**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Lifestyle Evangelism |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Acts 5:19-20 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1240 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. There is something that we are privileged to do that the angels are not privileged to do.
   2. There is something that we are commanded to do that no angel has ever been commanded to do.
   3. Acts 5:19-20
      1. The apostles were in prison, and an angel came and opened the prison doors.
      2. The angel told them to go stand and preach.
         1. We would think that if an angel could get men out of prison, then the angel could go ahead and do the preaching.
            1. But there are some things angels can do, and there are other things that God will not allow angels to do.
   4. Why is it that angels can’t preach the Gospel of Jesus?
      1. When we preach the Gospel of Jesus or when we are soul winners, we are sharing what Jesus has done for us.
         1. Acts 1:8
            1. A witness is a person who has had an experience.
      2. An angel cannot witness to the grace of God because an angel has never been born again.
         1. We can do something that even angels cannot do.
   5. The apostles were commanded to go and preach.
      1. Acts 5:29
         1. We should obey God rather than men.
      2. Acts 5:20
         1. The angel said to go and share the words of this life.
      3. Acts 5:32
         1. The angel said to go, Peter said that they would go, and God sent the Holy Spirit to confirm that witness.
      4. Acts 5:42
         1. Publicly and privately, they didn’t stop preaching and teaching Jesus Christ.
   6. To these early Christians, Christianity was not a one-day-a-week thing.
      1. There are some people who think that they have done God a favor if they go to church on Sunday morning.
         1. But church is just where we get ready to serve the Lord.
      2. For these early Christians, it was a daily experience.
         1. They had daily fellowship.
            1. Acts 2:46
         2. The church grew daily.
            1. Acts 2:47
            2. Evangelism wasn’t a seven-day meeting with a revival crusade, nor was it just on Sundays when people were saved.
            3. People were saved daily.
         3. They studied the Bible daily.
            1. Acts 17:11
         4. Acts 5:42
            1. It was more than just the apostles who were not ceasing to preach and teach Jesus Christ.

It was also the rank-and-file of that early church.

Acts 5:32

Not just the apostles, but all of us are witnesses of these things.

* 1. What is wrong in the average church is that many of us are not sharing our faith.
     1. Many think that if we go to the worship services, live a clean life, study the Bible, pray, give our money, and have a place of service in the church, then we are serving the Lord.
     2. But unless we are vitally interested in bringing souls to Jesus Christ and personally sharing Jesus Christ, we are not right with God.
  2. God has called us to witness.
     1. A Christian who is not witnessing is not merely missing a blessing, but he is guilty of high treason against Heaven’s King.
     2. Some would say that this is what a preacher is hired to do.
        1. But a preacher is not a hireling.
           1. John 10:11-15
           2. A preacher is called of God.
        2. When we hire someone, we pay them to do something that we don’t want to do.
           1. We cannot give someone money to win souls for us.

We cannot absolve ourselves of our responsibility.

* + 1. We have a responsibility.
       1. Acts 5:42
  1. What would happen if people were to train themselves, get filled with the Holy Spirit of God, and have the courage to go out daily as a matter of lifestyle evangelism in sharing Jesus Christ?
     1. This does not mean standing on a street corner and preaching, unless that is your gift.
     2. Nor does it mean going door-to-door, unless that is your calling.
     3. This means to share Jesus Christ where we are in our daily activities.
  2. Many people come to church looking for something to make them feel better or help them live better.
     1. This is all fine and good, but it is selfish.
  3. We are living in a world that is broken, battered, bruised, bleeding, and blind.
     1. We are to rescue the perishing and care for the dying.
     2. We are to lift up the fallen one and weep over the erring one.
  4. We hear much about spiritual gifts, but spiritual gifts are not toys.
     1. They are tools.
  5. The Holy Spirit is not given to us for our enjoyment but for our employment.
  6. Acts 5:29
     1. If we are not witnesses, then we are not obeying God.
  7. We are called to share.
     1. A Christian who will not share is like a barber who will not cut hair.
        1. He is a contradiction in terms.
     2. Every Christian is called of God, ordained of God, and equipped of God to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
        1. It is lifestyle evangelism.
     3. Acts 5:42
        1. They never stopped preaching Jesus Christ.
           1. That is not fanatic but ordinary Christianity to share the Lord Jesus Christ.
  8. In today’s message, we will look at an illustration of lifestyle evangelism.
     1. We will look at the conversion of three significant people.
        1. Acts 8:27
           1. The conversion of an Ethiopian is told in Acts 8.
        2. Acts 9:1
           1. The conversion of Saul, who later became the Apostle Paul, is told in Acts 9.
        3. Acts 10:1
           1. The conversion of Cornelius is told in Acts 10.

1. all people have the same heartaches
   1. These three men who were saved were from widely different backgrounds.
      1. The man from Ethiopia was from northern Africa.
         1. He was of African descent.
      2. Acts 9 tells the story of Saul.
         1. He was from the Jewish faith.
         2. He was from the Middle East or Asia.
      3. Acts 10 tells the story of Cornelius.
         1. He was from Italy.
         2. He was European.
   2. In these three men, we have the three strands of people who came out of the ark.
      1. Noah had three sons: Ham, Shem, and Japheth.
         1. The sons of Ham settled primarily in Africa.
         2. The sons of Shem settled primarily in the Middle East.
         3. The sons of Japheth settled primarily in Europe.
      2. The Ethiopian was a son of Ham.
      3. Saul was a son of Shem.
         1. He was a Semite.
      4. Cornelius was a son of Japheth.
         1. He was a European, a Westerner.
   3. They were from three different geographical areas and three ethnic backgrounds.
      1. They were greatly different in appearance, style, taste, culture, and background.
   4. In spite of the differences, they all had the same problem.
      1. They all had the same heartache.
   5. While one was a son of Ham, another was a son of Shem, and another was a son of Japheth, they were all sons of Adam.
      1. The Bible says that in Adam, all die.
         1. 1 Corinthians 15:12
   6. No matter what our background, our culture, our race, or our geography may be, down in our hearts we have a problem.
      1. It is sin, and sin brings heartache.
         1. Sin is devastating, debilitating, and death-dealing.
   7. When we see someone walking down the street, we can say to ourselves that no matter his background, he has a problem and a heartache.
      1. Down inside of him, he has a fatal disease called sin.
         1. All people have it.
2. all people have a common hunger (acts 8:27-28)
   1. Not only were they different in their ethnicity, but they were also different in their backgrounds.
   2. The Ethiopian had monetary power.
      1. Acts 8:27
         1. He was a treasurer.
         2. He was a man of great authority.
         3. He had at his fingertips the wealth of a kingdom.
            1. Queen Candice had given him authority over all of her wealth.
      2. Acts 8:27-28
         1. He had gone from Ethiopia to Jerusalem to worship, but he had come away hungry.
            1. He didn’t know the Lord.
            2. He had been to the most religious city on the face of the Earth, but the wells of religion were dry.
         2. He had the scroll of the prophet Isaiah.
            1. He studied it, trying to understand.
      3. In spite of all his money and prestige, he still searched for God.
         1. There is a God-shaped vacuum in every person’s heart.
            1. Money and power cannot fill it.
      4. We may know someone who is wealthy and has everything their heart could wish for.
         1. We may think that they don’t hunger for God, but down deep, they still have the same heartaches and hunger as everyone else.
            1. They are hungry to know the Lord.
         2. Sometimes we shy away from wealthy people, and we don’t share Jesus.
            1. Don’t be stampeded away from witnessing to that person.
   3. Saul had mental power.
      1. Saul was brilliant.
         1. He would have the equivalency of a double Ph.D. if he had lived today.
         2. He studied at the feet of Gamaliel.
         3. He was a doctor of the law.
         4. He was a member of the Sanhedrin, one of an elite few who had risen to the top in Israel.
         5. If we would have seen him, then we would have thought that he had it all figured out.
      2. Acts 9:1-2
         1. Saul was persecuting and prosecuting Christians.
            1. He had authority and was putting them in jail.
            2. Some were being killed for the name of Christ.
      3. If we had known Saul at that time, we would have thought that it wouldn’t have done any good to witness to him.
         1. He hated Christianity.
         2. He was so smart, self-assured, and confident.
      4. But Jesus appeared to him.
         1. Acts 9:5
            1. In this verse, the word “pricks” means “ox goad”.
            2. The Spirit of God was jabbing Saul.
         2. On the outside, Saul looked confident and self-assured.
            1. But on the inside, he knew that something was missing.

We would have never known it outwardly, but God knew it.

All people have the same hunger.

* 1. Cornelius had military power.
     1. Acts 10:1
        1. He was a military man.
        2. He was a commander of men.
     2. People may have thought that he was not interested in the things of God, but he prayed to God always and gave his money.
        1. Acts 10:2
     3. He was on a quest for God.
        1. His might and military power still left him with a hunger for God.
  2. When we live in lifestyle evangelism, we can know that all people have the same heartaches and hunger.
     1. Down in their hearts, they need to know God.
     2. The things of this world cannot satisfy.
     3. They may not know that it is God whom they are searching for, but they need to know Him.

1. all people have the same hope (acts 8:35, 9:5, 10:38)
   1. That same hope is Jesus.
      1. Jesus will save anyone.
         1. That is the wonderful thing about the Gospel.
   2. God put Acts 8, 9, and 10 together to show us the following:
      1. The hope of Africa is Jesus.
      2. The hope of Asia is Jesus.
      3. The hope of Europe is Jesus.
      4. The hope of the world is Jesus.
         1. We are to go into all of the world.
            1. Mark 16:15
   3. It doesn’t matter a person’s race or occupation; if he is going to be saved, then he is going to be saved by Jesus, or he will not be saved.
      1. Acts 8:35
         1. The Ethiopian was saved by Jesus.
      2. Acts 9:5
         1. It was Jesus who saved Saul.
      3. Acts 10:38
         1. This was Peter’s message to Cornelius.
            1. All of these men were saved by Jesus.
   4. There is no other way apart from Jesus.
      1. Jesus is not the best way to Heaven; Jesus is the only way to Heaven.
         1. Acts 4:12
      2. It doesn’t matter where we are saved, and we don’t have to be saved according to a certain formula; but if we are saved, then it will be by faith in Jesus.
         1. Acts 8:27-39
            1. The Ethiopian was riding in a chariot when Philip came up to him.
            2. Philip explained that what he was reading referred to Jesus.
            3. The Ethiopian believed in Jesus and wanted to be baptized.

His salvation experience was ordinary.

* + - 1. Acts 9:1-18
         1. Saul was on his way to persecute Christians.
         2. He saw a blinding light and heard a voice from Heaven.

It was a cataclysmic experience.

* + - 1. They both had different experiences, but who was the most saved: Saul or the Ethiopian?
         1. The incidentals vary, but they were both saved by Jesus.

Jesus is the common denominator.

* 1. The hope of the world is Jesus.

1. ALL people need the same help (acts 8:27-39)
   1. All people need someone to tell them about Jesus.
   2. In all three of these instances, there was a human instrumentality every time.
      1. Even though God sometimes worked in miracles, arranged circumstances, or gave visions, still God used human beings.
   3. Philip brought the Gospel to the Ethiopian.
      1. Acts 8:29-39
      2. Philip was in a revival meeting in Samaria, but God sent him to speak to the man from Ethiopia.
      3. The Ethiopian was saved because a man came and shared Jesus Christ.
         1. An angel couldn’t do that; God had to have a person.
            1. Acts 8:35
      4. Philip had the character quality of availability.
   4. Even when the Lord appeared to Saul, his conversion was not complete until a soul winner came.
      1. Acts 9:10-18
      2. The soul winner was Ananias.
      3. Ananias had heard that Saul had been killing Christians, but he still went.
      4. Ananias had the character trait of expendability.
         1. No matter what it cost, he went.
   5. Peter was the soul winner for Cornelius.
      1. Acts 10:1-48
      2. Peter didn’t want to go because he was Jewish, and Cornelius was a Gentile.
      3. The Lord had to get rid of Peter’s prejudice before he would go.
      4. Peter had the character trait of adaptability.
   6. God took these people with availability, expendability, and adaptability, and used them.
   7. Everyone needs the same help.
      1. How can they hear without a preacher?
         1. Romans 10:14
      2. It is so simple and yet so necessary that God wants us in our lifestyle to be available, expendable, and adaptable.
         1. Isaiah 6:8
2. CONCLUSION
   1. There is someone who needs you desperately.
      1. All people have the same heartaches.
      2. All people have the same hungers.
      3. All people have the same hope.
      4. All people need the same help.
         1. They need someone to tell them about Jesus.
            1. That someone is you.
   2. Perhaps you are the one in need of Jesus today.
   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