

**“...Reach Others Through Evangelism...”**

**Luke 2:8-20 \* December 2, 2007**

*We are members of God’s family, dedicated to the teachings of Jesus, and committed to seeking God’s will. In our church, we glorify God through worship, reach others through evangelism, assist our community through service, care for each other through fellowship, and equip our members through Biblical instruction.  
(Grace Baptist’s Mission Statement)*

**I. Quick Review of Last Week’s talk on ‘Worship’**

**II. Once I’ve discovered Jesus’ worth, evangelism should come easily**

A. What is evangelism?

B. What did the shepherds do after finding Jesus?

C. What makes evangelism difficult for us?

To overcome our fear of evangelism, we need to understand 3 things:

**First, The \_\_\_\_\_ For Evangelism.**

A. Why should every Christian be motivated to witness?

B. What’s a good way to recover lost motivation?

C. What are the things Jesus gives us that nothing else will?

**Second, The \_\_\_\_\_ In Which A Soul Is Brought To Christ**

A. What did Jesus compare evangelism to?

John 4:34-38 – “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying, ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

**B. Why will evangelism often seem like fruitless work?**

**Third, The \_\_\_\_\_ For Evangelism.**

*(From a seminary paper by Jonathan Ayers)*

How Are We Doing: As A Church? Personally?

1. Develop a \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Improve \_\_\_\_\_ impressions.

3. Break down \_\_\_\_\_ barriers.

4. Eliminate \_\_\_\_\_ barriers.

5. Become a Superman \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Build church \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Have \_\_\_\_\_ expectations.

8. \_\_\_\_\_!

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**Luke 2:8-20 \* December 2, 2007**

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I. Quick Review of Last Week's talk on 'Worship'

II. Once I've discovered Jesus' worth, evangelism should come easily

A. What is evangelism?

**The original Greek word literally means the 'sharing of good news'.**

B. What did the shepherds do after finding Jesus?

**They told everyone about the child, and about what they had seen and heard.**

C. What makes evangelism difficult for us?

**People do not usually respond positively to our efforts. We can be thought of as fanatical or weird.**

To overcome our fear of evangelism, we need to understand 3 things:

**First, The Motivation For Evangelism.**

A. Why should every Christian be motivated to witness?

**Because it's the overflow of worship. Once we've found Jesus to be the one true God, the one who gives us everything we need – then we want others to know of him.**

B. What's a good way to recover lost motivation?

**Hang around a new Christian. Like new Christians, they're just so eager to get out there touching things, smelling things, tasting things in this great big beautiful world that they've been born into. And that's what a new Christian is like. That's why I love brand new baby Christians. Because they are the most passionate and eager of evangelists. They are like the shepherds. They can't help telling others. Inviting everyone they know and love to come to church. And why are they like that? Because they've discovered**

**something about Jesus, which his older followers over time may start to forget or take for granted.**

C. What are the things Jesus gives us that nothing else will?

**Forgiveness for our past, power for the present to live a different kind of life, hope for the future, eternity, purpose, a moral compass, an explanation of why life is so messed up, a heavenly Father who will love us as sons and daughters. Don't forget these things, dear friends. Don't let time steal from you the joy of salvation. Don't let life's heaviness and difficulties and sorrows wash back in, and take you back into that swamp you were in before.**

**Second, The Manner In Which A Soul Is Brought To Christ**

A. What did Jesus compare evangelism to?

**Farming.**

John 4:34-38 – “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying, ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

B. Why will evangelism often seem like fruitless work?

**What Jesus is saying here in comparing evangelism to farming is that for a soul to come to him, the seed of the gospel needs to be planted in that person's heart, soul and mind. How will that happen? Somebody needs to plant it. Some Christian needs to open his or her mouth, and mention Jesus. And then that seed must be watered and allowed to grow, and ripen – meaning, other Christians need to come along and talk about the Lord with them, and show them an example of what the Christian life looks like. And if those encounters with Christians continue to occur, then in time, there will be a harvest – that person will come to faith. A final Christian will come along, share Jesus with them, and they will accept the message. So when you're witnessing, if you don't get the response you were after, if you get it thrown back in your**

face, that's okay. You've planted a seed, or watered a seed, the harvest is still coming.

### Third, The Methodology For Evangelism.

*(From a seminary paper by Jonathan Ayers)*

HOW ARE WE DOING: AS A CHURCH?

PERSONALLY?

#### 1. Develop a Vision.

Every church needs to have a vision for reaching the lost that is Bible-based, clear, plausible, and tailored for their particular community. But always remember, that Jesus is the head of the Church and he is the one who will build it, so we must put Him first.

#### 2. Improve First impressions.

According to Barna, 70% of all people who visit a church make up their mind about coming back before the pastor gets up to speak. Others studies show that you have all of 17 second of interacting with strangers before they form an opinion of you. Then it takes 3 times as long to get them to change their minds about you.

#### 3. Break down Interior barriers.

There are "stained glass" barriers: things like a dirty building, scant parking, uncomfortable seating. There are "class and cultural" barriers: which is why using music appropriate to your given culture is important. Churches should focus on reaching the needs of the people you are most likely to reach. There are "linguistic" barriers brought about by differing ethnicities.

#### 4. Eliminate Exterior barriers.

A multi-celled church like Grace (average attendance over 100) can grow if: the pastor learns to delegate, worship services are added, small groups are expanded, and ways are found to market the church and its ministries.

#### 5. Become a Superman Pastor.

The pastor and his preaching has a huge impact on those who come to your church. So a wise church will help a pastor to focus his energies on his preaching and teaching and training duties.

#### 6. Build church Leadership.

The best way to help the pastor is to develop within the church healthy and strong leaders, who understand the church's vision, and who have credibility, and who know how to communicate.

#### 7. Have High expectations.

Expecting commitment from your people does not scare them off – usually it motivates them to serve. Research shows that people are looking for a church that sets a high bar and has high expectations.

#### 8. Pray!

This is the most important step of all. "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." (Ps.127:1). A wise church will thus teach the Biblical priority of prayer and establish church-wide prayer ministries.