



— *Evangelism* —

## PROCLAIMING THE KING

### Lesson One

#### The Problem of Evangelism

“To evangelize is so to present Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. That men shall come to put their trust in God through Him, to accept Him as their Savior, and serve Him as their King in the fellowship of the Church.” – English Archbishop William Temple, *Towards the Conversion of England*

#### 1. What do you think of when you hear the word “Evangelism”?

“If Jesus is precious to you, you will not be able to keep your good news to yourself. You will be whispering it into your child’s ear. You will be telling it to your husband. You will be earnestly imparting it to your friend.” – Charles Spurgeon

#### 2. What makes evangelism difficult for you?

#### The Practice of Evangelism: Learning to Listen

“There is something in us, as storytellers and as listeners to stories, that demands the redemptive act, that demands that what falls at least be offered the chance to be restored. – Flannery O’Connor, *Mystery and Manners*

#### 3. What are the ordinary, everyday places where you encounter people who do not follow Jesus?

#### 4. What are your hobbies and passions? How might these shared interests be points of connection to tell others about Jesus?

#### 5. Where have you experienced pain in your life? How did Jesus rescue you from that pain? What does it look like to listen to someone else’s pain? How might you share your story of rescue with them?

#### The Power of Evangelism

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” – Acts 1:8

#### 6. What is God’s role in evangelism? What is our role? How does this encourage you to be a witness?

#### Homework

- Review the Five Truths. Put them in your own words.
- What do these truths have to do with the passions and pains in your life? How would you share this with others?

## The Five Truths

### Grace:

- Grace is receiving something good we do not earn or deserve.
- We do not get into heaven by doing good deeds, by being a good parent, or by being a friend.
- We get into heaven by God's grace, because He loves us. He also says we must believe in Him in order to accept that free gift.
- *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works..."* (Ephesians 2:8, 9 ESV)

### Man:

- Let's admit it: we mess up; we make mistakes; we are not nice; in fact, we sin. We violate God's laws and commit sins.
- And our sin separates us from God.
- *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."* (Romans 3:23 ESV)
- *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:23 ESV)

### God:

- God loves us: *"...I have loved you with an everlasting love..."* (Jeremiah 31:3 ESV)
- God is also just: *"...who will by no means clear the guilty..."* (Exodus 34:7 ESV) God is righteous and must judge our sins.
- So, we have a problem: our sin separates us from God.
- This causes a chasm -- a gap between us and God. God made the Way for us to be close to God. He built a bridge over that chasm, in His Son Jesus Christ.

### Christ:

- Who is Jesus Christ? Jesus is 100% God and 100% Man at the same time: *"In the beginning was the Word (Jesus). . . and the Word (Jesus) was God. And the Word (Jesus) became flesh and dwelt among us..."* (John 1:1, 14 ESV)
- Jesus is 100% God, even when He was here on earth for 33 years.
- Jesus was 100% man when He was here. He came to teach us about the Kingdom of God and to pay the penalty for our sins by dying on the cross.
- He didn't die on the cross to pay the penalty for HIS sins – He didn't commit any sins.
- He was not killed on the cross because some mean people got the best of Him – He could have escaped His crucifixion easily.
- Rather, He obeyed His Father's plan and submitted Himself to die on the cross to pay the penalty for OUR sins.

### Faith:

- Faith is not an intellectual assent or an emotional response, but Faith is believing in our heart and trusting in Him.
- *"...Believe (trust) in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."* (Acts 16:31 ESV)
- *"Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."* (Romans 10:9 ESV)
- What do we need to do in order to be close to God, to know for certain that we will go to heaven when we die, and live an abundant life while still here on earth, close to God?
  - Believe these truths in our heart.
  - Tell the Lord in prayer that you want Him to be your Lord and Savior.
- And you will then know for certain that you will live with Him now and forever.