**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Learning to Share Your Faith |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Acts 10:34-46 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2298 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Suppose someone invited you over to his house to share with him and his family the reasons why you believe in Jesus Christ and how to believe in Jesus.
      1. Would you be prepared to do that?
      2. This is exactly what Peter did.
   2. Simon Peter went to the house of a man named Cornelius.
      1. Cornelius was a Gentile and a Roman army officer.
      2. An angel had visited Cornelius and told him to send for Simon Peter so that Simon Peter could tell him how to be saved.
      3. Simon Peter was ready to share his faith.
   3. Do you share your faith?
      1. Not only should we keep the faith, but we should also give it away.
      2. How can we call ourselves followers of the Lord Jesus Christ if we do not share the faith?
      3. Do you know how to share the Lord Jesus Christ?
   4. When Simon Peter shared his faith, he gave three convicting lines of argument or testimony about the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. When we have the opportunity to share the Lord Jesus Christ with someone, we can also use these three lines of testimony.
         1. This is an opportunity and a privilege that even angels do not have.
   5. Acts 10:34-35
      1. Peter had his eyes opened.
         1. Christianity is not just for the Jewish, Gentile, or Baptist religion.
         2. There is one faith, and it is good for all.
            1. It is broad in its availability.
      2. God loves you.
         1. There is no respect of persons with God.
         2. God wants everyone to be saved.
            1. 2 Peter 3:9
   6. While salvation is very broad in its availability, it is very narrow in its source.
      1. The source is the Lord Jesus Christ.
         1. Acts 10:36
         2. Acts 4:12
         3. John 14:6
         4. If Jesus Christ is not the only way, then He is none of the ways.
      2. Acts 10:34
         1. Anywhere and at any time, anyone can be saved.
      3. There is no other way to be saved except through the Lord Jesus Christ.
         1. Jesus alone can satisfy our hunger.
         2. Jesus alone is God’s answer to our sin.
         3. Jesus alone can give the meaning of life and death.
         4. Jesus alone can take the dread out of dying and the gloom out of the grave.
         5. Jesus alone can give a hope that is steadfast and sure.
         6. Jesus is Lord of all.
   7. In today’s message, we will look at the three lines of persuasion that Peter gave to Cornelius so that we can use them the next time we have a sharing opportunity.
2. the personal confidence of the soul winner (acts 10:39-42)
   1. If we are not sure about our own faith, then we will not be a soul winner.
      1. We have to have personal confidence.
   2. Acts 10:39-42
      1. The key verse in this passage is verse 39.
         1. “*We are witnesses*.”
   3. There is no reasonable way to dispute the witness of the early apostles.
      1. They gave a united witness of what they had seen and heard.
      2. They were a motley group of people from all walks of life.
         1. John was young, observant, and philosophical.
         2. Peter was a loudmouthed fisherman.
         3. Simon was a political zealot.
         4. Nathaniel and Thomas were skeptical.
         5. Matthew was a hard-bitten businessman and dishonest in his business before he was saved.
         6. Andrew was kind, compassionate, and liked children.
         7. Philip tended to be shrewd and calculating.
         8. James had a straightforward and no-nonsense disposition.
         9. Yet, they were all unanimous on Jesus.
            1. Jesus is the glue that holds us together.
   4. The disciples were unanimous about the following three things about the Lord Jesus Christ:
      1. His virtuous life
         1. Acts 10:38
         2. They saw Jesus going about doing good.
         3. His miracles were true.
            1. They saw Jesus turn water into wine.
            2. They saw Jesus walk on water.
            3. They saw Jesus raise Jairus’ daughter from the dead and heal the lepers.
         4. They were on the mount when Jesus was transfigured.
            1. They heard a voice from Heaven saying, “*This is My beloved Son*.”

Matthew 3:17

* + - 1. They were eyewitnesses of His majesty.
      2. Jesus was absolutely unique in His virtuous life.
    1. His vicarious death
       1. Acts 10:39
       2. They saw Jesus die.
       3. They saw Jesus as He was laid in the tomb.
       4. Jesus’ death is an established and historical fact.
    2. His victorious resurrection
       1. Acts 10:40-41
       2. They ate and drank with Jesus after His resurrection.
       3. 500 people saw Jesus at one time.
          1. 1 Corinthians 15:6
       4. They touched Him and talked with Him.
  1. Peter was willing to die for his faith; in fact, he did die for his faith.
     1. People may live for a lie, but no one will willingly and knowingly die for a lie.
  2. Acts 10:42
  3. Peter was totally convinced of his testimony that he shared with Cornelius.
     1. Are you totally convinced?
  4. Not only are we witnesses, but we are also to be part of the evidence.
     1. A Christian with a glowing testimony is never at the mercy of an unbeliever with an argument.

1. the powerful confirmation of the scriptures (acts 10:43)
   1. When we share Jesus Christ, we need powerful confirmation to back up our personal convictions.
   2. Acts 10:43
      1. It was not just what Peter had said but what the prophets had also said.
         1. All of them testified of the Lord Jesus Christ.
   3. One of the great proofs of the authenticity of the Savior is that the Old Testament, in perfect unity and with no contradiction in over 300 Bible prophecies, prophesies the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. It is a mathematical impossibility that the Scripture could be fulfilled by chance concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.
   4. Critics say that Jesus arranged to make it look like He fulfilled the prophecies.
      1. Jesus did arrange it.
   5. The Lord Jesus arranged the following:
      1. Jesus arranged to be born in Bethlehem.
         1. Did you arrange where you would be born?
         2. Micah 5:2
            1. God prophesied where the Lord Jesus would be born.
      2. Jesus arranged to be born of a virgin.
         1. Did you arrange who your mother would be?
         2. Had you arranged who your mother would be, would you have also arranged that she would be a virgin?
         3. Isaiah 7:14
      3. Jesus managed to describe His death by crucifixion 700 years before He was born and before capital punishment by crucifixion was ever heard of.
         1. Crucifixion was a Roman form of capital punishment; the Jews used stoning.
         2. Psalm 22:16
      4. Jesus managed to have two thieves crucified with Him, one on each side of Him, in the fulfillment of Scripture.
         1. Isaiah 53:9
      5. Jesus managed to be betrayed by Judas for thirty pieces of silver.
         1. Zechariah 11:12
      6. Jesus managed to walk out of the grave the third day.
         1. Matthew 16:21
      7. Jesus was seen by 500 witnesses after the resurrection.
         1. 1 Corinthians 15:6
   6. The Scriptures testify of the Lord Jesus Christ.
   7. When Peter witnessed to Cornelius, he did the following:
      1. Peter gave Cornelius his testimony.
         1. Peter was convinced of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.
      2. Peter showed Cornelius what the Old Testament prophecies say about Jesus.
      3. Peter gave Cornelius the third line of persuasion.
         1. All three lines of persuasion converged.
            1. Ecclesiastes 4:12
2. the persuasive conviction of the spirit (acts 10:44-46)
   1. Acts 10:44-46
      1. The word “circumcision” here refers to people of the Jewish faith.
      2. While Peter was talking about his personal conviction and Scriptural confirmation, the Holy Spirit of God came down to say that it is true.
   2. God does not have to make us a great persuader.
      1. Preaching is not being a salesperson
      2. Witnessing is not being a salesperson.
         1. Anything we can talk someone into, someone else can talk them out of.
      3. When we are filled with the Spirit, the Holy Spirit witnesses with us.
         1. Acts 5:32
         2. In spite of our personal convictions and the confirmation of the Scriptures, we need the Holy Spirit of God to speak to people’s hearts.
   3. The Holy Spirit of God witnesses to us.
      1. 1 John 5:9
      2. The Holy Spirit of God takes the things of Christ and shows them to us.
      3. Some may say that they cannot believe.
         1. The problem is not in their head; the problem is in their heart.
         2. They can believe if they will open themselves up to the Holy Spirit.
            1. He will do for you what no one else can do for you.
      4. We will never argue someone into the kingdom of Heaven, but God will allow a person who has had a personal experience with Christ to share what Jesus Christ means to them.
         1. God will give the Holy Scripture to ramify that.
            1. Then, God will send the Holy Spirit to say that it is true.
   4. The Holy Spirit of God witnesses in us when we are saved.
      1. 1 John 5:10
      2. Psalm 34:8
   5. The Holy Spirit of God witnesses through us.
      1. Acts 1:8
      2. Why the gift of tongues at this particular time?
         1. This was the Gentile Pentecost.
            1. Earlier, God had poured out His Spirit upon the Jewish people on the Day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:1-11

* + - * 1. At this time, the Holy Spirit was being poured out upon the Gentiles.
      1. God was giving a sign to the Jewish people that the Gentiles had been made a part of the body of Christ.
         1. No longer was there Jew and Gentile but one new man in the Lord Jesus Christ.
         2. Tongues were a sign gift of this.
      2. We do not need to repeat Pentecost any more than we need to repeat Bethlehem or Calvary.
         1. God poured out the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and reconfirmed it to the Gentiles in Acts 10.
         2. Some people pray for God to send the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit has already come down.

Don’t keep asking God for what He has already given you, but appropriate what He has given you.

* 1. Simon Peter had a golden opportunity when he went before the Gentiles.
     1. He gave his personal testimony.
        1. He told them of his confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ and what he had seen, felt, and experienced.
     2. He told how Jesus Christ fulfilled the Scriptures.
        1. Acts 10:43
     3. Then, the Holy Spirit of God came down to convict and convince.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. Do you have a testimony?
      1. Is Jesus Christ a bright, living reality to you?
      2. Can you skillfully take the Scriptures and with an open Bible show how Jesus Christ is the Messiah of the world?
   2. The Christian faith is not a blind faith.
      1. Blind faith is a contradiction in terms.
      2. God gives us reasons for believing.
         1. Faith is rooted in evidence.
         2. Faith goes beyond evidence.
            1. God never proves anything to us.

But He gives us all that we need to believe.

* + - 1. Faith becomes its own best evidence.
         1. 1 John 5:10

When Christ comes into you, then you know these things to be true.

* 1. The Gospel is for all; therefore, the Gospel is for you.
     1. Acts 10:43
     2. If you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and put your faith where God has put your sins (on the Lord Jesus Christ), then you will receive remission for your sins.
        1. You will not rise in the judgment to meet a God whom you do not know.
  2. If you do believe, then you need to do what Cornelius did.
     1. Acts 10:47-48
     2. You need to be baptized.
     3. We cannot follow the Lord Jesus Christ and not obey Him.
     4. Matthew 28:19-20
  3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
  4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
     1. Romans 3:23
     2. Romans 10:9-10
     3. Romans 10:13
     4. Acts 16:31
     5. John 3:16