

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Lifestyle Evangelism

SERMON REFERENCE: Acts 5:19-20

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There is something that we are privileged to do that the angels are not privileged to do.
- b) There is something that we are commanded to do that no angel has ever been commanded to do.
- c) Acts 5:19-20
 - i) The apostles were in prison, and an angel came and opened the prison doors.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) But there are some things angels can do, and there are other things that God will not allow angels to do.
- d) Why is it that angels can't preach the Gospel of Jesus?
 - i) 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
 - (a) A witness is a person who has had an experience.
 - ii) 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.
- e) The apostles were commanded to go and preach.
 - i) Acts 5:29
 - (1) We should obey God rather than men.
 - ii) Acts 5:20
 - (1) The angel said to go and share the words of this life.
 - iii) 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.
 - iv) Acts 5:42
 - (1) Publicly and privately, they didn't stop preaching and teaching Jesus Christ.
- f) To these early Christians, Christianity was not a one-day-a-week thing.
 - i) 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.
 - ii) For these early Christians, it was a daily experience.
 - (1) They had daily fellowship.
 - (a) Acts 2:46
 - (2) The church grew daily.
 - (a) Acts 2:47
 - (b) Evangelism wasn't a seven-day meeting with a revival crusade, nor was it just on Sundays when people were saved.
 - (c) People were saved daily.

- (3) They studied the Bible daily.
 - (a) Acts 17:11
- (4) Acts 5:42
 - (a) It was more than just the apostles who were not ceasing to preach and teach Jesus Christ.
 - (i) It was also the rank-and-file of that early church.
 - (ii) Acts 5:32
 - 1. Not just the apostles, but all of us are witnesses of these things.
- g) What is wrong in the average church is that many of us are not sharing our faith.
 - i) 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.
 - ii) But unless we are vitally interested in bringing souls to Jesus Christ and personally sharing Jesus Christ, we are not right with God.
- h) God has called us to witness.
 - i) A Christian who is not witnessing is not merely missing a blessing, but he is guilty of high treason against Heaven's King.
 - ii) Some would say that this is what a preacher is hired to do.
 - (1) But a preacher is not a hireling.
 - (a) John 10:11-15
 - (b) A preacher is called of God.
 - (2) When we hire someone, we pay them to do something that we don't want to do.
 - (a) We cannot give someone money to win souls for us.
 - (i) We cannot absolve ourselves of our responsibility.
 - iii) We have a responsibility.
 - (1) Acts 5:42
- i) 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?
 - i) This does not mean standing on a street corner and preaching, unless that is your gift.
 - ii) Nor does it mean going door-to-door, unless that is your calling.
 - iii) This means to share Jesus Christ where we are in our daily activities.
- j) Many people come to church looking for something to make them feel better or help them live better.
 - i) This is all fine and good, but it is selfish.
- k) We are living in a world that is broken, battered, bruised, bleeding, and blind.
 - i) We are to rescue the perishing and care for the dying.
 - ii) We are to lift up the fallen one and weep over the erring one.
- l) We hear much about spiritual gifts, but spiritual gifts are not toys.
 - i) They are tools.

- m) The Holy Spirit is not given to us for our enjoyment but for our employment.
 - n) Acts 5:29
 - i) If we are not witnesses, then we are not obeying God.
 - o) We are called to share.
 - i) A Christian who will not share is like a barber who will not cut hair.
 - (1) He is a contradiction in terms.
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) Acts 5:42
 - (1) They never stopped preaching Jesus Christ.
 - (a) That is not fanatic but ordinary Christianity to share the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - p) In today's message, we will look at an illustration of lifestyle evangelism.
 - i) We will look at the conversion of three significant people.
 - (1) Acts 8:27
 - (a) The conversion of an Ethiopian is told in Acts 8.
 - (2) Acts 9:1
 - (a) The conversion of Saul, who later became the Apostle Paul, is told in Acts 9.
 - (3) Acts 10:1
 - (a) The conversion of Cornelius is told in Acts 10.
- 2) ALL PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME HEARTACHES
- a) These three men who were saved were from widely different backgrounds.
 - i) The man from Ethiopia was from northern Africa.
 - (1) He was of African descent.
 - ii) Acts 9 tells the story of Saul.
 - (1) He was from the Jewish faith.
 - (2) He was from the Middle East or Asia.
 - iii) Acts 10 tells the story of Cornelius.
 - (1) He was from Italy.
 - (2) He was European.
 - b) In these three men, we have the three strands of people who came out of the ark.
 - i) 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.
 - ii) The Ethiopian was a son of Ham.
 - iii) Saul was a son of Shem.
 - (1) He was a Semite.
 - iv) Cornelius was a son of Japheth.
 - (1) He was a European, a Westerner.

- c) They were from three different geographical areas and three ethnic backgrounds.
 - i) They were greatly different in appearance, style, taste, culture, and background.
 - d) In spite of the differences, they all had the same problem.
 - i) They all had the same heartache.
 - e) 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.
 - i) The Bible says that in Adam, all die.
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 15:12
 - f) No matter what our background, our culture, our race, or our geography may be, down in our hearts we have a problem.
 - i) It is sin, and sin brings heartache.
 - (1) Sin is devastating, debilitating, and death-dealing.
 - g) 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.
 - i) Down inside of him, he has a fatal disease called sin.
 - (1) All people have it.
- 3) ALL PEOPLE HAVE A COMMON HUNGER (ACTS 8:27-28)
- a) Not only were they different in their ethnicity, but they were also different in their backgrounds.
 - b) The Ethiopian had monetary power.
 - i) 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.
 - (a) Queen Candice had given him authority over all of her wealth.
 - ii) Acts 8:27-28
 - (1) He had gone from Ethiopia to Jerusalem to worship, but he had come away hungry.
 - (a) He didn't know the Lord.
 - (b) 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.
 - (a) He studied it, trying to understand.
 - iii) 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.
 - (a) Money and power cannot fill it.
 - iv) 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.
 - (a) They are hungry to know the Lord.

- (2) Sometimes we shy away from wealthy people, and we don't share Jesus.
 - (a) Don't be stampeded away from witnessing to that person.
- c) Saul had mental power.
 - i) 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.
 - ii) Acts 9:1-2
 - (1) Saul was persecuting and prosecuting Christians.
 - (a) He had authority and was putting them in jail.
 - (b) Some were being killed for the name of Christ.
 - iii) 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.
 - iv) But Jesus appeared to him.
 - (1) Acts 9:5
 - (a) In this verse, the word "pricks" means "ox goad".
 - (b) The Spirit of God was jabbing Saul.
 - (2) On the outside, Saul looked confident and self-assured.
 - (a) But on the inside, he knew that something was missing.
 - (i) We would have never known it outwardly, but God knew it.
 - 1. All people have the same hunger.
- d) Cornelius had military power.
 - i) Acts 10:1
 - (1) He was a military man.
 - (2) He was a commander of men.
 - ii) 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
 - iii) He was on a quest for God.
 - (1) His might and military power still left him with a hunger for God.
- e) When we live in lifestyle evangelism, we can know that all people have the same heartaches and hunger.
 - i) Down in their hearts, they need to know God.
 - ii) The things of this world cannot satisfy.
 - iii) They may not know that it is God whom they are searching for, but they need to know Him.

- 4) ALL PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME HOPE (ACTS 8:35, 9:5, 10:38)
 - a) That same hope is Jesus.
 - i) Jesus will save anyone.
 - (1) That is the wonderful thing about the Gospel.
 - b) God put Acts 8, 9, and 10 together to show us the following:
 - i) The hope of Africa is Jesus.
 - ii) The hope of Asia is Jesus.
 - iii) The hope of Europe is Jesus.
 - iv) The hope of the world is Jesus.
 - (1) We are to go into all of the world.
 - (a) Mark 16:15
 - c) 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.
 - i) Acts 8:35
 - (1) The Ethiopian was saved by Jesus.
 - ii) Acts 9:5
 - (1) It was Jesus who saved Saul.
 - iii) Acts 10:38
 - (1) This was Peter's message to Cornelius.
 - (a) All of these men were saved by Jesus.
 - d) There is no other way apart from Jesus.
 - i) Jesus is not the best way to Heaven; Jesus is the only way to Heaven.
 - (1) Acts 4:12
 - ii) 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
 - (a) The Ethiopian was riding in a chariot when Philip came up to him.
 - (b) Philip explained that what he was reading referred to Jesus.
 - (c) The Ethiopian believed in Jesus and wanted to be baptized.
 - (i) His salvation experience was ordinary.
 - (2) Acts 9:1-18
 - (a) Saul was on his way to persecute Christians.
 - (b) He saw a blinding light and heard a voice from Heaven.
 - (i) It was a cataclysmic experience.
 - (3) They both had different experiences, but who was the most saved: Saul or the Ethiopian?
 - (a) The incidentals vary, but they were both saved by Jesus.
 - (i) Jesus is the common denominator.
 - e) The hope of the world is Jesus.
- 5) ALL PEOPLE NEED THE SAME HELP (ACTS 8:27-39)
 - a) All people need someone to tell them about Jesus.
 - b) In all three of these instances, there was a human instrumentality every time.

- i) Even though God sometimes worked in miracles, arranged circumstances, or gave visions, still God used human beings.
- c) Philip brought the Gospel to the Ethiopian.
 - i) Acts 8:29-39
 - ii) Philip was in a revival meeting in Samaria, but God sent him to speak to the man from Ethiopia.
 - iii) 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.
 - (a) Acts 8:35
 - iv) Philip had the character quality of availability.
- d) Even when the Lord appeared to Saul, his conversion was not complete until a soul winner came.
 - i) Acts 9:10-18
 - ii) The soul winner was Ananias.
 - iii) Ananias had heard that Saul had been killing Christians, but he still went.
 - iv) Ananias had the character trait of expendability.
 - (1) No matter what it cost, he went.
- e) Peter was the soul winner for Cornelius.
 - i) Acts 10:1-48
 - ii) Peter didn't want to go because he was Jewish, and Cornelius was a Gentile.
 - iii) The Lord had to get rid of Peter's prejudice before he would go.
 - iv) Peter had the character trait of adaptability.
- f) God took these people with availability, expendability, and adaptability, and used them.
- g) Everyone needs the same help.
 - i) How can they hear without a preacher?
 - (1) Romans 10:14
 - ii) 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

6) CONCLUSION

- a) There is someone who needs you desperately.
 - i) All people have the same heartaches.
 - ii) All people have the same hungers.
 - iii) All people have the same hope.
 - iv) All people need the same help.
 - (1) They need someone to tell them about Jesus.
 - (a) That someone is you.
- b) Perhaps you are the one in need of Jesus today.
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.

- d) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16