

How Do I Share My Faith?

3-6-19

How Do I...series

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Israel Trip Info: this Sunday after 3rd.
- B. Slide3 1 Thes.2:8 NLT *We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.*
- C. Prayer: God thank you for allowing us to be **authentic**. We pray people would be able to **see** the real us & **hear** about the real You.

II. Slide4a Intro:

- A. I have fished all my life (mostly fresh/some salt water) [which is a lot like *sharing our faith*]
 1. I have learned I must **take time** to go fish. I must **be patient**.
 2. I must have a **line, hook, swivel, weight, fresh bait** or a **lure**.
 3. I must **never yell** at the fish, for not jumping on my hook.
 4. **Sometimes** I've had to **go back** to the same pool a few times before I can catch a certain one.
 5. **Sometimes** I've tried & tried, to **no avail**, & had to just walk away.
 6. **Sometimes** I've tried **other's methods**, & they **haven't** worked for me.
 7. I've also learned some **awesome techniques** that I am indebted to friends for showing me them.
- B. Slide4b Mt.4:19 **Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**
 1. **First**, you don't make yourself, *He will make you...*
 2. **Second**, look at what He wants to **make you...not, bishops, or pastors, or elders, or deacons...but fishers of men.**
 - a) What **Thomas Boston** the famous Scottish preacher once depicted as, *The Art of Manfishing*. (1699)
- C. In this intro story to **3 gospels** we learn the *necessity of human agency from Luke's accent.*
 1. **Read** Luke 5:1-11 ESV

2. A catch of fish that was miraculous. *Yet neither the fisherman, nor his boat, nor his fishing tackle was ignored; all were used to take the fishes.*
3. So in the saving of souls. God will even be pleased by the foolishness of our preaching/sharing.

D. There're only **2 things** that matter in life: God *and* people. They are the only things that last forever.

E. Since our unbelieving world is made up of a **variety** of people...

1. Young/old. Rich/poor. Educated/uneducated. Urban/rural. People of different races & cultures. Personalities & politics. Morals & values. Different religious backgrounds & baggage.
2. Then it's going to take more than **1 style of evangelism** to reach such a diverse population. So **what is your style?**

III. Slide5/6 **FINDING YOUR STYLE**

A. **[1] CONFRONTATIONAL** *1st reader...* (Acts 2; read 36-39) [Peter]

B. Here Peter preaches his 1st sermon on Pentecost.

C. (36) **You killed Jesus!** (38) **Repent and be baptized!**

D. Other biblical examples of Confrontational style?

1. John the Baptist Lk3:7, *Phar/Sad Brood of Vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance.*
2. Also to Roman soldiers Lk.3:14 *Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.*

E. Slide6b I think we can all learn to be more confrontational (**I don't mean in their face**)

1. We all know someone with a larger than life personality who can talk about God with anyone he/she meets almost upon immediate contact.
2. They don't have to warm up the subject, they simply talk about **the Lord's goodness** to them & about **how grateful they are** to be a Christian.
3. They do it so effortless that it is a joy to watch. Their **smile** lights up their face, & their manner is so **infectious** that they don't offend people.

4. People can sense their **authenticity**(key) & they *enjoy their style* because it is so utterly them. Yet if someone else w/a different kind of personality, tried to do the same thing in the same manner, it would fall flat.

F. **Slide7a [2] INTELLECTUAL** (Acts 17:16-34) [Paul]

G. Paul debated with the philosophers on Mars Hill to convince them of truth.

H. **Slide7b** 1976 The Doobie Bro's sang about *Takin it to the Streets* [Here Paul does exactly that]

1. He **doesn't limit** his sharing about Jesus, on the Sabbath **nor** inside the synagogue.
2. Our last generation bought into the lie, *never discuss religion or politics*.
3. **But** Jesus isn't only for **Sunday church**...*but for Mon work. Tues sports. Wed shopping. Thurs at the dentist. Fri appointments. And Sat neighbors.*

I. **Slide7c Reasoned** vs.17 - in both **synagogue** (Jews) & **marketplace** (Gentiles).

J. **Note** vs.27-29 - Paul used their *literature, poets, & a stoic philosopher*.

1. **Grope** (used in reference to Cyclops in Homers Odyssey). **For in Him we live move & have our being** (Epimenides, Cretan Poet). **For we are also His offspring** (Aratus, Stoic who was from Paul's homeland Cilicia).
2. What a great challenge to **read & know** what is going on all around us. **Be well rounded**.

K. **Slide8a [3] TESTIMONIAL** (John 9) [Blind man]

L. **Slide8b** A man born blind, that Jesus heals, shares his testimony, *One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see*. (25)

M. **Progressive Testimony: A man called Jesus. He is a prophet. If this man were not from God. Lord, I believe.**

N. *One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see!* [If you know only 1 thing...tell it]

O. **Slide9a [4] RELATIONAL** (Mark 5:1-20) [Former Demoniac]

P. A former demoniac is healed & tells his family & friends.

Q. **Slide9b** *Go home to your friends, & tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, & how He has had compassion on you*. (19)

1. So many skip this step...they get converted & stay away from family & old friends, in order to fellowship with new family & friends.
- R. Is there still family members of **yours** that don't know Jesus?
1. Still praying for them? - Any you given up on?
- S. **Caution:** Do you **over-identify** w/the **world** till no one knows you're a Christian? **Or**, Do you **separate yourself so far** from the **world** playing it safe w/little contact w/them?
1. **Slide9c** - Chameleon **or** monk. **Sad or Phar.**
Syncretism (unite together) **or** Sectarianism (separatist).
 - a) Recognize what **your** tendency is, & work against it.
 2. **Slide10 Contextualization.** The **Gospel never changes**, **yet** it must be **contextualized** (fitted/joined) to the **culture**, **or** to the **individual** that it is brought to.
 - a) **2 Boundaries:** **Don't** violate any Scriptural principles. **Don't** violate your own personal moralities.
- T. **Slide11a [5] INVITATIONAL** (John 4:29,30; 39-42) [Samaritan woman at well]
- U. **Slide11b** *The Samaritan woman at the well begged the people of the city to come and hear Jesus for themselves.*
- V. **Invite** is a friendly word: make a polite, formal, or friendly request to **someone**, to go **somewhere**, **or** to do **something**
1. You can invite people to **Jesus, forgiveness, or to have eternal life.**
 2. You can invite people to **come to church, crusade, concert, to hear the gospel.**
 3. **Slide11c** You can invite people to **know Jesus through tracts.** (**or** these flip flops)
- W. **Slide12a [6] SERVING** (Acts 9:36-43) [Dorcas (Gk); Tabitha (Heb); Gazelle (Aram)]
- X. Dorcas impacted her city by doing **deeds of kindness.** (see 36)
- Y. She didn't just **talk about** doing something, she **did it.**
- Z. **Slide12b** *A lovely soul gathered love by giving love.* Griffith Thomas
1. All Christians are summoned to the **practice** of love, **for** it reflects the character of God **&** authenticates the gospel we preach.

2. We also need to **pray** that **our loving presence** will lead to revealing **the source** of our love.

IV. Slide13a **SHARING OUR FAITH IS A PROCESS NOT AN EVENT**

- A. What I desire to do tonight is **not** to teach a **technique**...**but** to *ingrain a lifestyle*.
 1. They should not feel like someone's **project** **but** a **person** that is loved.
 - a) Seek to develop *authentic relationships*.
 2. **Ask yourself**: does my life reflect only *religious activity* **or** does it bear the mark of *profound love*?
- B. Slide13b **Pray** for more **passion** to get into conversations about the God you've fallen in love with.
- C. **Be Intentional** with your conversations. **Jesus** directed his conversations.
 1. We have choices in our conversations.
 - a) **Woman at the well**: He did not *manipulate* her, **yet** neither did he allow her to get *off track*. He was not molded by her presuppositions. Allowed questions **but** always brought back on track.
 - b) There is a world of difference between **persuasion & manipulation**.
 2. To have **purpose** & ultimate desires for a conversation, is **not wrong**. And, it's **not wrong** to learn a few principles of communication to help us get a conversation going. **Or**, to direct it toward *spiritual matters*.
- D. Slide13c Evangelism is just **one beggar** telling **another beggar** *where to find bread*.
- E. Evangelism in its truest form is *introducing our friends to Jesus*.
- F. Evangelism is a **Nobody**, trying to tell **Everybody**, about **Somebody**, that can save **Anybody**.

V. Slide14a **FOCUS ON AVAILABILITY RATHER THAN ABILITY**

- A. Remember that it's the **Holy Spirit** who ultimately *draws people* to Christ.
 1. You are not responsible for how people respond to the Gospel.
 2. Your job is simply to **lead them to it** **and** give them **opportunities** *to respond*.

- B. **And don't forget, our *humanity* is not a liability *but an asset*.** It was God's idea, *not yours*, to **make you human**.

VI. Slide14b **BUILD BRIDGES**

- A. Build bridges to the Gospel for people.
1. Find **common ground** with the people you're trying to reach, **and** use those areas you have in common *as the basis for meaningful dialogue*.
- B. **Earn the right to be heard**. Then build a bridge from a point of shared beliefs toward the Gospel.

VII. Slide14c **2 EARS, 1 MOUTH.**

- A. **So listen well**, giving people your full attention when they speak.
1. **Ask them, what *bothers* them about Christianity, the bible or other Christians?**
 2. **Reflect back** what you think you've heard them say, **paraphrasing** it to clarify whether or not you truly understand them.
 - a) When you understand people's perspectives more clearly, you're more likely to engage them in meaningful dialogue.
- B. **Don't** major on the minors. (*remember, they don't have an illegal drug problem, or a sexual morality problem, but a God problem. Let's talk about Him/not it!*)

VIII. Slide14d **QUESTIONS**

- A. Phrase your questions in non-threatening ways to minimize people's defensiveness.
- B. **Ask questions** that clarify the meaning of unclear terms they're using (for example, if someone says, *I'm a pretty good person so I'm going to get into heaven*, you could ask, **What do you mean by *good*?**).
1. Maybe use **trust instead of faith** (people often think of faith, a biblical term but has gotten bad press. Often misunderstood...as to being blind, believing w/o evidence, etc. **Trust in Jesus for your salvation. You trust the truthfulness and authority of the Bible**) **Conviction instead of belief**.
- C. **Penetrate their mask**. *We all wear one*.

IX. Slide14e DIGGING DEEPER

- A. Find the **real barriers** that are standing between them and Christ.
1. I like asking, *what is the 1 thing standing between you & Christ?*
- B. People often have **unspoken issues** that are getting in the way of them coming to faith in Christ.
1. They could be **intellectual**, understanding why Christianity is true.
 2. They may have **emotional** issues that are preventing them from considering the truth. (listen to their concerns, demonstrate compassion, **and** pray for them)
 - a) Determine whether the questions people are asking are **legitimate** or a **diversion** designed to avoid the truth.
- C. *****
- D. **Leonardo da Vinci** was once at work for a long period of time on a great masterpiece. He had labored long to create this work of art & it was near completion. Standing near him was a young student who spent much of his time w/his mouth wide open, amazed at the master w/the brush. Just before finishing the painting, da Vinci turned to the young student & gave him the brush & said, “Now, you finish it.” The student protested & backed away, but da Vinci said, “Will not what I have done inspire you to do your best?”
1. Jesus is *handing you the brush* tonight, be inspired by **Him** & by **His** examples.