

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE Everyday Evangelism

SERIES

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KEY SCRIPTURE Matthew 28:19-20

SYNOPSIS If we love the Lord, we will love and pray for the Lost.

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ **Everyday Evangelism**

Review:

Life is short; Hell is real; Heaven surpasses all.

Jesus is the only way.

You are a missionary to Boone.

Jesus invites everyone to become the best version of themselves; he also invites people to belong to the family of God.

Our faith should be contagious, infecting people with the Gospel rather than inoculating them against it.

We need to open our eyes and see the harvest as the Lord does.

We are called to fish for souls.

There are various styles of evangelism: direct, intellectual, relational, invitational, testimonial, and service.

☞ **Matthew 28:19-20**

Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

There was a story about a local church that caught fire, and a painting of Jesus, which hung unnoticed, was endangered. Two men rushed into the church and rescued the painting. Many people came and watched as the church burnt. After the fire was put out people began to gather around the picture and admire it. The leaders of the church were amazed that so many people were interested in the picture that had hung so long unnoticed. One replied, "When the church caught fire and moved Christ into the street, people became interested."

We need to carry the fire of Christ within and share Jesus with people all around us. We are all called to go and make disciples. This is not just for missionaries or full-time evangelists. It's important to remember that we are bringing hope and peace to people, not condemnation. In Luke 2:10 the angel reported that he was bringing good news of great joy. So, here's a good place to start...

☞ **Love the Lost**

Why did Jesus come to earth?

☞ Because **God loves people**. John 3:16-17 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Jesus further illustrates the love of God in Luke 15:4-7: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the



lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

☞ We have to **see pre-Christians as lost**. They are not the enemy; they are not something to be avoided; they are lost. Imagine a child being lost in the woods. You would be concerned and would go looking for them.

Loving the lost goes hand in hand with loving God. Matthew 22 tells us the greatest commandment is to love God wholeheartedly. Then it immediately follows up with the importance of loving people, too. If you really love God, you will also love people and have a heart for the lost.

--Henry Martyn... The Spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions, and the nearer we get to him, the more intensely missionary we must become.

What does love look like? 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 tell us... Love is patient and kind, not envious, boasting, nor proud. It is not rude or self-seeking and not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres. Love never fails.

☞ All of these apply to lost people as well as your family and friends. **Everybody responds to love**. Work on all of these qualities and let them show to the lost people all around you.

Missionary Susie Hobert believes that one of her main responsibilities as a mother is to instill in her children a burden for their lost friends. And she has done a good job.

Ten-year old Ryan was driving imaginary race cars with his friends. Several minutes later he came bounding into the house and yelled, "Mom, you've got to come quick. Isabelle wants to accept Jesus into her heart."

Skeptical of the child's sudden interest in spiritual things, Susie asked, "Ryan, I thought you were playing race cars?"

"We were, Mom, but our cars wrecked. The accident was real bad so I asked Isabelle if she would go to heaven if she died. She said she didn't know. I told her how she could know and she wants to ask Jesus into her heart."

☞ **Pray for the Lost**

In Matthew 9:37-38 Jesus said there is plenty of harvest, but only a few workers. So, we should ask God to send out more workers. Asking is one of the most basic functions of prayer.

☞ In Ephesians 6:19-20 Paul asked for **prayer in order to boldly and clearly share the gospel**. We can pray for ourselves and each other in the same manner.



In Colossians 4:3-4 he asked for prayer that God would open doors of opportunity to share ☞ Christ. We can **pray for open doors** for each other.

Tips from *Lost in America* – Tom Clegg and Warren Bird

1. Pray that your life will be characterized by good deeds that will point people to God.
2. Pray for your relatives and friends to come into relationship with Jesus.
3. Pray that God will open doors of divine opportunity for you to share the good news.
4. Pray that God will grant fruitfulness as you invite others to follow Jesus.
5. Pray for the restraint and defeat of Satan.
6. Pray for additional workers to help people who are spiritually receptive.

☞ ***Pray as if your friends' lives depended on it.***

James 5:16

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results. NLT

From time to time we talk about revival. True revival is about repentance and about lost people coming to Christ. Biblically and historically, revival is always birthed in prayer. Sometimes people have prayed for years to see revival before it comes. Let's pray for the lost!

☞ **Go to the Lost**

Every heart without Christ is a mission field; every heart with Christ is a missionary. The idea of being a missionary for God is an ancient one. Listen to Isaiah 6:8: Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Matthew 28:19 commands us to go and make disciples. Likewise, so does Mark 16:15: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

☞ Rick Warren comments that "go" could easily be translated **"as you go,"** make disciples... "as you go," preach... And, we see this with the very first believers. Acts 5:42 says, "Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ." And again, in Acts 8:4: "Those who had been scattered ☞ **preached the word wherever they went.**" This pattern is still suitable for us today. Each and every one of us is called to go with Good News. It's not just for the missionary and evangelist.

General Eisenhower once rebuked one of his Generals for referring to a soldier as "just a Private." He reminded him that the Army could function better without its Generals than it could without its foot soldiers. "If this war is won," he said, "it will be won by Privates." In the same way, the common, ordinary, one-talent Christians are the very backbone of the church. We have our great evangelists, our super congregations led by dynamic elders, and our wealthy brethren who are able to finance great works. But, if the work of the Lord is to be done, if the gospel is to be taken to the lost, it will be the "ordinary" Christians who will do it.



DL Moody shares a similar thought: "If this world is going to be reached, I am convinced that it must be done by men and women of average talent. After all, there are comparatively few people in the world who have great talents."

So, we must love the lost, pray for the lost and go to the lost. And, Colossians 4:5-6 gives some sound advice on how we should interact with the lost: "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

At the very least, you can follow this advice in 1 Peter 2:12: "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."

Think about your family members, neighbors, co-workers...What comes to mind? Conflicts? Criticisms? Comparisons? Or, Compassion & Concern for their souls?

☞ The Lord is asking us to look beyond the behavior and attitudes to see a lost soul in need of Jesus. Love them, pray for them, go to them.

*"People need the Lord"
Every day they pass me by; I can see it in their eyes
Empty people filled with care headed who knows where
On they go through private pain living fear to fear
Laughter hides their silent cries, only Jesus hears*

*We are called to take His light to a world where wrong seems right
What could be too great a cost for sharing life with one who's lost?
Through His love our hearts can feel all the grief they bear
They must hear the words of life only we can share*

*People need the Lord, people need the Lord
At the end of broken dreams, He's the open door
People need the Lord, people need the Lord
When will we realize people need the Lord?*

Will you commit today to work on loving the lost? Will you pray for them? Will you go to them?

Huddle:

Who is one person on your radar? Pray with each other for them.