

EVANGELISTIC SPIRIT

INTRO

Our thinking about evangelism needs to be expanded if we are going to win the lost. In Acts 10, God had to change Peter's thinking about the Gentiles before ministry could be extended to them. Our concepts and thoughts about evangelism and what is an evangelistic spirit needs expanded to line up with God's thoughts on the subject (Isaiah 55:8, 9).

I. Evangelism is for Everybody.

- A. Mark 16:20 They understood that commission meant evangelism is for everybody.
 - 1. It is not just for those called as an evangelist, certain gifted ones, certain out going personality types, etc.
 - 2. Not the far, far away world but their world.
- B. Jesus was evangelistic.
 - 1. Acts 1:8 Jesus gave us the same Spirit He had.
 - 2. Jesus witnessed in:
 - a. Jerusalem - John 2:23-25; 3:1-21.
 - b. Judea - John 3:22, 23.
 - c. Samaria - John 4:3.
 - 3. There is a harvest in our own world.
 - 4. Sometimes, ironically, we fly over a mission field to go to a mission field.

II. Evangelism Goes Beyond Church Services.

- A. Salvation experiences in Acts.
 - 1. Of the 22 different recorded salvation experiences 19 of the 22 happened outside the temple.
 - 2. The first ten were all outside the temple.
 - 3. The center of our operations cannot be the center of our field of evangelism.
- B. People could be saved at our "gatherings" but primarily at our "goings."

III. Evangelism and Being a Witness Needs to Flow Naturally.

- A. Romans 1:15; 1 Peter 3:15 Witnessing is learning to be ready and available.
- B. Mark 5:20; John 3:11; 4:39; 22:15 Witnessing is learning to tell what you know.
- C. Witnessing is learning to be flexible.
 - 1. Jesus' approach was to not deal with any two people alike.
 - a. John 4 and John 8 Two adulterous women.
 - b. Two religious leaders - Nicodemus; Pharisees.
 - c. John 3; Mark 7; Mark 8 Two blind men.
 - 2. Paul dealing with two governors.
 - a. Acts 24 Paul to Felix.
 - b. Acts 26 Paul to Festus.

IV. Evangelism is a Process.

- A. Not every witness leads to a decision but adds to the process.
 - 1. Nicodemus was witnessed to in John 3, 7 and 19.
 - 2. People come to Jesus like turning on a light bulb. One turn at a time until the light comes on.
- B. First Corinthians 3:6-9 One plants, one waters, God gives the increase.
- C. John 4:36-38 We are sent to reap where others labored.

- D. Jesus went about preaching, teaching and healing.
 - 1. Matthew 4:23,24.
 - 2. Matthew 9:35,36.
 - 3. Luke 14:23.
 - 4. Acts 10:38.

V. Evangelism Hindrances.

- A. Matthew 20:6, 7 Idle .
 - 1. Looking for position, promotion or prosperity.
- B. Ecclesiastes 11:4 Waiting on perfect conditions.
- C. John 4:35 Waiting for the perfect time.
 - 1. Second Corinthians 6:2 The time slot of the harvest is now.
- D. Luke 14:16-24 Letting life get in the way.
 - 1. Business excuses.
 - 2. Financial excuses.
 - 3. Family excuses.
- E. 2 Timothy 2:2, 3 Too many entanglements.