

## GIVING THE GOSPEL

*The Single Focus ministry exists to help single young adults find and follow Jesus by knowing, loving, living, and giving the gospel to the glory of God.*

- *Giving the gospel:* have a habit of communicating the realities of Christ and His work to believers and unbelievers alike

### HAVE A HABIT...

- “Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny.” (Steven Covey)
- Habits certainly come from our thinking.
  - “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.” Luke 6:45
- When it comes to having habits of proclaiming Jesus to others, this means that we are doing a few things very purposefully...
  - **Purposeful thinking about Jesus**
  - **Purposeful preparing**
    - **Application:** Have a succinct Gospel message—gospel hand, Romans road, tracts; prayer
    - **Illustration:** Elevator evangelism (be ready to share the Gospel quickly)
  - **Purposeful practicing** (looking for opportunities)

## OF COMMUNICATING...

- We are always communicating something
  - **Verbal communication** → Eph. 4:26 — “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”
    - Corrupt (tears down)
    - Edifying (builds up...ministers grace)
  - **Nonverbal communication**
    - Importance of our *countenance*
      - Gen. 4:5b “And Cain was very wroth, and his *countenance* fell.”
      - Neh. 2:2 “Wherefore the king said unto me, ‘Why is thy *countenance* sad, seeing thou art not sick? This is nothing else but sorrow of heart.’”
      - **Question:** Does your face express the joy of the Lord that is in your heart? Do the lost see on your face that you have a peace that they don’t have?
    - Importance of our overall *lifestyle*
      - Phil. 1:27 “Only let your conversation (lifestyle) be as it becometh the gospel of Christ...”
        - **Application:** There are some gray areas that we might think are okay, but ask yourself this question: Will an unbeliever see you doing that ‘gray’ area and believe that you are a Christian? Seriously consider this principle. This should be a filter to your lifestyle. Does your decision in [this] area hinder or help your Gospel witness? Is your lifestyle worthy (speak well) of the gospel of Christ?

- Matt. 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your *good works*, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
- John 13:35 “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have *love* one to another.”

### THE REALITIES OF CHRIST...

- Just a reminder, the world outside of us is not the “real world.” The world outside of believers is being fooled by Satan, the great deceiver.
- Reality is what Scripture tells us about God and our world.
- Thus, everything that Scripture tells us about Jesus Christ is reality.

### ...(THE REALITIES OF) HIS WORK...

- Also, what Scripture tells us about what Jesus did, still does, and will do is also reality.
- When you are straying from Jesus Christ and His Word, you are living in a fake world, a world where Satan tries to rule. Living in union with Christ is as in touch with reality as you will ever be.
- **Application:** Write out a list of the realities of Christ and His work that will always encourage you.
  - When you are discouraged, do you remember the Christ who left this earth in order to leave the Comforter behind, the Holy Spirit of God?
  - When you feel like a failure, do you continue to “boast in your flesh” (Phil. 3:3) or do you choose to place your boasting (your confidence) in Jesus alone?
  - When you are successful, do you give all glory to the God who enabled you by His grace to be successful?
  - Every day, do you thank God for saving you?

- This was probably more of the “loving the Gospel” portion of our study, but it does provide some of the motivation that we have for giving the Gospel.

### TO BELIEVERS...

- Edifying
- Encouraging — bearing each other’s burdens
- Instructing
- Rebuking

### AND UNBELIEVERS ALIKE.

- What does communicating the realities of Christ and His work mean? What aspects must be included?
  - **Preach Jesus!**
  - **Preach His Word!** It alone has authority.
    - Romans 1:15-16 — “So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
    - Phil. 1:20-21 — “According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
    - Col. 1:27-29 — “Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.”
  - **Preach with the love of Christ!** “speaking the truth in love”
  - **Preach Christ as the Judge!**

- **Application:** Satan loves spreading the lie of tolerance around the world...that is, except for Christianity. Don't be a conduit of tolerance. Your unsaved friends must know that you disapprove of sin. That is a huge part of showing Jesus Christ in you. You still love them! Your love should stand out, and at the same time, you need to teach them the truth, confrontational reality of their sin and eternity—heaven or hell.
- **Application:** You know what Christian? We don't prefer to proclaim the negatives. We don't like to tell people that they are sinners. We don't like to tell them that they could very well end up in hell. But we *must* tell men that they are sinners. We must tell them that they are heading on a Hell-bent path.
- **Application:** Now, do you need to live differently? You better believe it. If you go to an ungodly environment with them and then try to show them how you're different and how Christ's Gospel is life-changing, your message will be hindered.
  - Matt. 5:13-16 "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
  - Be in the world, and not of the world.
  - **Illustration:** Russell Wilson saw a wicked movie and publicly proclaimed how awesome of a movie it was, while still claiming to be a Christian. Russell Wilson's comments from his Twitter account: "Thanks for the early showing of #50ShadesOfGrey late last night.. #Emerald City...Great movie." Later, he said in response to the backlash. "Saw a movie filmed in the town I call home.

Provocative/disturbing no doubt but that does not make me less Faithful...Have a blessed day!"

Do you think the world believes him when he says he's a Christian?

Here's the comment made in the article from the Seahawks blog, written by Nick Eaton, a man who appears to be an unbeliever. "Apparently Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson's commitment to the Lord doesn't stop him from seeing the raunchiest movie on the silver screen."

- Each of your Gospel stories sounds a little bit different. Each of us has a God-ordained path that we walk down...uniquely planned for us by our loving, Sovereign Heavenly Father. No matter what the situation was when you were saved...whether you are a first generation Christian saved from a horrible life, someone who was saved at a young age, or a rebelling prodigal who has come back to God and found communion with Him to be sweet, no salvation is any less or more amazing than another. When we pray for God to save souls and when we work towards that end, we are asking God to do a miracle, because every salvation is a miracle. If you are a child of God today, you have experienced a miracle. When you have the opportunity to lead someone to the Lord, you are witnessing a miracle.

## CONCLUSION

- Exhortation: Being a witness for Christ will not be any easier...
  - Christian friends are falling into ungodly lifestyles.
  - Churches are closing their doors.
  - Satanic worldviews appear to be succeeding.
  - Christianity is being attacked.
  - Someday, and someday soon, you will be attacked for your faith.
    - You will be told at work not to speak of Christ.

- You will be ridiculed for holding yourself to a Biblical standard of living.
- Have you ever considered that you could someday be arrested for your loyalty to Christ and His Word?! Yes, “all those who live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”
- You will be challenged to stand.
- You might even find yourself in the situation that a Christian teenager at Columbine High School. She had a gun to her head, her life dependent on confessing Christ or shrinking in fear. She died for her faith. It’s not too ridiculous to think that something like this is possible.

**Sow a thought** - Meditating on the Gospel

**Reap an action** - Talking about the Gospel with believers and unbelievers

**Sow an action** - Talking about the Gospel with believers and unbelievers

**Reap a habit** - Consistently talking about the Gospel

**Sow a habit** - Consistently talking about the Gospel

**Reap a character** - You can’t go through a day without talking about the Gospel

**Sow a character** - You can’t go through a day without talking about the Gospel

**Reap a destiny** - Being used by God to make an impact for eternity.