

We need a commitment to evangelism

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Our world is bombarded with the consequences of sin. Everywhere we turn, we see the effects of a fallen world and many who live without hope. Someone must share hope with them. Jesus said, it's us, you and me. We are commanded by Christ Himself to proclaim the gospel to all the world, be His witnesses and make disciples of all nations. Every Christian is tasked to take part in the glorious work of evangelism. You see, the essential reason for our existence as ambassadors of Christ is the extension of the kingdom of God on earth. If the gospel is true, then telling it to others demands first place in our lives and in our ministries. We are to make evangelism our main pursuit and obedience to the command of Christ with love for the lost and a burning passion for God's glory. We need a commitment to evangelism, and I encourage you to make soul winning your chief business.

One of the many passages of scripture that applies to Christians and their duties in this world is Matthew 5:13-16, which says, ¹³ ***"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."*** ¹⁴ ***"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."*** ¹⁵ ***Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house."*** ¹⁶ ***Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*** Christians who read this passage and don't apply it to themselves have missed the fullness of the value Jesus has placed on us. Believers are salt and light. Salt is a preservative, and we are supposed to preserve the society around us by infusing it with the gospel of Christ and the righteousness of God. Likewise, the light of Jesus in us needs to be shone into the dark places so others may be pointed to God. And, as we all know, this world is a very dark place.

Every follower of Christ is the light of the world. Jesus said, ***"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden"*** (Mat. 5: 14). The whole world is in spiritual darkness. People are wandering in the darkness looking for peace that only Jesus can give. The fact is that everyone who has ever been born is on a spiritual search, whether they realise it or have admitted it or not. People can follow our light to the cross and find salvation there. We cannot keep people from being lost and from dying, but we can shine our light on the cross of Jesus Christ and urge the lost to run to Him.

No matter how "together" and happy people may look on the outside or externally, and no matter who they are, everyone has four basic, inescapable needs on the inside that can be met only by Jesus Christ. The next time you are in a place which is crowded with people, look around you. You are looking into the faces of many people who are empty, lonely, guilty, and afraid to die. They need to be introduced to Jesus, the only answer to these basic problems. Jesus is the answer. No one else my brother!

A commitment to evangelism is part of what it means to be a believer and follower of Christ, and the best place to start our evangelism is in our circle of friends and acquaintances, at your office, at the place of trade and shopping and the focus of everyday life where people from all walks of life gather, in the spheres of life in which you spend most of your time, including your place of work, school, college or university (See Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8). These are places you can share your faith.

We are God's children under orders, men, and women on a mission for Christ because He has given us our "marching orders". Jesus commanded us, ***"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age"*** (Matt 28:19-20).

Friend notice our "marching orders" here. We are to make disciples, then we are to mark them as disciples through believer's baptism, and finally we are to mature those disciples by teaching them the things of

Christ.

This is called the great commission and it's the job of the whole church. Not all of us are in a position where we can baptise people, and not all of us can be teachers. But we can all evangelise or be a witness for Christ. In fact, that is part of our calling as believers, sharing Christ with others is God's clear command and commission for us. The apostle Paul told Timothy, his son in the faith, ***“do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry” (2 Tim 4:5)***. We are all commissioned to share the faith we hold in Christ. Every faith person should be able to share his story and the story is about Jesus Christ.

You may say, “I can't do that, I'm not a professional. I don't do well in public speaking”. Friend, you don't have to be a posh speaker or a theologian to share your faith. All you have to do is tell people what Jesus did for you and how they can know Him too. Evangelism is just telling people where to find salvation. Think of evangelism as someone who has been cured of a terminal disease being so excited about it that he can't wait to tell other people who suffer from the same illness where to find the cure. If this happened to you, to keep that knowledge to yourself would be one of the most selfish things you could do. I want us to learn from the story of the woman of Samaria which is recorded in John chapter 4. This woman moved the whole city with her personal testimony. If you have had an encounter with Jesus - if you have received Him as your Lord and personal saviour - then you have something very powerful to share with others.

The book of John chapter 4 tells a story of a Samaritan woman who met a man at the well who actually revealed to her that He was indeed the Messiah. I encourage you to read the whole chapter for yourself. The woman of Samaria understood her mission. Immediately she had an encounter with Jesus for the very first time, she ran back to the city and told everyone, "Come, see a man, who told me all things that I ever did: is not this the Christ?" The Bible says they all left the city and went out to see Jesus (John 4:6-30).

The woman of Samaria had never been to an evangelism event when she decided to share her testimony, with the whole city after she had an encounter with our Lord and saviour, Jesus Christ. Although, the woman anticipated the Messiah's coming, she never expected to meet Him personally at that moment in time, let alone, be His witness - she ended up with the whole city following her to see Jesus. She went into the city to tell the people to see if they were interested in meeting the Messiah, saying: ***“come, see a man who told me all things I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” (John 4:29)***. It was her encounter with Jesus which made this Samaritan, a woman living morally depraved life, from a prostitute to believer in Christ and soul's winner. On that afternoon, Jesus met her spiritual need for conversion and cleansed her of her sins. Straightaway, she became a powerful witness for Christ as she mobilised the men in the city to come and meet Jesus.

We've been introduced to the gospel of Christ for a while, if not long time ago. We've known enough to tell the message and impact on other people's lives. I wonder, why haven't many believers stood up and shown that they have the most important message that the world needs to hear? After going into the city to share her testimony, generating great interest and curiosity, the Samaritans of that city climaxed her story with the following powerful statement: ***“Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world” (John 4:42)***.

You may think you can't be Christ's witness, but yes you can. The life of the Christian is to tell the gospel and disciple the world (Acts 1:8, Matt 28:18-20). What's the most important message that you can give to people in order to change their eternal destiny? Nothing, but the Gospel of Christ because ***“it's the power of God to salvation” (Rom 1:16)***. Many are on their way to destruction because ***“the harvest is great, but the labourers are few” (Matt 9:36-38)***. You don't have to be an apostle, you don't have to be an evangelist, a prophet, a teacher, or pastor to be concerned about souls and share your faith. We've all been called to be Christ's witnesses. Don't be afraid to share your faith, the Holy Spirit communicates through you so you have a good working relationship.

For the woman of Samaria, it was extraordinary to be thrust into the centre of such vibrant movement of a city to meet the Messiah because of her story. My friend, arise and share your story from today for your

light has come. Go and tell your friends and family what Christ has done for you and it will not be just a one-off, but the beginning of something huge because there is great harvest of souls out there to be won.

My own experiences as a soul winner have driven me to encourage you. It's the gospel of Christ that saves lives. I was saved when someone told me about heaven and hell. When I started going to church and studying the Bible, I realised that putting God's word into practice was the best way to live a successful Christian life. But then I came across Matt 28:18-20, the great commission, and Acts 1:8. So I set up a prayer group and eventually started witnessing to unbelievers. There comes a point in your life where one decision has a big impact. And it has for me. Now I organise evangelism outreaches and conferences calling on believers to make soul winning their number one priority and also unbelievers to be reconciled to God. I travel around preaching the gospel of Christ with the demonstration of God's mighty power at work in my meetings - conferences, in churches and open-air crusades. We've nothing to do in this world but to preach, teach and heal. We have been commissioned to go and make disciples of all nations and we are obliged to heed to our master's command, and I pray that you will do so as well.

Sharing your faith or making disciples is not always easy, especially for someone taking on a witnessing role for the first time, but Christ is clear about our cause: ***"I am with you always, even to the end of the age"*** (Matt 28:20). He is with you in your community, He is with you across the globe. Christ is with believers engaging in any sort of evangelism campaign. We need to unify and stand together for Jesus and propagate the gospel because that's the only way souls can be won. Witnessing for Christ must be demonstrated, and the easiest presentation is to say, "come and see". Having known Christ, invite others to Him.

I pray that soul winning will be on your top agenda from now on. Amen!

Jesus is the only saviour of this world. Have you received Him as your personal saviour? Put your trust in Jesus, and if you will, you may pray this prayer after me, saying every word from your heart,

Dear Lord: I recognise that I am a sinner and need to be saved.

I understand that Jesus died in my place and suffered the judgment of all of my sins.

I believe that Jesus rose from the dead and He is at the right hand of the father.

Lord Jesus, I surrender my Life to you.

Come and Live in my heart and be my Lord and saviour.

Thank You for saving me. Amen!