

**“The Local Church Part Fifteen: The Mission of the Church, Part Two”**

**INTRO:** Mt. 28:16-20; Mk. 16:15; Lk. 24:46-49; Jn. 20:21; Acts 1:8

**I. What is a witness?**

A. Webster's:

1. Noun = one that gives evidence; one who has personal knowledge of something; public affirmation by word or example of faith or conviction
2. Verb = to testify to; to act as legal witness of; to furnish proof of; to bear witness to one's religious convictions

B. Greek:

1. Martures = a witness who has observed something on a firsthand basis, by seeing, hearing, knowing, or experiencing in some way (Lk. 24:48; Acts 7:58; 1 Thess. 2:10; 2 Tim. 2:2)
2. Martureo = the action of bearing witness (John 15:27; 5:33; 18:37; 1 John 1:1-4; Rev. 12:11)
3. Marturia = testimony, usually in a verbal sense (John 1:19; Acts 22:18; Rev. 12:10; John 5:34)
4. Marturion = that which serves as a testimony or proof (Mk. 13:9; Lk. 21:13; 1 Tim. 2:6; Acts 4:33; 2 Tim. 1:8)

- A Christian witness then is *“someone who by firsthand experience (seeing, hearing experiencing) can establish the reality and certainty of Jesus Christ.”*

**II. Why witness?**

A. Because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ: Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15 (cf. John 14:15).

B. Because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of all men: Matthew 9:36-38; 13:49-50; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; I Peter 4:17-18; Jude 23; Revelation 20:15.

C. Because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel: Matthew 7:13; 13:49-50; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; I Peter 4:17-18; Jude 23; Revelation 20:15.

D. Because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ: I Corinthians 15:58; II Corinthians 5:10-11; I Thessalonians 2:19-20.

E. Because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of love: II Corinthians 5:14 (cf. Paul's example in Romans 9:1-3; 10-1).

F. Because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel: It is the only thing that works! Acts 4:12; Romans 1:14-16

G. Because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the message to us: I Corinthians 9:16-23; II Corinthians 5:18-20; I Thessalonians 2:4-8; I Timothy 1:11-16.

**III. How do we witness? WDJJ? John 4:1-42**

A. \_\_\_\_\_ to the lost – v. 4-6

- Why did Jesus have to pass through Samaria?

B. \_\_\_\_\_ conversation – v. 7-9

Bill Bright: *“witnessing is simply taking the initiative to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, leaving the results up to God.”*

- Why is it such a big deal that Jesus talked to this woman and asked her for water?

C. \_\_\_\_\_ to Spiritual Things – v. 10-12

D. Make them aware of their \_\_\_\_\_ (bad news: sin, death, judgment) – v. 13-18

E. Make them aware of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ – v. 19-26

- 1 Good News comes to those that are \_\_\_\_\_ by the Bad News
- 2 The answer is \_\_\_\_\_ religion
- 3 The Answer is \_\_\_\_\_

F. \_\_\_\_\_ others to be witnesses – v. 27-42

1 \_\_\_\_\_ v. 27-30

2 \_\_\_\_\_ v. 31-34

3 \_\_\_\_\_ v. 35-42

a. \_\_\_\_\_ Instruction v. 35-38

b. \_\_\_\_\_ Instruction v. 39-42

#### **FINAL OBSERVATIONS:**

- **Four things about the woman:**

1. She had ancestors that knew the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob. She knew the jargon that passed down from them (“prophet,” etc.).
2. She had never been substantially influenced by the religion of Israel.
3. Her life was somewhat out of control (five husbands, now a live-in boyfriend).
4. She was a “worshiper.” She asked important questions but not always in the language of Israel.

#### **Many people in America are like that today!**

1. They had ancestors that knew about Christianity!
2. People are exposed to Christianity but it has no influence on the way they live
3. People are out of control! (Drugs, sex, materialism, etc.)
4. People today are worshipers! (Nature, cults, occult, Islam, etc.)

#### **What will it take to reach secular people in America today? Five questions:**

1. Do we want to know secular people? (Jews did not associate with Samaritans)
2. Do we want secular people in our churches? (People that are not refined. People that are out of control and make us uncomfortable.)
3. Are we willing to go where they are? Are we truly on a Mission from God?
4. Are we willing to spend time with them?
5. Would we be willing to let them be a part of our church (hang ups and all).

#### **What do we learn from Jesus?**

1. He began where she was instead of where He wanted her to be
2. He engaged her in CONVERSATION (honest, open, two-way)
3. He used her language

4. He was genuinely interested in her. People are amazed to find out that God is interested in them.
5. He treated her with respect & dignity
6. He made her aware of her need & let her know that He could meet it!

### **What practical applications can we make?**

1. Write down the names of 10 people that don't know Christ; pray for them; spend time with them
2. Incorporate Evangelism Training in your Small Group!
3. Operation Lighthouse
4. Utilize witnessing tools (Jesus Interactive DVD; gospel tracts; etc.)
5. Plant churches
6. Give!

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is a Christian witness? How would you define it? Look at the definition on the outline. What firsthand experiences do you have with Jesus Christ that you can share with others to establish that He is real?
2. Of the seven reasons listed for “Why witness?” which one is the most compelling for you? Why that one? If a professing Christian friend were to ask you why they should witness, what would you tell them?
3. Look at Bill Bright’s definition of “witnessing.” Does that definition help you? If so, in what way?
4. Where are some places in your area where unbelievers hang out and would be open to talking? When will you go there and prayerfully take the opportunity to talk to people about Jesus?
5. Many people struggle with “transitions” from every day conversation to spiritual conversations. What are some transitions that you have found useful?
6. What are some examples of the “bad news” in the world today that we can point out to people and help them see their need for Jesus?
7. Has anyone ever equipped you to be a witness? If so please share how you were equipped. If not, please seek out someone to in the church who is a strong witness to equip you. After you have been equipped take someone under your wing and equip them!
8. What evangelism tools are you currently using? Which ones have you found the most effective? If you do not have any please go to the outreach table at church and get some this week!
9. Who are the top 10 people the Lord has put on your heart that need to hear the Gospel? What is your plan to go tell them about the Lord? Pray about your plan and “Go!”

[Answers to blanks: command; condition; consequences; coming; constraint; character; commitment; Go; Initiate; Transition; need; provision; humbled; not; Jesus; Equip; Model; Motivate; Mentor; Classroom; On-the-job]