

2 Kings 6:24,25,33-7:16 The Fight: On being a signpost entry, 7/5/2006, am

Readings: Acts 2:14-24, 36-41, Acts 18:24-28

Introduction

- What goes through your mind... witness/evangelism?
 - Billy Graham? Soap box orator? Yuck! Wouldn't do to that to my best friend!
- Yet all called to "be my witnesses", to be signposts
 - spend some time examining authentic evangelism...
 - the kind exhibited by the lepers...
 - the kind exhibited by Peter, Paul, Priscilla & Aquila, Apollos, etc, etc, throughout the NT
- *I've been helped by "Dare to be Different", Bill Hybels, as well as the chapter from "The Fight" by John White*

Motivation

- What should it be? Why bother

1. Stockpile

- cf lepers outside Samaria - 2 Kings 6-7. Had to tell good news!
 - eg, pearl of great price, riches beyond compare
- One beggar telling another where to find food

2. Agent 007

- we're sent, royal commission

3. Eternity

- Reality of hell.
 - eg, centrality of hell in Jesus' teaching - he confronted all he came across with it
 - or example of Willow Creek... a church for the unchurched "Whatever it takes" mentality - not playing church!
- (Lepers wouldn't want someone else's death on their consciences)

4. Party Starter

- Angel's rejoice
 - joy of new baby brother sister in Christ - EBC1 camp story
- Result of lepers news was great rejoicing!

Mindset

- If properly motivated, we are more likely to tell - stage 1 - what's next?
- Alter our priorities...
- If we think its important, it'll change our mindset
- Could at the moment be on career... family... even just having fun?
- Jesus invites us to have a new mindset
- Fishers of fish - come and be fishers of men
- Come and be preoccupied with reaching people
- Motivation says its important - mindset changes the way we live
- Steve Redgrave - motivation: medal; mindset: training, discipline

Manner (Style)

- All very well - I'm not Billy Graham! I'm not a soap-box orator!
- But God has created us all different, including style of evangelism.
- Spend some time exploring these - maybe you'll say "that's me!"

Relational

- Basic - all rest are applications of this fundamental
- Jesus - friend of sinners
- Friendship not conditional on response to Gospel
- Contact - Relationship - Communication - Discipleship
- Honesty - integrity

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- Me - understood only once married to Helen and I wanted to speak of her!
- Gerasene demon possessed man, sent back home by Jesus - not just full-timers
- Always ready to answer "How do I get what you have?"

Testimonial

- Story of how Christ is/has worked in your life.
- Often response - "whatever floats your boat"
- Sometimes - "that's just like me - tell me more!"

Confrontational

- Peter in Acts 2! Crowd of 1000s: "You crucified the wrong man! Repent!"
- Evangelism by frontal assault!
- Sometimes only way to get people to listen.
- Bill Hybels style - his wife says, "How could you say/do that?!"

Intellectual

- Perhaps you warm to thinking things through, answering people's questions.
- Love it when JW's come to door?
- Paul in Acts 17 in Athens - debating with philosophers.
- Peter's confrontational style would have had him thrown out!
- Or Apollos at end of second passage we read

Invitational

- Invite friends and neighbours.
- Implies having relationship with them.
- Without "inviters", the Billy Graham's of this world would get nowhere!

Serving

- Dorcas, Acts 9, especially service of the poor

I'm a Christian because...

- I was confronted at camp with the Cross during a talk...
 - but I was receptive because people played football with me
 - but I was at camp because my parents lived out gospel
 - I was at camp because someone else invited me to go
 - and I found out later many people were praying for me when I went to camp...
- Who led me to Christ? Boss Meiklejohn, who gave the talk? My group leader, who's name I can't remember? My parents? My SS leader who invited me to go to camp? The people who were praying for me?
 - wonderful thing is [all of them!](#)

Which Link are you?

- We'll come back to this in the Autumn:
 - hopefully run "[Lost for Words](#)" course again, and look in more detail on Sundays...
- [Motivated - Mindset - Manner](#)
- Many links in chain to Christ
- Which are you? Exercise your gift!
- 2 Tim 4:5 "[But you, ... do the work of an evangelist](#)"