself/memorize the four different acts in Gods story, Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration
- Be able to share this in a very basic way next week
- We will build on this and you will be able to share this story in various ways depending on who you are talking to and where they are at spiritually