

## NOTES

### *~ Jesus' Commission ~*

- Overview of Jesus' commission: preach the Gospel and make disciples (**Matthew 28:19-20** and Mark 16:15-18 and Acts 1:8)
- What's the Gospel and why preach it?
  - Repentance for forgiveness of sins proclaimed throughout the nations (Mark 16:15-18 and **Luke 24:46-48**)
  - No one will hear if no one preaches (**Romans 10:8-18**)
- What's a disciple and why make one?
  - A disciple is someone engaged in a particular discipline; following Jesus, in our case. They need to be taught . . . (**Titus 1:9** and **Colossians 1:28** and Hebrews 5:12-14)
  - Have a defense for your faith; faith comes from hearing the Gospel (**1Peter 3:14-16** and **Romans 10:17**)
- How to preach the Gospel
  - Pray for the lost and for open doors to deliver the Gospel, general to specific (**Colossians 4:2-6**)
  - Relationship is very helpful! Seek opportunities to help and be gentle (2Timothy 2:24-25 and 1Peter 3:15)
  - Must present an impeccable witness for credibility! (1Peter 3:16)
  - Go from the known to unknown
    - Like Paul and Peter did from OT prophecies and history to fulfillment by Jesus (**Acts 2:22-41** and 13:15-39)
    - Like Paul did when talking from the position of the 'unknown god' (**Acts 17:16-34**)
- How to make disciples
  - Again, relationship, relationship, relationship . . .
  - Share the foundations
    - Faith – confidence from the Gospel (Romans 10:17)
    - Bible study – where much of the confidence/faith comes from (Colossians 1:28 and 3:16; **2Timothy 3:16-17**)
    - Fellowship – For mentoring and sharing spiritual gifts
    - Discipleship – for sharing the Gospel and maturity
- **Summary:** Jesus told us to spread the good news of salvation and disciple others. No one will get the Gospel message if no one tells it. Build relationships to open opportunities to share and disciple. Be holy and live righteously to be a good witness.

## NOTES

Honor God. Be benevolent. Spread the gospel. Make disciples.

Good news = reconciliation with God through the Christ.

Choice.

Covenant

Must hear to know about the choice!

Message: disobedience; God's way back through Jesus

Next step = discipleship

## ~ *Jesus' Commission* ~

Besides honoring God and being benevolent to fellow brothers and sisters of the faith, Jesus told us to spread the good news of salvation and make disciples throughout the world. **[Matthew 28:19-20]**

What's the Gospel and why preach it? Well, it's **repentance for forgiveness** of sins proclaimed throughout the nations. **[Luke 24:46-48]**

In an attempt to **reconcile** mankind to Himself, God has offered a choice: choose eternal life and the Spirit of God through faith in our Christ and resulting obedience, or die. We get to **choose** the free gift of life if we're willing to truly believe that Jesus lived a human life and died on our behalf, and then live a life of honoring God and taking care of our fellow brothers and sisters in Jesus.

Those who choose life enter into a **covenant** with Jesus – more on this when we take communion today.

But, how will people know about this choice of life and covenant with Jesus if no one tells them? **[Romans 10:8-18]**

So, we tell a **simple message** about how mankind disobeyed God and walked away from Him and yet He has given us a way to come back through Jesus. We go from the known to unknown, helping others understand that Jesus' coming and salvation was foretold hundreds of years beforehand. So, there's credibility and confidence that gives reason for faith. The next step is to help those new followers build their faith and learn to follow and disciple as well.

A disciple is someone engaged in a particular discipline; following Jesus, in our case. They need to be taught . . . **[Titus 1:9] [Colossians 1:28]**

Need a reason for our faith.

Talk about the risk of blind faith.

Preaching is a scary thought!

Pray

Relationship

Impeccable witness

Know to unknown

We also need to have a **defense** for our faith; faith comes from hearing the Gospel. Our faith had better not be a **'blind' faith** or we run the risk of having no good reason for believing what we do. There's no confidence in that. **[1Pe 3:14-16] [Romans 10:17]**

Preaching the Gospel sounds pretty **daunting**. Speaking to strangers is stressful in itself and it's hard to know what to say. Where do we start??

How to preach the Gospel:

- **Pray** for the lost and for **open doors** to deliver the Gospel, general to specific. This would be an effective prayer from someone communicating with God through the Spirit. **[Colossians 4:2-6]**
- **Relationship** is very helpful! Seek opportunities to help and be gentle. This will build trust and open the door to being able to talk about the Gospel. This is in sharp contrast to the idea of walking up to strangers and telling them that they'll go to hell if they're not saved . . .
- We **MUST** present ourselves as an **impeccable witness for credibility!** Why would someone listen to us talk about our perfect Jesus, repentance, right living, and salvation if we're not doing the same? And people will be very critical of our actions and speech.
- Go from the **known to unknown**. This is the best way to teach and lend credibility to what you're selling. Peter and Paul did this by reminding the Jews of the prophecies they were very familiar with and then explaining how Jesus fulfilled them. Their Messiah had come. Paul also did this by associating God with the pagan 'unknown God' as a way of introducing the need for a savior and revealing how Jesus became that savior.
  - Like Paul and Peter did from OT prophecies and history to fulfillment by Jesus **[Acts 2:22-41]**
  - Like Paul did when talking from the position of the 'unknown god' **[Acts 17:16-34]**

Presenting choice = first step

Discipleship = second step

Relationship

Share why we believe

Facilitate Bible study

Fellowship

OK – preaching the Gospel to present the free choice of life or death is the first step. Again, how can people choose if they don't know there's a choice? But we then need to help people that are 'babies' in their faith grow and mature spiritually. We do this through discipleship.

**How** do we make disciples?

- Again, **relationship**, relationship, relationship . . . People will listen to and follow someone they trust. Trust comes through relationship, showing the value of entering into the covenant with Jesus and demonstrating righteousness.
- Share the **foundations**
  - **Faith** – confidence from the Gospel as we've already discussed. Share your faith and why you believe what you do. Your own maturity will come through fellowship, discipleship, and Bible study.
  - **Bible study** – where much of the confidence/faith comes from as we've already discussed. Unfortunately, about 95% of people claiming to believe in Jesus don't engage in regular discipleship or Bible study. This results in a shallow or non-existent faith and means that someone who 'believes in Jesus' does so out of emotion. This is dangerous. **[2Timothy 3:16-17]**
  - **Fellowship** – for **mentoring and sharing** spiritual gifts. Some people will comment that they "don't have to go to church to be saved." But, not fellowshiping will rob an individual of the chance to learn, use spiritual gifts, or be held accountable.

Disciple

- **Discipleship** – for **sharing the Gospel and maturity**.

Discipleship is one of the **major** things Jesus called us to do. It gives us the chance to teach new followers about the Scripture and spiritual gifts in a logical manner. Without discipleship, most people who initially accept the Gospel message will fall away from the church. Those who stay will have no way to become spiritually mature, live righteously (after all – how can you be obedient to what you don't know?), or bring others to a solid foundation.

Summary

**Summary:** Jesus told us to spread the good news of salvation and disciple others. No one will get the Gospel message if no one tells it. Build relationships to open opportunities to share and disciple. Be holy and live righteously to be a good witness.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” —Matthew 28:19-20.

and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.” —Luke 24:46-48.

But what does it say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART”--that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, “WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; “WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.” How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!” However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, “LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have; “THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD.” —Romans 10:8-18.

holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict. —Titus 1:9.

We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. —Colossians 1:28.

But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. —1Pe 3:14-16.

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. —Romans 10:17.

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person. —Colossians 4:2-6.

Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know - this

Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. . . . Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. . . . Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, and “Be saved from this perverse generation!” So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. —Acts 2:22-41.

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols. So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present. And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, “What would this idle babbler wish to say?” Others, “He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,” – because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming? . . . So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; . . . for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.’ Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead. Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, “We shall hear you again concerning this.” So Paul went out of their midst. But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them. —Acts 17:16-34.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. —2Timothy 3:16-17.