

Evangelism and the Gospel 1

Introduction

Discipleship Series in September 2017: Learning from Jesus to live like Jesus

Evangelism is a part of discipleship; therefore, learning from Jesus to speak of Jesus

Discipleship pathway: Connect-Grow-Go; therefore, "GO" [south lobby kiosk]

Most people know that evangelism involves sharing the gospel with those who have not repented of their sins and put their faith in Christ

Goal of Series: Cultivate a culture of evangelism at WLA Church

→ *lecture/seminar*
vs.
expositional preaching

However, before we dig into evangelism and what the Bible tells us about it and the gospel, let's do a very brief biblical survey of evangelism

The prophet Isaiah foretold of a messiah, God's servant, who would come and be the bringer of "good news":

Isaiah 61:1 ESV

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

We have seen in Luke how Jesus proclaimed the he, himself, was the one whom Isaiah prophesied of:

Luke 4:17-21 ESV

¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

And the immediately following this pronouncement, Jesus indicates that preaching good news was his very purpose for coming:

Luke 4:42-43 ESV

⁴² And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³ but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”

And then we see in Luke 9, that Jesus would have those who would become the Apostles of the church preach the gospel:

Luke 9:1-6 ESV

¹ And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. ³ And he said to them, “Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. ⁴ And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. ⁵ And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them.”⁶ And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

Finally, we see in Matthew 28:18-20 the Great Commission:

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Make disciples, baptize disciples, teach disciples!

Is evangelism found in this command to make disciples?

Acts 1:6-9 ESV

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

Acts 2

- The Apostles had the Holy Spirit come upon them (Acts 2:1-4) POWER
- The Apostles were speaking in unknown tongues (Acts 2:5-13)
- Peter’s Preaches the Gospel (Acts 2:14-36) WITNESS

The great commission is fulfilled by Jesus’s disciples through the empowerment of the Spirit and the witnessing of Christ by proclamation of the Gospel. We are all called to this. What happens after Peter preaches the Gospel confirms this:

Acts 2:37-41 ESV

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Disciples make disciples. Disciples are made through the preaching of the evangel-the gospel. Every disciple, therefore, is called to evangelism...to being Jesus's witness by sharing the gospel and calling people to repent and believe.

There are a multitude of Scriptures which confirm this, but I tried to keep it short.

This is why we need a sermon series on evangelism; we are disciples and disciples evangelize.

Our call to discipleship and thus evangelism:

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

What is evangelism?

- Evangelism is a word that comes from the Greek noun "you-ang-GHEI-ee-on" which means "good tidings" or "good news."
- The verb form is "you-ang-ghel-ID-zo" and it means to bring good news or announce glad tidings; evangelizing is gospeling.
- This word group occurs 55 times in the New Testament.

Definitions:

- Apologetics Ministry: Evangelism is the announcement, proclamation, and/or preaching of the good news of and about Jesus Christ.
- Cory McKenna: Evangelism is teaching of Christ and his Gospel through preaching and personal witness.
- Christian teaching fellowship: Evangelism is spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Mack Stiles, in *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus*: Evangelism is teaching the gospel with the aim to persuade.

Evangelism is teaching the gospel with the aim to persuade.

Three components:

1. Teach
2. Gospel
3. Aim to Persuade

We are not evangelising if we don't teach.

- There is no evangelism without words
- Preaching the gospel, proclaiming the gospel, sharing the gospel, witnessing to the gospel = teaching

We are not evangelizing if we don't teach the gospel.

- If there is no evangel, it is not evangelism
- ??Preach the gospel, use words of necessary??
- Not morality, not theism, not therapeutic deism

We are not evangelizing if we don't teach the gospel with the aim to persuade.

- This is important; we evangelize with the aim of persuading people to repent and believe
 - We are not just conveying data; the devil can communicate the facts of the gospel
 - Data transfer is not the goal: billboards in Michigan
 - Paul: 2 Corinthians 5
 - We believers have a responsibility to be faithful while on earth
 - ¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.
 - Persuade them of what?
 - ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised
 - We want people to be persuaded to become followers of Jesus
- Everyone who calls upon the name
Where will you spend eternity?
+ phone number*

What is the gospel?

Gospel is an English word that translates the Greek word “you-ang-GHEI-ee-on” which means “good tidings” or “good news.”

To help us understand what the gospel is it might be helpful to understand what the good news isn't:

- The good news isn't simply that we are OK; the gospel is not a religious self-esteem building program.
- The good news isn't simply that God is love; God IS love but that does not clarify what God's love looks like.
- The good news isn't simply that Jesus wants to be our friend; Jesus does desire our friendship but he also desires our submission, repentance, faith, and obedience and the gospel explains how all those things work.
- The good news isn't simply that we should live good, upright, moral lives; the gospel is not about what we do but about what Christ has done.



What is the gospel?

The gospel is the good news about the person and work of Jesus Christ.

A helpful outline: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Consummation

A helpful outline for sharing the gospel (evangelism): God, Man, Christ, Response

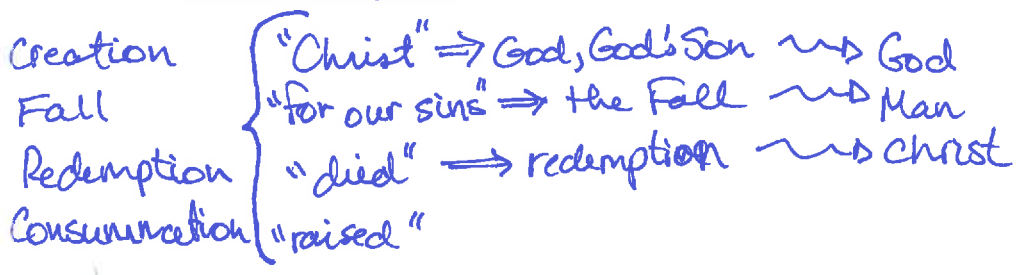
GOSPEL

Core of the Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 ESV

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,



What shall we do?

1. Pray for those who do not know Christ; that they would be saved
2. Have a teachable posture in regards to evangelism over the length of this series
3. Pray that we at WLA Church would be a people who willingly and joyfully evangelize
4. Be alert for opportunities to teach the gospel with the aim to persuade and then do it