

Each One Reach One
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New Horizons Outreach Ministry
Thursday Night Bible Study, 7pm (October 25th, 2007)

Introduction: This class is designed to give you a foundation for evangelism. Evangelism is not something that is reserved for those called to the office of an Evangelist, but should be a functioning part of the ministry of all Born-Again believers. Applying the principles established in this class with help you, as a church, fulfill your God-Given Mission:

The importance of "Each One" being ready:

James Merritt tells the story of Robert Eaglen, who was a deacon in his church in Colchester, England. "He woke up one Sunday morning in January of 1837. The ground was blanketed with a foot of snow. He started to turn over and go back to sleep, but he thought to himself, "I'm one of the deacons in my church. If the deacons don't go, who will go?" He put on his boots, hat, and coat and walked six miles, in the snow, to church. He was right. Most of the members did stay home. As a matter of fact, even the pastor didn't show up. Only thirteen people were at church – twelve members and a thirteen-year-old boy he had never seen before.

"Somebody said 'Why don't we just sing a little bit and go home. We don't have a preacher.' But Robert Eaglen said 'It's foolish for us to come all this way and not have a worship service.' 'Who's going to preach?' they asked. Impulsively, Robert said, 'I'll preach.' He'd never preached in his life. He got up and did not know what he was going to preach. He was not a member of the clergy. He never attended Ministers Training. He was not a member of the Five-Fold Ministry. All he know is that there was a need, and he asked God to fill it, through him.

In his quiet time the day before he had been reading in Isaiah, so he turned to Isaiah 45:22, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." Later he recalled, 'I preached maybe twelve minutes, and I must have said fifty times 'Look to Jesus.' It was all he knew to say. 'Look to Jesus.' He got through with saying, 'Look to Jesus' about fifty times. He looked at that little thirteen-year-old boy and said 'Young man, if you'll look to Jesus, you'll be saved.' And they had prayer and left.

"That boy, years later, wrote these words: 'I did look, and then and there the cloud on my heart lifted, the darkness rolled away. At that moment I saw the sun, I accepted Christ into my heart, and I was born again.' That thirteen-year-old boy was Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

Robert Eaglen didn't get up that day and preach a message on 'How to be Up When the Weather is Down.' He did not get up that day and say 'Let me talk to you today about how to glow in the snow.' Thank God he didn't get up and preach a sermon called 'Snow White and the Eleven Disciples.' Thank God, he shared what he knew and God blessed it! Charles Haddon Spurgeon needed to hear that Word that morning and God blessed. Thousands of lives were touched by God through Spurgeon and are still being touched today through his writings, because Robert Eaglen had an ear to hear and a mouth to proclaim! Do you have an ear? Do you have a mouth? Then God can do the same through you!

Evangelism: The active calling of people to respond to the message of grace and commit oneself to God in Jesus Christ.

Purpose: The singular purpose for God sending His Son (Jesus) in the flesh and Jesus suffering, bleeding, dying, and then being risen from the dead is so that the world would come to know God by way of salvation.

Foundational Scripture: (Matthew 28:18-20 KJV) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Although Jesus commanded us to share the Gospel with the entire world, he would not have done so without properly **equipping us**. The commandment of verses 19 and 20 comes after the statement of verse 18. In verse 18 He states that fact the all power has been given Him in heaven and in earth. That word 'power' is the Greek word *exousia* which means '**access and authority**.' The 'Great Commission' is given based upon this access and authority that is now open to the believer. With this access and authority, Jesus then gives the disciples the:

1. The Mission of The Church:

a. **The "GO": *Go ye therefore.*** Based upon this access authority, you can now 'go.' This is the 'go' in the gospel. God did not redeem you into His kingdom to be idle. God has a purpose for **each and every one of us**. The mere fact that you are still breathing and that blood is still flowing through your veins is evidence that God is not done with you. He wants to use **you** to share with someone else, the 'Good News' that was shared with you.

(2 Corinthians 5:20 KJV) Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. An Ambassador does not operate in this capacity when he is in his home country; he only operates in this capacity when he is in a **Foreign Land.**' As *Ambassadors for Christ, we represent Him in the World – not the church!*

b. **The Game:** In an editorial during football season several years ago, Reuel Lemmons wrote, "*A few days ago we were watching a great game on television. There was fierce competition: The score was close. Time was running out. The team that was ahead was in the huddle. **They stayed there-in the huddle.** They stayed and they stayed. The referee blew his whistle and penalized the team for delaying the game. **They had stayed too long in the huddle.***"

"Huddles are necessary, but games aren't won in the huddle; they are won on the line. Strategy sessions are important, but we can stay in the huddle too long. Many an important piece of work is discussed in the church, but **discussing** the work of the church, should never keep us from **doing** the "Work of the Church." God – The Great Referee - may severely penalize us for staying too long in the huddle.

Congregations all over the world huddle Sunday after Sunday, only to re-huddle next Sunday. They never manage to get to the line of scrimmage. In fact, the whole church is gaining a worldwide reputation for huddling. **We flock to ourselves; we talk to ourselves; we huddle with our heads down around the Lord's Table.** And

some of the team are even careless about making the huddle. **Worship is essential and important, but only if it inspires us to get out and do something.**

c. **The Grace:** God is not in the business of looking at our “ability,” but rather our “availability.” Paul said, **(1 Corinthians 15:10 NLT) But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me--and not without results. For I have worked harder than all the other apostles, yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.**

You don't have to know the Bible from Genesis to Revelation to fulfill God's Mission for your life and God's Mission for the church. Just simply be available to God's use to share what He wants you to, when He wants you to, with whom He wants you to!

2. The Method of the Church: and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. *Salvation is the **Making**, Baptism is the **Marking**, and then Discipleship is the **Maturing** of believers to their full potential in Christ Jesus!*

(1 Peter 3:15 KJV) But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

- a. **The Proper Position of God: But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts.** To sanctify means to set apart for a purpose. God must be set apart in our hearts (spirit and soul) and must have first place in our life and living if we are to be an effective witness for Him!
- b. **The Proper Preparedness of the Believer: be ready always to give an answer to every man.** This applies to me, this applies to you, and this applies to every Born-again believer. However, for us to be ready, we have to study to show ourselves approved. Paul said, **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”** (2nd Timothy 2:15). There are two words that I always highlight when I read that verse: **approved** and **ashamed**. When the opportunity to witness presents itself you will either be approved or ashamed. Which one will you be? The issue is that I cannot lead you where I have not been, nor give you what I do not have, nor tell you what I do not know. I must be ready – for myself – to answer the world for the faith I “say” I follow! And I must be ready and willing to do so to “every man.” God did not call us to witness to white folk, black folk, or Hispanic folk, but rather to ALL folk!
- c. **The Proper Purpose behind the Question: that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you.** The purpose behind the question is a “reason for the hope.” First of all, no one will ever ask you a reason for the Hope, if they cannot “see” the Hope. The Hope must be visible in our life and living and we must be living examples of Godliness if we are to *win the Community and Nations for Christ!*
- d. **The Proper Process of the Witness: with meekness and fear.** Many people are fully capable of winning an argument, but without ever winning a soul. *The proper process of the Witness is to share the Gospel of Christ in the Love of Christ.*

3. The Motivation of the Church:

- a. **God's Presence: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.** Jesus would not leave them (nor us) a task that they could not perform. He had already given them the *access and authority* and now reassures them with the “*power of His presence.*” His words says, **“I will never leave thee, nor forsake**

thee" (Heb 13:5). In the military we define Leadership as: the ability to influence others into the accomplishment of the mission, while providing purpose, direction, and motivation. God is a mighty good leader, *He gave us the Purpose (mission) and Direction (method) and now gives us the Motivation we need by assuring us of His presence.*

b. **God's Power:** After giving us the *access and authority*, He then gives us the 'ability' in the Holy Spirit. **(Acts 1:8 KJV) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

The word 'power' here is the Greek word *dunamis*, which means 'ability in abundance.' Jesus gave His disciples the pattern for evangelism here in this verse. The rest of the book of Acts will follow in line with the pattern established here. The pattern was this:

1. Receive Power (ability in abundance) from the Holy Spirit
2. Witness in both Jerusalem and in Judea
3. Witness in Samaria
4. Witness to the world

What does this pattern tell us today? First of all, to be an effective witness you need the abundant ability of the Holy Spirit. If you are a believer and have been born again, the Holy Spirit lives inside of you (ref: Eph 1:13). Now that "He" (the Holy Spirit) lives in you, start to share of His goodness with those you come in contact with. The Gospel was preached in Jerusalem and Judea first and then spread throughout the world. We ought to share of His goodness with those people that we know and come in contact with daily in and attempt to win them to Christ. In so doing, we can reciprocate the Gospel message throughout the entire world. *Who do you know 'personally' that you speak to regularly and have never shared the Gospel message with? Ask "He" (The Holy Spirit) to lead you in witnessing to these people and you will experience God work through you.*

c. **God's Position: (Ephesians 2:6 KJV) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.** This is an awesome Motivation! God has raised us up together with Christ Jesus and has positioned us in heavenly places. This gives us assurance of salvation and should motivate us to want to share this "Good News" with others.

Wrap Up – 7 Closing Thoughts on Personal Evangelism:

1. **Choose.** Make a decision to do it! Soul winning is active, not passive. You must choose to witness, just like you choose not to.
2. **Simplify.** Keep the salvation message simple! Keep Calvary clear!
3. **Pray.** Prayer opens the door to effective personal evangelism. Ask the Lord to lead you to hearts that He is touching.
4. **Invite.** One of the very best personal evangelism techniques is simply bringing a friend to church. Are you embarrassed to invite others to your church? Are you ashamed of your God?
5. **Expect.** Be on the lookout. Expect people to ask you about salvation.
6. **Expand.** When one person accepts Jesus as Savior, ask him if he would like to have you help him share the Good News with his family and friends. The new convert's credibility with them opens the door for you to minister.
7. **Encourage.** Let your soul winning efforts be upbeat, positive, and full of the joy of the Lord. Don't try to scare people into the Kingdom.