

The Rock of Evangelism: **Helping People Find Their Way Back To God**

1. A Missional Worldview

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us this new way,[a] we never give up. 2 We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this. 3 If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. 4 Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. 5 You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

- God who made the world uses the same power that made the world and God opens blind eyes.
- God does the miracle of salvation.
- As long as we believe it is in our own ability, we will hesitate attempt sharing the gospel.
- The older we get the less we attempt things we feel were not good at. We want a high percentage of success.
- Free yourself but embracing the fact that salvation is a miracle of God and has nothing to do with your eloquence, personality and experience.
- Salvation of the lost depends on your obedience, not your ability.
- When we preach Christ, God opens the eyes of those who are spiritually blind.
- We are beneficiaries of the gospel so we can become servants to the gospel.
- I must pray and the results belong to God.

2 Corinthians 5:16-19

16 So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! 17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

- We don't look at people based on wealth, ethnicity, network, social status etc.

- Get over your personal biases towards people. Look at them the way God sees them.
- We ought to look at them in light of the gospel and eternity.
- All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

2. Understanding the need for Mission

Matt 7:13-14

“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. 14 But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

Why is God in the Garden?

Genesis 3:8-10

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

- What is God doing in the garden?
- Holy in unholy, perfection in brokenness
- Spiritually naked people hide behind material leaves
- Fallen people hide – this is why we need to be on mission – find them!
- God the missionary is on the search - to find those hiding behind man made idols.
- Are you asking the question Adam, where are you? Where are you at with God? Where are you at in relation to eternity?

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity. Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

God knows every persons sin:

Psalm 69:5

O God, you know how foolish I am; my sins cannot be hidden from you.

God has an answer for everyone's sin:

Isaiah 1:18

“Come now, let’s settle this,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.

God wants to save every person:

Acts 9:3-6

As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" "Who are you, lord?" Saul asked. And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

3. The Mission of Jesus

Luke 4:42-44

Early the next morning Jesus went out to an isolated place. The crowds searched everywhere for him, and when they finally found him, they begged him not to leave them. 43 But he replied, "I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other towns, too, because that is why I was sent." 44 So he continued to travel around, preaching in synagogues throughout Judea.

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man[a] came to seek and save those who are lost."

- Jesus was clear about His mission
- He was focused on His mission of communicating Good News
- Jesus desire was to see the Kingdom expand amongst the people of Israel.

4. Examples of Jesus on Mission

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. 2 There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. 3 He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

5 When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."

6 Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. 7 But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.

8 Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"

9 Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man[a] came to seek and save those who are lost."

- Zacchaeus was rich in money but poor in purpose
- He just wanted a look
- Often unchurched people just want to be close enough to look but are not ready yet to befriend.
- He was short, couldn't see over the crowd - what are we doing that prevents people from having a line of sight to Jesus. Often we judge people based on how they look, dress, what they've done, who they know etc. and we require them to change before we allow them to see Jesus.
- Zacchaeus climbed up a tree. He hid behind leaves. Just like Adam he covered himself in leaves. People climb into the trees of fitness, money, relationships, isolation, position etc. to hide from an encounter with God.
- You're called to do what Jesus did. He looked up. He was going forward but He had to look up. Look up at all the 'trees' around you - there are people hiding in them. Trees of fame, money, position, personality etc.
- Unsaved people want to be guests before they can become followers.
- Jesus was willing to meet Zacchaeus on his home turf.
- He became known as a guest of sinners. Allow sinners to serve you before you can serve them the truth of the gospel. (Samaritan woman and Jesus – John 4).
- Where there is repentance - Salvation has come . Salvation is what happens when repentance takes a hold of a person's heart. Don't go looking for salvation. Go looking for repentance. Salvation will follow. There is only one Saviour – Jesus!

5. The invitation to join Jesus on Mission

Matthew 10:16-20

“Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves. 17 But beware! For you will be handed over to the courts and will be flogged with whips in the synagogues. 18 You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell the rulers and other unbelievers about me.[e] 19 When you are arrested, don't worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time. 20 For it is not you who will be speaking—it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

- Jesus is calling us to follow in His mission.
- He always sends those He calls.
- His desire is to see the Spirit of God use people to testify that He is Lord and Savior.
- You can't receive Him as Savior and refuse Him as Lord.

Dallas Willard:

Some years ago, A.W. Tozer expressed his “feeling that a notable heresy has come into being throughout evangelical circles — the widely accepted concept that we humans can choose to accept Christ only because we need him as Savior and that we have the right to postpone our obedience to him as Lord as long as we want to!”

This “heresy” has created the impression that it is quite reasonable to be a “vampire Christian.” One, in effect, says to Jesus: “I’d like a little of your blood, please. But I don’t care to be your student or have your character. In fact, won’t you just excuse me while I get on with my life, and I’ll see you in heaven.” But is this really acceptable to Jesus?

And when you stop to think of it, how could one actually trust him for forgiveness of sins while not trusting him for much more than that? You can’t trust him without believing that he was right about everything and that he alone has the key to every aspect of our lives here on earth.