The Gifts 3—Evangelists Sermon for 7-23-17

Purpose: To teach our family the functions, traits, and necessity of the 5 fold Ministers.

What does this teaching accomplish?

This teaching will allow the family to recognize the calling on people who are called into the 5 fold ministry which will enable them to submit to those gifts without the need for hierarchical authority structures freeing up the body from pointless ladder climbing and ambiguity to accomplish its collective mandate joyfully and effectively.

Thesis: Evangelists are gifts from Jesus to the church designed to passionately seek out opportunities to share the gospel with others and lead them toward acceptance of Christ. Mature evangelists will equip others to do the same; for we are all to evangelize.

**Ephesians 4:10-13** (NLT)

**10**And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself.

**11**Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. **12**Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. **13**This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

**The Evangelists are the increasers of the church always presenting the gospel to unbelievers and always reminding us all of our responsibility to bring people to Jesus.**

They are the ones holding open the doors to the church welcoming everyone in, always telling the church to look out towards the harvest. They truly get the heartbeat of God.

## **Some are called to be Evangelists**

1. **Evangelists can’t get enough of the Gospel; they are experts at telling the Good News.**
   1. The Greeks sent people back home to announce the good news of victory in battle, and these people were called evangelists.
2. **Evangelists first show us how to evangelize, then teach us how to evangelize, and then remind us to evangelize.**
   1. He does it.
   2. He teaches it.
   3. He pushes it.
3. **Evangelist preach to unbelievers more than believers.**

## **All of us are called to be evangelists**

“When asked if they have a personal responsibility to share their faith with others, 73% of born again Christians said yes. When this conviction is put into practice, however, the numbers shift downward. Only half (52%) of born again Christians say they actually did share the Gospel at least once this past year to someone with different beliefs, in the hope that they might accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.”

—the Barna Group in their article “[Is Evangelism Going Out of Style?](https://www.barna.com/research/is-evangelism-going-out-of-style/)”

**We must all believe that we should evangelize and then actually evangelize.**

Why? Because…

**Jesus said to evangelize.**

# Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)

**19**Go therefore[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28%3A19&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24215a)] and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

**There is a price to pay if we don’t evangelize.**

# John 3:3 (NKJV)

**3**Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

**John 3:17-19** (NKJV)

**17**For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

**18**“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **19**And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

**Revelation 20:11-15** (NKJV)

**11**Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. **12**And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book* of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. **13**The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. **14**Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.**15**And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

**No one can reach everyone; but everyone can reach someone.**

Every generation must play a part.

* Silent Generation (mid to late 20s to early to mid 40s)
* Baby Boomers (early to mid 40s to early to mid 60s)
* Gen X or Busters (early to mid 60s to late 70s and early 80s)
* Gen Y or Millenials (early 80s to early 2000s)

**The Most Evangelistic Generation**

They’ve been called “the social justice generation,” and for good reason—Millennials are actively taking up the cause of the poor, the oppressed, the orphan and the widow. Yet the most common critique leveled at this surge in social compassion is that it comes at a great expense. Sure, skeptics argue, they might feed the hungry and free the captives in this life, but what about the next? According to this view, Millennials are elevating physical needs over spiritual needs and forgoing evangelism altogether.

Yet the latest Barna research reveals this is not the case.

While the evangelistic practices of all other generations have either declined or remained static in the past few years, Millennials are the only generation among whom evangelism is significantly on the rise. Their faith-sharing practices have escalated from 56% in 2010 to 65% in 2013.

Not only that, but born again Millennials share their faith more than any other generation today. Nearly two-thirds (65%) have presented the Gospel to another within the past year, in contrast to the national average of about half (52%) of born again Christians.

*\*\*\*Show the graph*

**God excepts no excuses we have not to evangelize.**

**10 Lame Excuses for Not Sharing Your Faith**

Greg Stier on christianpost.com

1. “It’s the pastor’s job, not mine.” (According to Ephesians 4:11,12 his job is to equip you to do the work.)
2. “I don’t know what to say.” (There are plenty of resources out there to help you!)
3. “I just live the gospel with my life.” (Good, now open your mouth and declare the good news!)
4. “I’m waiting for the perfect timing.” (There’s no such thing!)
5. “I don’t have the gift of evangelism.” (Well, I don’t have the gift of mercy but I still should show mercy!)
6. “They could reject me.” (No, Jesus said they will reject you…at times anyway.”
7. “I have bad breath.” (Testamints!)
8. “I don’t know how to bring it up.” (How about just ask, “What are your spiritual beliefs?”)
9. “I’m terrified.” (So am I. So was Paul! Let’s ask God for boldness like he did! Ephesians 6:19)
10. “They may ask me a question I don’t have the answer to.” (You don’t have to know all the answers. You just need to introduce them to the One who does!)

DL Moody was told by a woman ***“I Don’t like the way you do evangelism.”***

He responded with ***“I rather don’t care for it myself, tell me; how do you do evangelism?”***

She said ***“Well I don’t.”***

He replied ***“Well madam, I rather prefer the way I do evangelism versus the way you do not do it.”***

“At the end of the day the biggest obstacle to evangelism

is the Christian who doesn’t share the gospel.”

—Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

**The first thing about evangelism isn’t to get the procedure right; it’s to get the heart right.**

Let’s pray right now and ask God to give a heart for the lost.