

Lesson 6

Keys To Sharing The Gospel

Thesis: This lesson is designed to teach the believer essential keys to know to be effective when you are sharing the Gospel.

Memory Verses:

† **Romans 1:16 — 16;** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

⇒ (Review the Homework from last week – be sure to cover questions 7-9 so they understand the importance of believing, repenting, and confessing Christ as Lord.)

1. Trust in the power of the Gospel to save the lost

A. Read Roman 1:15-16

▪ **Romans 1:15–16 — 15;** *So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. 16;* *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

1. What did Paul refer to as the “power of God”? The Gospel
2. What did Paul say the Gospel had the power to do? To save those who believe
3. If the power is in the Gospel, what should we trust in to bring people to salvation?
4. What are some wrong things people can trust in when they seek to see someone saved?
5. When you share the Gospel, do you believe you need something more than the simple Gospel for people to get saved?

B. Today many don't feel the Gospel is enough, that you need something more than the clear preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Luke 16:27-31

- a) In Luke 16, the rich man is in hell and he is concerned for his 5 brothers who he knows are lost. He asks Abraham to send Lazarus back from the dead to tell his 5 brothers that hell is real (v.27-28).
- b) How does Abraham respond to the Rich man in verses 29?
- c) What did the rich man in hell say to Abraham in verse 30?
- d) How does Abraham respond in verse 31?

(1) Did Abraham believe the Word of God was more powerful than a miracle to cause someone to repent and be saved?

(2) What do you learn from this story? What should we rely on to see people saved?

C. Read: Isaiah 55:8-11

▪ **Isaiah 55:8–11 — 8;** *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9;* *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10;* *For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and*

bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11; So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

1. What do you learn in verse 8-9? _____

2. What do you learn in verse 10-11? _____

- a) What does God compare His Word to? _____
- b) What does God say His Word will “not” do? _____
3. God’s ways are higher than our ways; in other words, it doesn’t have to make sense to us for it to work. God’s Word will produce fruit, our words will not; trust in God’s Word and not your own words. Don’t feel like you can’t share the message because of your abilities, God’s Word is what will produce the fruit, not your talent.

2. Trust in God _____ to open their heart to understand and not your ability.

A. Salvation begins and ends with the work of God in the sinner’s life. God the Holy Ghost convicts the sinner of his sin, of his helplessness to be saved on his own, and opens his eyes to the truth concerning the way of salvation by Christ alone.

1. Read: Acts 16:14

† Acts 16:14 — 14; *And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*

a) What happened to the heart of Lydia? God opened her mind

↳ **Note:** To the Jews, the seat of the emotions is in the bowels; the heart referred to the understanding, the mind and will.

b) What did she do as a result? _____

2. Read: Matthew 16:15-17

† Matthew 16:15–17 — 15; *He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16; And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17; And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*

a) What question does Jesus ask the disciples?

b) How does Peter respond?

c) Who does Jesus say did not reveal this to Peter?

d) Who does Jesus say did reveal this to Peter?

B. Read I Corinthians 1:17-18, 2:1-5

▪ 1 Corinthians 1:17–18 — 17; *For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. 18; For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

1. What does Paul say God sent him to do and “not” to do? To preach the Gospel, not baptize

2. What does Paul say would make the Gospel ineffective? trying to use “wisdom of words” – making it sound really good to a lost world.

a) “Wisdom of words” – In Greek culture oratory skills were highly esteemed. The ability to communicate in an eloquent and polished manner was of utmost importance. Yet here Paul rebukes the focus on making eloquence a priority, rather he encourages the simplicity of the Gospel.

b) Some say they cannot share the gospel because they are not “eloquent” enough to share it. They don’t have good enough people skills or a good enough vocabulary. How might Paul respond to that question?

3. What do you learn from Paul in I Corinthians 2:1-5?

a) What did Paul not seek to do according to verse 1-4? To use human talent/wisdom of words

b) What was Paul’s focus in verse 2? Preaching the simple Gospel of Jesus

c) Why did Paul do all this according to verse 5? So that their faith would be in Jesus instead of a man’s talents

4. God’s Word is the power that saves, not our eloquence. All our job to do is to share the gospel as clearly as possible and leave the results up to God. Remember, God doesn’t need our talent to lead people to salvation; His Word has enough power to convict and transform a life.

C. Why is it important for us to realize it is not us saving them, but rather God who is saving them?

1. Many times people are very discouraged personally when someone does not get saved, as though it was their fault. That if they gave a better illustration or said something a little better that person would get saved. Our job is not to save anybody; our job is to clearly share the Gospel with them and let God work on their hearts to save them. This doesn’t mean we are not saddened when people don’t get saved, Paul wept over the lost condition of Israel (Romans 9:1-3, 10:1-3) and so should we. But we must remember what our job is and what God’s job is.

2. When you realize it is God who convicts them and saves them, you trust in God and not in your own abilities or someone else’s. You don’t need the “Pastor” there for them to get saved; you just need the Holy Spirit. Also this will cause you to rely on the Scriptures instead of your own abilities (Romans 1:16).

3. Knowing that God is the One convicting them and saving them should cause you to keep a humble spirit no matter how many you lead to Christ.

3. Share the Gospel, but don’t force _____ the Gospel

A. Read I Corinthians 3:5-7

1. Here Paul uses an agricultural illustration of planting and watering a seed in reference to the sharing the Gospel. Jesus also used this similar image (Matthew 13:1-23).

2. What did Paul say he and Apollos did? Plant and water

↳ How does “planting” and “watering” relate to sharing the Gospel?

3. What did Paul say God does? God brings the increase

4. What was Paul’s conclusion in verse 7?

B. Is it possible for a Christian to be too pushy in sharing the Gospel?

1. What can happen if someone is not ready and a Christian pushes too hard or too much?

2. Has this ever happened to you?

C. Sometimes a Christian can try to talk people into being saved who are not ready.

Sometimes it takes more watering on that seed for it to produce life. Not everyone you talk with will get saved at that moment, it may take weeks or months or even years before their heart is ready to receive the Gospel. Don’t be too pushy with the Gospel; some people have prayed prayers of salvation just to get a Christian off their back. Share the Gospel with grace, not force.

1. Did you receive the Gospel when you first heard it?
2. How many times did you hear the Gospel before you trusted in Christ?

4. **The Goal is to get the lost to understand the Gospel, not quickly recite a prayer**

A. Read Matthew 13:19, 23

† **Matthew 13:19 — 19**; *When any one beareth the word of the kingdom, **and understandeth it not**, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*

† **Matthew 13:23 — 23**; *But he that received seed into the good ground is he that beareth the word, **and understandeth it**; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

1. What is the main difference between the man who heard the Word and did not get saved and the man who heard the Word and did get saved and bore fruit? One understood the Gospel, the other did not.

† **Psalm 51:13 — 13**; *Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

2. Just because someone repeat a prayer doesn't mean they are saved (Matthew 7:21), they must understand the Gospel and receive it into their hearts by faith. Our goal is not to get them to quickly recite some words, our goal is to expose the light of the Gospel using the Word of God. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to open their eyes up to the truth of the Gospel and allow their heart to respond in faith to believe the Gospel.

5. **To share the Gospel, you must not be ashamed of its message**

○ **Romans 1:16 — 16**; *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

A. According to Romans 1:16, what was Paul not ashamed of? The Gospel

B. What would it look like for a Christian to be ashamed of the Gospel?

C. Have you ever not shared the Gospel out of being ashamed and fearful of what others might think of you?

† **Psalm 119:46** – *“I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, **and will not be ashamed.**”*

D. Most Christians will never say they are “ashamed” of the Gospel, but if we never share it when we know we should, do our actions speak louder than our words?

E. What do you learn from Jesus in the following verse?

▪ **Luke 9:26** - *“For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.”*

F. **Question:** Have you ever told someone about Jesus? **Is there any good excuse not to?**

1. Next time you feel convicted about sharing the gospel tell yourself the following statement: *“If I am ashamed of Jesus than don't tell this person, but if I am not ashamed of Jesus, than I will tell them.”*

2. Make witnessing in your life an issue of being ashamed.

3. Would it be better to be ashamed of not knowing an answer to a possible question an unbeliever “might” ask, or simply not sharing the Gospel with them?

6. **To share the Gospel, you must be willing to be rejected for the Gospel's sake.**

† **2 Timothy 1:8 — 8;** *Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;*

A. Have you ever been rejected because of the Gospel? How did it make you feel?

B. Why is the Gospel offensive to people in the world?

C. What do you learn from John 15:18-21 and Matthew 24:9? _____

○ **John 15:18–21 — 18;** *If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19; If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20; Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. 21; But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.*

○ **Matthew 24:9** - *“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.”*

D. Many today try to change the Gospel to make it more palatable and acceptable and less offensive. But the Gospel is offensive to people. Its core message is that mankind is lost in their sin, that their sin has separated them forever from God; that on their own they are helpless and hopeless and have no ability to save themselves. That the only way they can be saved is to recognize their sinful condition, repent of their sins, and place their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. Why might that be offensive to people?

E. Note: if the Gospel is not offensive why did they kill Jesus and greatly persecute the early Church?

1. Don't be discouraged if people don't listen to you, did they always listen to Jesus?
2. Why should you not get discouraged if someone gets offended at the Gospel?