

Reaching Out

Matthew 28:16-20 - *“¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted! ¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,^[b] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*”

Mark 16:15-18 - *“¹⁵ And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. ¹⁶ Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages.^[e] ¹⁸ They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.”*”

Introduction

This session I want to talk to you about one of the passions of my life, leading people to Jesus. I personally do not know another high as the high when you lead someone to Jesus Christ, the only other high is when you do what God tell you to do and then see it working!.

Now I know that many of you might not be put together like me, you might feel well that is good Pastor Martin, I am so glad you find it easy and have passion to lead people to God.

But I want to remind you that as born again children of God we are compelled to reach the lost. We are instructed to reach the lost , we are even commanded by the chief commanding office, Jesus Christ to go out and reach the lost!

Note is says GO – To go is a verb, that means it is a doing word, an acting, movement. It also means if we do not go, no one will come to Jesus Christ, it is also implied that if we do not go we are disobeying Jesus' command! God's Word says in **1 Samuel 15:22-23** – *“²² But Samuel replied, “What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.²³ Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.”*”

To Obey is better than sacrifice. We need to Obey God and GO out a lead people to Jesus Christ!

So we are commanded in no uncertain terms to GO. Where do we go? Everywhere God gives us opportunity to preach.

Everyone in this room has a unique reach, you have set of family members, no one in this room has access to. Each one here has a unique set of colleagues, a unique set of friends, and a unique people we interact with and who interact or touch our lives, which we will never reach unless you reach them!

Many of these people are totally lost and do not know the Lord. The fact is they are lost and on a way to a Christ less eternity unless we do something to tell them and give them the ability to choose between accepting and rejecting Christ.

The GAVEYARD Story – listen to the graves, they are talking – Why did you not tell me about Jesus? Why did you not give me the Good News? Why did you ignore your Christian duty and not tell me? Now I have to live a Christless eternity because you did not want to go!

You may be the only Jesus they will ever experience, and you might be the only person who will reach them or tell them about Jesus' saving grace. So please do not wait for others to lead your loved ones, your colleagues, your family and friends to the Lord. You do it, you reach them Today!

How are we equipped?

Many people say, I really do not have the power, will power or even the desire to witness to people about Christ Jesus.

Some may even say I want to lead people to Jesus Christ but I really do not know how to do that? I need training or be equipped to lead people to Jesus.

The Bible says that when we receive the Holy Spirit we will be His witnesses, in **Acts 1:8** - ***“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”***

The power to witness is not only about training and equipping, that is important, but what is most important is where the Holy Spirit is! Is He dwelling in your life. Have you accepted Him, have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit and received the power He gives!

Holy Spirit Transformation

Let's look at the disciple as an example. Before Pentecost they were just normal fishermen, tax collectors and average men. They were not trained as ministers of the Gospel of Christ, they never went to high school or university!

In fact most of the disciples were under the age of 20, on Jesus and Peter were older than 20 – How do we know that, it was part of the law for all the men of Israel over the age of 20, to pay temple tax!

Money for the Tabernacle

Exodus 30:11-16 ***“¹¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹² “Whenever you take a census of the people of Israel, each man who is counted must pay a ransom for himself to the LORD. Then no plague will strike the people as you count them. ¹³ Each person who is counted must give a small piece of silver as a sacred offering to the LORD.***

(This payment is half a shekel, based on the sanctuary shekel, which equals twenty gerahs.)¹⁴ All who have reached their twentieth birthday must give this sacred offering to the LORD.¹⁵ When this offering is given to the LORD to purify your lives, making you right with him, the rich must not give more than the specified amount, and the poor must not give less.¹⁶ Receive this ransom money from the Israelites, and use it for the care of the Tabernacle. It will bring the Israelites to the LORD's attention, and it will purify your lives."

Payment of the Temple Tax

Matthew 17:24-27 *"²⁴ On their arrival in Capernaum, the collectors of the Temple tax came to Peter and asked him, "Doesn't your teacher pay the Temple tax?"²⁵ "Yes, he does," Peter replied. Then he went into the house. But before he had a chance to speak, Jesus asked him, "What do you think, Peter? Do kings tax their own people or the people they have conquered?"²⁶ "They tax the people they have conquered," Peter replied. "Well, then," Jesus said, "the citizens are free!²⁷ However, we don't want to offend them, so go down to the lake and throw in a line. Open the mouth of the first fish you catch, and you will find a large silver coin. Take it and pay the tax for both of us."*

Here we have eleven disciple and other followers of Jesus. They all scattered and ran away when Jesus was arrested, Yes Peter tried to defend Jesus but then he denied he knew Him three times. At the crucifixion it was only the women and Jesus' mother and John who were recorded as being there. The others might of been there hiding in the crowd.

These people were hiding in the upper room when Jesus appeared to them. The next scene after Jesus' resurrection was this group meeting in the upper room when the Holy Spirit came upon them.

Up to this point Jesus had always been the spokes person, He had run the ministry, He had healed the sick, He was the main man!

Next we have the Spirit falling on them and immediately Peter is preaching to the crowd of 3,000 people and telling them about Salvation. (**Acts 2:1-41**)

What changed?

The Holy Spirit transformed them in to Witnesses for Christ!

How do we become Witness for Christ

So firstly in order to be witness of Jesus Christ.

- **We must be Born again**

You born again experience, your TESTIMONY, is one of the most powerful tools at your disposal when talking to people about Jesus Christ. Your testimony is a confession of What He did this for me, people want to know the experience is real!

The unbeliever says in his heart, if Jesus did this for him, surely He will do it for me and Faith raise in that person's life!

Also our Testimony is incredibly powerful it has the power to defeat Satan every time because what comes out our mouth is extremely powerful! Our Born again experience is so , **Revelations 12:11** say *"¹¹ And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony."*

- **We need the Holy Spirit in our lives,**

I will just give you a few reasons why the Holy Spirit is so necessary for a Born Again Christian. Actually I should preach it in a session.

The Main reason why the Holy Spirit is so important is because the Holy Spirit is so integral with a Christian Life Style. Maybe if I explain some of the benefits you will understand why Jesus said "It was better that He leave so that the Holy Spirit) came.

Here are a few benefits of the Holy Spirit

- He interceded before God on our behalf – **Romans 8:26-27** "²⁶ *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.* ²⁷ *And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.*
- He testifies that we are the Children of God and joint Heirs– **Romans 8:15-16**
- He will raise us to life after we die – **Romans 8:11**
- He is the deposit that we have eternal life – **2 Corinthians 1:21-22 / 2 Corinthians 5:5 / Ephesians 1:13-14/ Ephesians 4:30**
- He gives us gifts for service – **1 Corinthians 12:4-11**
- He gives us Godly characteristics which we call fruits which to live by – **Galatians 5:16-26**
- He gives us abundant life – **2 Corinthians 3:6**
- He gives us gifts for service – **1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

And much, much more. We ALL need the Holy Spirit in our lives.

- **We need to be baptised with FIRE!**

Luke says in **Luke 3:16** "¹⁶ *John answered their questions by saying, "I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."*

- **We must be willing and obedient**

It does not help us we are so anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit if we are not willing and obedient to obey whatever the Lord will ask us to do. As we saw earlier, Obedience is better than sacrifice.

So now we must go out and speak to people about the Lord Jesus, we need to bring the harvest in, starting today! Make a commitment to speak to at least one person about Jesus Christ each day! You do the talking, tell them about Jesus' salvation plan for mankind.

Allow your faith to rise up and bring the Good News to the nation of Malawi. God is looking for any man or woman who will say, "Yes Lord, use me!"

Methods

So how do we do it, how do we talk to people about Jesus Christ in a way that that person will want to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour!

We all have heard or been taught different method to lead people to Christ! I have too but today I will explain two simple methods which you can use.

The Paper Method

Get a blank piece of paper, with not crinkles or folds. Now tell the person, this is how God wants your life to be! Perfect, without any spot or blemish caused by sin!

Our lives when we are born look like this, we are born into sin and so we start to sin (start making small folds in the paper)

We tell lies, we swear, we steal, we do all kinds of sins (keep on folding different size fold for each sin, making them bigger and bigger eventually making the paper into a ball), until eventually our life is a mess.

We realise our lives are messed up and we try and fix up the mess.(Now start opening the ball and try flattening and getting rid of the creases)

We start straightening out our lives, we try not to lie, we try not to swear, we try everything but we creases / our sin is always there accusing us!

(Folding the paper back into to ball, put in in your left hand and make a fist) Jesus Christ came to this world. Lived as a man without any sin. He was crucified for your and my sins and paid the price (take the ball of paper and transfer it from your left hand to your right hand) so that your sins are removed and forgiven (open and show the person your left hand)

Do you (put the paper in your left hand again) want to take your sins and give them to Jesus Christ?(transfer the paper to your right hand) Do you want to accept His sacrifice for your sins and become His child?

If they say yes then say "okay let us ask Jesus to come into your heart?" – follow or pray a prayer similar to the one below under PRAYER!

John 3:16 Method

This is my favourite method because it speak to people without them realising they are talking about Salvation and it shows them their need to either accept or reject Him. Another reason it works for the educated or uneducated because we all are the same. Lastly you can do this method anywhere, in the ground, on a piece of paper, on a serviette.

You draw: a horizontal line on the top of the piece of paper with and arrow on the right! Write after the arrow EL (for Eternal Life) and Heaven

You say: God has a plan for man, the plan was for man to live with Him forever in a place we call **Heaven**.

You draw: a horizontal line at the bottom of the piece of paper with an arrow. After the arrow write death/separation/hell

You say: But man has his own plan and that plan ends in death or separation from God which we call **Hell**.

You draw: in the centre of the two lines and the centre of the page write the word SIN

You say: The thing that separates man from God is our sin. Our sin brings separation

You draw: Now start to draw a line for each of these next few things. The lines must be of different lengths from the bottom line upwards, no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up.

You say: So many times he tries to bridge this gap between Him and God. He tries to get to heaven.

You draw: Draw a line for each of the following as you say them

You say: He tries going to church

You say: He tries reading his bible

You say: He tries praying to God

You say: He tries to live a good life

You say: He stops swearing

You say: He starts giving money to the church

You say: But no matter what man tries to do the thing that separates him from God is his sin

You draw: Draw the left side of the cross, starting from a point over the S of sin, down to the word SIN and then left about 5mm from sin and complete the left half of the cross. Remember to end at the bottom horizontal line with an arrow.

You say: Now God has a plan, and that plan was Jesus Christ. He sent His son down to the earth to live as man, yet never sin. Jesus lived on the earth for 33 years, was crucified for our sins

You draw: Now draw the right hand side of the cross starting at the bottom line going up! To make a complete cross with the word SIN in the middle.

You say: He died and rose again, over 500 people witnessed His resurrection and then He ascended to heaven, making a pathway a doorway for man to receive eternal life and be God's child..

You draw: A slanted line at the right hand side base of the cross

You say: From this day everyone of us must make a decision to either accept or reject God.

You draw: Point your pen on the bottom horizontal line moving towards the word Death!

You say: If we choose to reject God the end of our life will be separation.

You draw: Now point with your pen and move over the bridge of the cross and when you reach the top horizontal line move right towards heaven.

You say: But if we choose to go through God's way, Jesus Christ, we cross over from Death to life

You draw: Now look at the person and say.

You say: You and I and everyone on this earth must choose sometime before we die to either accept or reject Jesus Christ. We must cross over the way God made and become God's child. Would you like to become a child of God and cross over the bridge which is Jesus Christ?

If they say yes then say "okay let us ask Jesus to come into your heart?" – follow or pray a prayer similar to the one below under PRAYER!

If they say no, say that's okay but know one thing that you need to make that decision. As things now stand, if you die you will go to hell and be eternally separated from God.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I thank you for dying on the cross for me. I confess that I am a sinner and I need You as my Saviour. I confess my sins before you and I repent of them now. I believe that you are the Son of God and that you are Lord! I believe that God raised you from the dead. I accept your death for my sins and I believe that my sins are now forgiven by You. I ask You Jesus Christ to come into my heart, I open the door of my heart and invite you into my heart. I close the door and give You the key. I believe that I am now Born Again and claim that You are my Lord and Saviour, in Jesus name Amen!

Now ask them where is Jesus now? The answer is in my heart! If they do not say that then explain again to them what they did.

When they say Jesus is in my heart, then ask them why? They should say because I asked Him into my heart!

Follow Up

It is very important that when you lead some to the Lord that you get their details and get them into a local church. Also let the pastor of that church know that you have brought in a new convert so that they can start their equipping.

Also remember to follow up yourself with the people. Make sure they have a bible, know where their local church is. Also teach them to read and pray as I taught before in a previous session .

Go out and lead people to Jesus Christ – **Matthew 28:16-20** and **Mark 16:15-20**

Let us Pray