



Examining Evangelism – Part 3

Last Two Weeks

Week 1: Intro: Evaluating Evangelism Methods

Week 2: Examining Our Own Assumptions About Evangelism



Observations & Assumptions

Some of our assumptions as we critiqued other methods:

- It would be more powerful to serve people breakfast than to preach at them.
- Telling a testimony conveys more information and is more effective.
- Everyone already knows about salvation and John 3:16.
- If we focus too much on the method of evangelism, we are taking matters into our own hands and not relying on the Holy Spirit.
- Evangelism is often condescending and offensive, lacking humility.
- Evangelism works best in the context of relationship.



Observations & Assumptions

John's commentary:

- We have strong objections to the ways in which evangelism is done – not on any Biblical basis – but on the basis of how we feel about it personally.
- We have used our objection to the various methods of evangelism to rationalize the fact that we are not involved in evangelism.
- We have no trouble telling everyone else about the good news in other areas of our life. But we never share the good news about Christ, either because, we are not excited about Christ, He really has not impacted us, or we simply don't fully believe what we say we believe.



Observations & Assumptions

My own thoughts:

1. We need to be careful not to create a straw man (bad evangelism), and then knock it down.
2. We are running into a major cultural issue: tolerance.
3. We care very deeply about other's opinions of ourselves and we need to be careful of how much weight we give to others' opinions.
4. We have a culture in Exodus, that in practice, does not value evangelism all that highly.



Why Is Evangelism So Important?

1. God has given us this task in the world. We witness in love and obedience to our Lord.
 - Acts 1:8 - “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
 - 2 Corinthians 5:20 - “So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
 - Romans 10:14-15 - “But how are they to call on the one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in the one whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”



Why Is Evangelism So Important?

1. God has given us this task in the world. We witness in love and obedience to our Lord.
2. It was the primary way in which the church grew and spread throughout the world.



Overview of the Biblical Narrative

1. Our God is an initiating God.

- He decided to create time, space, the earth, and all that fills it.
- He revealed himself to humankind (Adam and Eve the Patriarchs, etc).
- He freed his people from Egypt and fulfilled the promises that he made to the Patriarchs.
- He anointed leaders and kings to lead his people
- He spoke through the prophets
- He came to us in the flesh in the incarnation as Jesus



Overview of the Biblical Narrative

1. Our God is an initiating God.
2. Jesus was never Plan “B” for salvation, but instead a plan initiated before time.
 - Jesus sent out the Holy Spirit and it was this event that essentially launched the beginning of the church (Acts 2)
3. In like manner, the Holy Spirit is supposed to lead us in witnessing.



Important Scenes from Book of Acts

1. The the guiding statement of Acts: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (1:8)
2. Pentecost - Acts 2
3. A picture of the early community (Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35)
4. Healing and Proclamation of the Gospel (Acts 3)
5. The Apostles witness despite persecution (Acts 5)
6. Stephen’s Martyrdom (Acts 6-7)



Important Scenes from Book of Acts

7. The first persecution in Jerusalem (Acts 8)
8. The Gospel goes out beyond the Jews (Acts 8)
9. Saul's Conversion and Commission (Acts 9)
10. Peter's Vision and the Conversion of Cornelius (Acts 9-10)
11. Paul's First Missionary Journey (Acts 13-14)
12. The Council at Jerusalem (Acts 15)



Observations From Acts

1. Jesus clearly desires his people to witness throughout the world.
2. The life, death, and resurrection of Christ needs to be explained lovingly, thoroughly, and convincingly.
3. You do not have to have a relationship with a person before you can share God's word.
4. The apostles were bold and unafraid of what others thought of them.
5. God is the one who performed miracles, gave healing, and cast out demons.
6. A culture was formed where miracles, healing, praying, teaching, and preaching were all common place.
7. We should expect different responses from people and we should not assume anything about who will or won't follow Jesus.



Word And Deed

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.



Word And Deed

While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's Portico, utterly astonished. When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is Jesus, who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through the holy prophets.

Word And Deed

Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you from your own people a prophet like me. You must listen to whatever he tells you. And it will be that everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be utterly rooted out of the people.’ And all the prophets, as many as have spoken, from Samuel and those after him, also predicted these days. You are the descendants of the prophets and of the covenant that God gave to your ancestors, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your descendants all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you, to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways”

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand.

Why Is Evangelism Important For Exodus



Coming Up...

Next Week:	Jeremy	How Effective is Evangelism? What Evangelism Is Not
Then:	John	God's Role & Our Role in Evangelism
Finally:	John	The Way, The Truth & The Life





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