

Lesson 3

The Sin of Silence

Thesis: This lesson is designed to teach the believer why sharing the Gospel is so important and why they cannot stay silent.

Memory Verses:

† **Matthew 10:32–33 — 32;** *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33; But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*

Why is Sharing the Gospel Important?

For Christians to share the Gospel they must realize how important it is, as well as the personal responsibility God has given them to share it. The Bible makes it very clear how vital it is for us to share the message of salvation. Yet today many Christians do not feel a personal responsibility or urgency to share the Gospel. They instead stay silent. Today we will look at reasons why Christians cannot stay silent about the Gospel.

- 1. Christians cannot be silent because all the world is lost _____ in sin**
 - A. What truth do you learn from Romans 5:12? We are born as sinners
† **Romans 5:12 — 12;** *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*
 - B. What do you learn from Romans 3:10-12? None good or righteous
† **Romans 3:10–12 — 10;** *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11; There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12; They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*
 - C. What do you learn from Romans 3:19? All the world is guilty as sinners
† **Romans 3:19 — 19;** *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*
 - D. What do you learn from Romans 3:23? All have fallen short
† **Romans 3:23 — 23;** *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
 - E. What do you learn from Romans 10:13? All who call on the Lord will be saved
† **Romans 10:13 — 13;** *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*
 - F. What do you learn from Romans 10:14? They need someone to tell them!
† **Romans 10:14 — 14;** *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*
 - G. Knowing these truths above, do you believe it is wrong if Christians do not warn people of their lost condition? Why? _____

- 2. Christians cannot be silent because _____ Hell _____ is real**

A. Read: Luke 16:19-31

1. What happens to the rich man when he dies? Goes to Hell
2. At the end of verse 22 the Rich man dies, how long does it take for him to go to Hell? goes immediately

3. What two requests did he have while in Hell in verses 24-28?
 - a) Wanted a drop of water to cool his tongue
 - b) Wanted Lazarus to warn his brothers of the reality of Hell
4. Did this man in hell have concern for his brothers? Why?
5. What can we learn from this man's plea from hell?
6. How do you think seeing hell would affect your courage and faithfulness to share the Gospel?

B. Read: Revelation 20:15, 21:8

- † **Revelation 20:15 — 15;** *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*
 - † **Revelation 21:8 — 8;** *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*
1. If people are not found written in the book of life, what happens to them? Cast into the lake of fire
 2. How do these verses affect you?
 3. Who do know right now that needs to know these truths? _____

C. Most people do not share the gospel like they should because they do not understand the reality of a place called Hell. It has been said that it would be better for a young man studying for the ministry to spend 4 minutes in Hell then 4 years in a Bible college. Do you agree? Why?

D. Dwight L. Moody had an amazing passion for lost people that led him to be one of the greatest soul-winners in our countries history. One reason he was so affective was he had a great burden for the lost. When Moody was in London during one of his famous evangelistic tours, several British clergymen visited him. They wanted to know how and why this poorly educated American was so effective in winning multitudes of people to Christ. Moody took the three men to the window of his hotel room and asked each in turn what he saw. One by one, the men described the people in the park below. Then Moody looked out the window with tears rolling down his cheeks. "What do you see, Mr. Moody?" asked one of the men. "I see countless thousands of souls that will one day spend eternity in Hell if they do not find the Savior."

- † **Matthew 9:36—38 — 36;** *But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. 37; Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*
1. What do you see when you look upon multitudes of people?
 2. When is the last time you personally considered someone who is not saved spending an eternity in a real place called Hell, only moments after they die?

E. This is an excerpt of an email to Ray Comfort (Christian author/evangelist) from an atheist.

Ray,

You are really convinced that you've got all the answers. You've really got yourself tricked into believing that you're 100% right. Well, let me tell you just one thing. Do you consider yourself to be compassionate of other humans? If you're right, as you say you are, and believe that, then how can you sleep at night? When you speak with me you are speaking with someone who you believe is walking directly into eternal damnation into an endless onslaught of horrendous pain which your 'loving' god created, yet you stand by and do nothing.

If you believe one bit that thousands every day were falling into an eternal and unreachable fate, you should be running the streets mad with rage at their blindness. That's equivalent to standing on a street corner and watching every person that passes you walk blindly directly into the path of a bus and die, yet you stand idly by and do nothing. You're just twiddling your thumbs, happy in the knowledge that one day that 'walk' signal will shine your way across the road.

Think about it. Imagine the horrors Hell must have in store if the bible is true. You're just going to allow that to happen and not care about saving anyone but yourself? If you're right then you're an uncaring, unemotional and purely selfish (expletive) that has no right to talk about subjects such as love and caring. **James Franz**

- F. How do you feel about Christians being silent about the Gospel knowing that Hell is real?
- G. Do you believe it is wrong if Christians do not warn people of the reality of Hell and their need of salvation? Why?

3. Christians cannot be silent because sharing the Gospel is our personal responsibility

A. Example of the “Watchman” – Ezekiel 33:7-9

† *Ezekiel 33:7–9 — 7; So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. 8; When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. 9; Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.*

- 1. What do you learn from this story?
- 2. How does this apply to sharing the Gospel with the lost?

B. Example of Paul

† *Acts 20:26-27 – “Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”*

- 1. What made Paul free from the “blood of all men”? Proclaiming the whole counsel of God to them
- 2. How does this apply to you as a Christian? _____

C. Illustration of the Starfish

1. A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up, and throw it back into the ocean. People watched her with amusement. She had been doing this for some time when a man approached her and said, “Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can’t save all these starfish. You can’t begin to make a difference!” The girl seemed crushed, suddenly deflated. But after a few moments, she bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied, “Well, I made a difference to that one!” The old man looked at the girl inquisitively and thought about what she had done and said. Inspired, he joined the little girl in throwing starfish back into the sea. Soon others joined, and all the starfish were saved. (*adapted from the Star Thrower by Loren C. Eiseley*)

- 2. We may not reach them all, but can make an eternal difference to some; will you be a part?
- 3. Do you believe as you share the Gospel you can encourage others to be a part of evangelism? Have you ever been encouraged by others who share the Gospel?
- 4. Do you believe you have a personal responsibility to share the Gospel with others?

4. Christians cannot be silent because Jesus Commanded us to spread the Gospel

A. Matthew 28:18-20; John 20:21; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:6-8; Romans 10:13-15

- † **Matthew 28:19–20 — 19;** *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
- † **Mark 16:15 — 15;** *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*
- † **Acts 1:8 — 8;** *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

- B.** Did Jesus suggest we share the Gospel or command it? _____
- C.** Is disobeying the commands of Christ sinful? _____
- D.** If a Christians knows Christ commands us to share the Gospel, is remaining silent and not sharing the Gospel wrong? Why? _____

5. Christians cannot be silent because Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven

- † **John 14:6 — 6;** *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
- † **Acts 4:12 — 12;** *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (1 John 5:11-12, John 3:36)*
- A.** According to the Bible, how many ways of salvation are there? _____ one
- B.** Since Jesus is the only way to Heaven, how should that affect us since so much of the world does not know?
- C. Imagine with me, a whole town has terminal cancer,** and only 5 % of the people know they have it. You have been given the cure to the cancer and it is a pill that people have to take, which of course you quickly receive and are saved. But to save them you must “go” to them whether at their home, on the streets, or in town. At first when you find out you are determined to go and give it to as many people as possible. But then you begin to worry what people might think if you tell them they are sick and in need of a cure. “What if it scares them when they find out they will die if they don’t receive the pills” or, “They ask a question I don’t know the answer to”, or “What if they reject the very thought that they have cancer”. And so you stay at home with the pills. At first it bothers you but you soon learn to live with it. Besides there are 5% of the people in the town who have the pills just like me, if they are not sharing them then why should I bother? What would you do?
 1. Do you believe it would be wrong not to share the pills with those in need? Why?
 2. Christian we have the answer to a world that is dying of sin and the answer is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Do you believe it is wrong to stay silent while the world is lost in sin? Why?

6. Christians cannot be silent because Saving the lost is why Jesus came

- A.** What do you learn from Luke 19:10 and 1 Timothy 1:15? Jesus came to save the lost
 - † **Luke 19:10 — 10;** *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*
 - † **1 Timothy 1:15 — 15;** *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*
- B.** If saving the lost was the focus of our Lord, what should our focus be?
- C.** How is staying silent about the Gospel silencing why Jesus came?
 - Do you believe it is sinful and wrong to stay silent about the Gospel? Why?
 - Will you commit to not being silent about the Gospel? Will you commit to spreading the truth of Jesus to your lost friends and family?
 - Who can you begin to pray for and share with this week? _____