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Fishing for Men

When was the last time you intentionally witnessed to someone or pleaded with them about their need to turn from sin and turn to Jesus Christ? I hope your answer is, "Today."

Do we realize that every time we go into the world we are entering into the mission field? Everyone we meet has a never-dying soul that will face God on Judgment Day. To neglect to preach the Gospel to them is a great wickedness.

The Apostle Paul stated, "I am pure from the blood of all men" (Acts 20:26). Are you? Are you so busy that you cannot take a few moments out of your schedule to share with them their only hope?

Do you hear his cry? Do you know his greatest need?

Who was the last one you told? Who will be the next one you tell? Who are the people we are obligated to preach to? What about the man at the gas station? Who will tell the skateboarders downtown? Will you take the time to share the Gospel with the lady at the bank? Have your co-workers heard your testimony? Does your mailman know Jesus? Has the neighbor next door been warned of the danger he is in? The mechanic that repaired your car, did he hear the old, old Story?

We can no longer assume that everyone has heard; many have not. America is now a post-Christian society with many unreached peoples.

I was recently driving through a downtown area near my home. My attention was drawn to three junior high boys on their bikes. I was compelled to stop my vehicle and approach them with tracts. I told them of sin and its consequences and how Jesus had died to satisfy God's wrath to save sinners. One boy told me he was Catholic and another said, "I am Lutheran." But one boy, puzzled, said he was a Hindu from India and asked, "Who is this Jesus?" With God's help, I preached a short Gospel story to him in hopes of enticing his curiosity of the Savior. It seems the Catholic boy failed to tell his foreign friend. The Lutheran boy must have thought it was not his duty either. So we must face our challenge that many in our own communities do not know this Gospel.

Jesus said, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35). You hear talk of lost tribes, unreached peoples, and nations with famine and distress who need the Gospel. This is true, but you must stop and look at the field you are living in. Some of the fruit is far past harvest and you have neglected to labor at home! A ticket to Africa will not make you a missionary. Obeying Christ's command to preach the Gospel wherever you are makes you a missionary!

I am afraid that most professing Christians have never proclaimed the full Gospel to those living nearest them. Have you? The Scripture says, "But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). Let us not withhold from the beggar lying at our own gate, when we, too, were once beggars but are now feasting on the Bread of Life.

Jesus commanded, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). This is a huge task, a human impossibility! But we have the promise, "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" (Acts 1:8). This impossible task has been made possible through the dispensing of God's Holy Ghost to all who will receive it. This is the promised solution to you. You DO have the ability to obey Christ's great commission.

Your light is to shine. Your Gospel cannot be hidden. Your work must begin at home, then the next town, and beyond until all the earth is filled with the doctrine and influence of Jesus Christ.



Romans 10:14 asks a question in reference to the Jews hearing the Gospel. I believe this question refers to all tribes and languages: How shall they hear without a preacher?

Will you go? Will you preach? God said they will hear if you will go and some will be saved. But if you stay at home, how shall they hear?

Being a soul winner is elementary Christianity. Witnessing for Christ should be a natural outflow of the inflow of the Spirit. Is a Christian who does not witness really a Christian? Jesus said, "If you are ashamed of Me, I will be ashamed of you." (Luke 9:26) No excuses!

Do you love your neighbor as yourself? Do you hear his cry? Do you know his greatest need? Love always speaks truthfully! It is never love to withhold the truth. The Gospel is Good News. You have the Good News. Are you proclaiming it? Our Good News (the Truth) may not always seem like good news. If the National Weather Service sounds an alarm that a category 5 hurricane is heading to a certain coast with 205 mph winds around 3 p.m. on Monday, wouldn't this be good news? Most would say, "No!" To the contrary, a clear and accurate warning would be good news for the residents of that area. They would gather their valuables and flee to safety.

To withhold a warning of death and disaster is cruel and unacceptable.

"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences" (2 Corinthians 5:11). You

Common sites in your town.

Do you care enough to tell those you meet about Jesus?



have a warning that has been issued from the King of all Kings.

Noah obeyed God and prepared for a storm. He preached that water, flood, death, and disaster is coming. You must obey God and prepare for His judgment. You must preach that fire and judgment is coming and that none shall escape.

Peter knew that something far more dreadful was at hand than Noah's flood. The wrath of God is coming again to planet Earth, the final separation of good and evil, of those who know God and those who do not.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall

be burned up" (2 Peter 3:9-10). You must tell your family this Good News. You must tell your friends and neighbors also. You must warn those who do not know! While I was living wickedly, in danger of God's wrath and judgment, I wish someone had told me of the danger I was in. I lived in ignorance for twenty-two years before I was warned. It is not love to withhold the truth, no matter how brutal it seems! Will you love your neighbor as yourself? Will you warn them?

Why is it that most Christians do not openly witness daily? I believe that proclaiming and defending the Gospel is more important than nearly all else. I am convinced that most church problems could be cured if we were all active in soul winning. Can one continue to disobey Christ's command to GO and still be under grace?

Now it is your turn to leave your comfort zone and repent of your apathy and lethargy in respect to soul winning. Decide right now that you will be a faithful witness at home and abroad. I wish to leave you with a few helpful hints to start in your obedience to God.

1. Pray that God will give you souls for His glory.
2. Go! Tell them. Warn them. Speak the truth in love.
3. Give out Gospel tracts (but do not forget that your lips are the best tract of all). Open your mouth and God will fill it.
4. Set aside a specific time to witness regularly and be committed.
5. Jesus said to preach the Gospel to every creature. When fearful or in doubt whether you should witness to someone, just look at them and ask yourself, "Are they a creature?" If so, then preach to them in obedience!

You are probably worried about your success in this new venture. Is our soul winning effective here in America in our generation? God only requires us to be faithful and obedient. Lasting results belong to God and to His Holy Spirit. Our first reason for proclaiming the Gospel at home as well as abroad is to bring God His due glory. When we obey God, we always bring Him glory. Our job is only to properly represent Christ to a lost world. If we but manifest Christ we will have been successful! He receives glory each and every time His mighty acts are proclaimed.

My prayer is that God's people in these last days would once again love God more than gold and forsake this life, our wealth, and reputation, and give this world a church representing and proclaiming Christ.

—Jeff Chapman