

PERSONAL EVANGELISM: Lesson 2

Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Sunday Adult Bible Class, April-June 2007

REVIEW: What is personal evangelism?

1. The commitment of God to soul-winning; our commitment; the importance.
2. The principle, the participants, the parable.

TOPICS TODAY:

I. THE PARABLE of the SOWER, the SEED. & the SOIL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

A. The SOWER: “a sower went forth to sow” – “the sower.”

1. A sower must sow something!
2. A sower must be diligent, persevering, and devoted, sowing and waiting for the harvest!

B. The SEED:

1. “some seed... the word of the kingdom.”
2. The seed = the Word of God! Luke 8:11; Romans 1:16-17; 1 Peter 1:22-25; James 1:18, 21

C. The SOIL:

1. The “soils” represent people – human hearts who receive the Word.
2. The FOUR SOILS:
 - a. WAYSIDE: hears the word of the kingdom, but doesn’t understand, and Satan takes away what was sown in the heart.
 - b. STONY: hears the word and receives it with joy; but there is no root, and when tribulation or persecution arises, there is no perseverance.
 - c. THORNS: hears the word, but the thorns of worldliness and riches choke the word, and this one becomes unfruitful
 - d. GOOD GROUND: hears the word, understands it, and brings forth fruit (some an hundred fold, some sixty, some thirty).

D. Some principles learned from the parable:

1. There must be a sower – someone to go with the Word of God!
(Compare 1 Corinthians 3:5-11; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16).
2. What people need is the Word of God - we must connect people with God’s message! It is not up to me to decide what someone will do with the Word of God, but it is up to me to see that they get the opportunity to hear it!
3. Soils are different: some will receive the Word and bear fruit, and some will not (we must keep this in mind to overcome discouragement in personal evangelism – we will not always be successful, and that is what the Lord says).

II. SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR PERSONAL WORKERS:

- A. Always keep your purpose in mind as you go with the gospel: “seeking the lost” (Matthew 1:21; Luke 19:10; 1 Timothy 1:15; etc.).
- B. Have assurance of your own salvation (1 John 5:13), and a life surrendered to the will of God (Philippians 1:21).
- C. Develop an urgency that people are lost and need to be saved (Romans 3:23; 6:23).
- D. Diminish soul-winning as a job, task, or requirement – establish it as a joy and an opportunity, while maintaining a burden for the lost (Romans 9:1-3; 10:1-2).
- E. Pray as you go (Matthew 7:7; Acts 6:3-4) – pray for wisdom, courage, commitment, for the lost, and for God’s glorification.
- F. Be simple and basic in your approach to people (never assume people already know the Scriptures – take nothing for granted, because many don’t know much about the Bible).
- G. Always be kind and loving (“people don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care”).
- H. Don’t criticize the comments or observations of others, but keep comments in mind and be patient in allowing God’s Word to teach and correct (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- I. Develop a practical knowledge of Scripture (2 Timothy 2:15; 3:15; 1 Peter 3:15).
- J. Always try to conclude any discussion by leaving “an open door,” an opportunity to talk again – don’t deliberately do anything that will cut-off further conversation.
- K. Be patient – it often takes much time and effort to both teach truth and untangle error: remember, the goal is not to win an argument, but to win a soul.
- L. Be firm in your convictions and confident in your knowledge, but humble (never proud or arrogant – know what you know, but never pretend to “know it all”).

TYPICAL SURVEY (from The Institute for American Church Growth):

Question: *“What was responsible for you coming to Christ and His church?”*

“I attended a Revival”	½ %	“I liked the minister”	6%
“I randomly visited there”	1%	“A friend or relative invited me”	79%
“I had a special need”	2%		
“I just walked in”	3%		
“I liked the programs”	3%		
“I liked the Sunday school”	5%		