

Evangelism and Other Religions Part 2 – 5/7/23

1. Introduction

a. Matt 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out to be trampled under foot by men.¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;¹⁵ nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.¹⁶ Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

b. Phil 2:15-16

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing,¹⁵ so that you will be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

c. Do not think that this is saying we “share the gospel at all times and use words when needed.” That is not a biblical understanding. The gospel is not shared in any other way other than by words as we will look at today.

d. Yet, our gospel witness can be hindered by our sin and foolish living. The way in which we love, how we conduct business, how we respond to our employers or employees, how we are in public with our spouses and kids, how we interact with others at our kids sports games, etc, all has an impact on our gospel witness.

2. How to Begin Gospel Conversations

2 Tim 3:15-17

15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Psalms 19:7

The law of Yahweh is perfect, restoring the soul;
The testimony of Yahweh is sure, making wise the simple.

Heb 4:12-13

12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are uncovered and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we have an account *to give*.

- a. Use the Bible
 - i. It is the Word of God alone that has the power to open blind eyes.
 - ii. Scripture alone is what reveals to others their need for Christ and the way of salvation.
- b. Look for open doors and opportunities to share the gospel.
 - i. Church wide events
 - ii. Personal interactions with neighbors
 - iii. Don't wait for some perfect opportunity since they will probably never come.
 - iv. Don't think that in order to share the gospel I need to first gain a relationship and earn the right to tell them.
- c. Use your home as a base for evangelism.
 - i. Children
 - ii. Neighbors
 - iii. Church visitors
- d. Be compassionate when sharing the gospel.
 - i. Eph 4:15
 - ii. Humility makes the gospel more commendable.

- e. Ask questions about what they have heard or what they believe about God, Christ, the Bible, heaven, hell, etc.

- f. Listen well to them. Don't merely talk to them and give facts without asking them questions about what you are sharing. Ask them if what you are saying makes sense. Get clarity from them on what you are saying. See if they are able to repeat back to you what you shared.

- g. Keep the Gospel Central
 - i. 1 Cor 15:3
For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.

 - ii. Acts 4:12
And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.

 - iii. 2 Cor 5:21
He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

 - iv. Don't get side-tracked on all the issues that may arise.
 - 1. Examples could even include creation, the ways Christians have sinned in the past, the Crusades, etc.

 - 2. If you don't know something, acknowledge that and move back to what you do know, which is the gospel and mankind's separation from God and the utter need for everyone to repent and be reconciled with God.

 - v. Be clear in sharing the gospel. Many people equate giving their testimony to sharing the gospel. Unless your testimony includes the gospel, they are not the same thing. The danger in merely giving your testimony is that someone may think that the gospel is about just helping me with my life and what Jesus can do for me.

 - vi. Focus on their sin and the perfection of Christ. Emphasize that there is no amount of good that can be done to earn salvation.

- vii. Bring to them reality that one day everyone will stand before God one day and give an account of what they have done. Their good deeds are not good in God's eyes. There is no working your way to heaven and no crossing your fingers to hope you get in.
 - viii. Repeat the gospel to them in different ways.
 - ix. Call people to repentance
Acts 17:30
Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now commanding men that everyone everywhere should **repent**,
 - x. Trust God for the response. You are called to be faithful God alone changes hearts.
- h. What if I say something wrong or don't say it all perfectly?
 - i. You will say things that are wrong at times and you may not always perfectly say everything in the right way.
 - ii. Each time you share the gospel, the more you will grow in knowing how to do so and what to say.
 - iii. Remember, your goal is not to make them commit to following Jesus. The goal in evangelism is faithfulness to Christ by accurately giving the good news to Christ.

3. What Do I Do When Things Get Hostile?

Matt 5:10-12

10 Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2 Tim 2:23-26

23 But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels.²⁴ And the Lord's slave must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,²⁵ with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may give them repentance leading to the full knowledge of the truth,²⁶ and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

- a. Your goal is not with an argument nor to try and prove your point. Sharing the gospel is not a debate.
 - b. Some may be overtly hostile and yell or physically defensive. Be patient and calm. Do not respond in anger or yelling.
 - c. Make sure that any hostility is aimed at the offense of the gospel and not at you.
4. False Religion of Cultural Christianity
- a. Those who grew up in church are often the hardest to evangelize.
 - i. They think they are saved based on a prayer, church involvement, family background, etc...
 - b. What is the gospel of the cultural Christian?
 - i. Praying a prayer to be saved, walking an aisle, etc..
 - ii. Mental acceptance of certain facts about the gospel
 - iii. Emotional experience validating the decision
 - iv. Accepting Jesus in my heart as my savior but my life does not need to change
 - c. What are some hindrances of the cultural Christian coming all the way to Christ?
 - i. Having to admit they might not be saved. This would mean massive changes in their life.

- ii. Recognizing what they were taught their whole life (by their parents, church, loved ones, etc) was wrong.
 - iii. The ability to live comfortably in their sin and yet have assurance that the prayer they said when they were 5, guarantees they will get into heaven. They have been assured by well-meaning pastors they are saved because of a prayer even though there has been no visible fruit.
- d. What are some verses we can use to share the gospel with the cultural Christian?
- i. Matt 13:1-9, 18-23
 - ii. Matt 7:13-23
 - iii. Heb 3:12-19
 - iv. John 15:1-11
 - v. 1 John