

Our Examples

Lesson 3

I. Jesus Christ

- A. He is ever actively seeking sinners (Luke 4:18; 19:10; Mark 2:14; John 4:4; Matthew 9:36).
- B. Consider His personal conversations (John 3:1-15; 4:7-26; 5:1-9; 9:1-39; Luke 8:39; Mark 5:19).
 - 1. He used both direct and indirect approaches.
 - 2. He was always tender with recognised sinners. His scathing rebukes reserved for hypocrites.
 - 3. He usually led the unsaved to a confession of their sins rather than directly accusing them (John 4, 8).
 - 4. He refused to be sidetracked from the main matters of the soul by difficult theological questions (John 3, 4).
 - 5. He illustrated from the natural to the spiritual; from the difficult to the complex.
 - 6. He proclaimed truth plainly without regard for class or gender.
 - 7. He was never vague or indefinite about the nature, guilt, and dread consequences of sin, the absolute need of regeneration, and the work of God's grace in the heart. He did not sugarcoat man's condition before God. He called to repentance and faith.
 - 8. He used many illustrations. These were common and understood by all.
 - 9. He was tactful and kind.
 - 10. He was sincere and compassionate.

II. Paul

- The lifework of the apostle (Acts 20:20-21; 26:4, 31; 1 Corinthians 2:2; 3:6-9; 9:22; Romans 9:2-3).

III. Early Believers

- Of the 141 times in the New Testament the word **preach** is used, only 6 times does it mean a formal discourse. In most cases, it is simply one man telling others about Jesus. Consider these cases where the gospel is preached outside of a church setting – Acts 5:42; 8:4; 35; 17:18).

IV. Everyone's Responsibility

- Ezekiel 33:1-6; Proverbs 24:11-12; James 5:19-20; 1 Corinthians 9:16-27

Why is the Call Neglected?

I. Failure to Go

There is no waiting for the Spirit to draw the lost, though He does. There is no waiting for a better time, though there may be one. The clear command is to go (Psalm 126:6; Luke 14:23; Mark 16:15; Acts 20:20; Matthew 4:19). The seed is to be sown, not left in the barn (Haggai 2:19)

II. Failure to Speak of Christ

Shining one's light, letting others see Jesus in you, and other such nice ideas are not sufficient substitutes for proclaiming the gospel (Romans 1:16; 10:14; Acts 8:35; 10:34; John 12:32).

III. Lack of Urgency

We say that we have to go to work; we have to pay the bills; we have to go to the shop; we have to make it to the match;. Oh, that we felt that we had to tell others of Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:11; Acts 18:4; 19:26; 26:28; Luke 14:23).

IV. Hardness of Heart

- A. Consider Jesus' compassion for the lost (Luke 19:41)
 - 1. A shepherd for lost sheep (Mark 6:34)
 - 2. A physician for patients (Matthew 14:14)
 - 3. A benefactor for the hungry (Matthew 15:32)
 - 4. A comforter for the bereaved (Luke 7:13)
 - 5. A deliverer for the oppressed (Mark 5:19)
- B. Consider Paul's compassion (Romans 9:1-3).
- C. Consider Jeremiah's compassion (Jeremiah 9:1).

Oh Lord, teach us to care for the souls of men!

Fear and Attitudes Which Hinder

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5)

Excuse: I do not feel trained or qualified.

Answer: Obtain the training and become qualified.

- Supporting scripture: Proverbs 2:1-6; 3:13-18; Titus 1:9; 2 Timothy 2:15

Excuse: I do not feel led.

Answer: You have been commanded.

- Supporting scripture: Mark 16:15

Excuse: It does not do any good.

Answer: That is not for you to determine.

- In Luke 9:51-56, James and John deemed the Samaritans worthy of death because of their rejection of Jesus.
- In Acts 8:5-8, the Samaritans were saved when they gladly received Jesus through His disciples' preaching.

Excuse: It is not my gift.

Answer: All are given this duty regardless of particular spiritual gifts.

- Acts 1:8

Excuse: I am afraid.

Answer: Find help in the Lord.

- Courage is available (Jeremiah 1:8-10; Isaiah 12:2-3; 40:29-31; Joshua 1:9; Psalms 34:4; 27:1, 14; 56:3).

Excuse: Since I do not know who the Holy Spirit is dealing with, it would be a waste of time.

Answer: The sower and the seed. In Matthew 13 and corresponding passages, the Lord said to cast the seed everywhere – on good ground and bad.

Excuse: Someone else will go.

Answer: What if they do not? What if it is then too late?

Excuse: I will not be able to answer questions.

Answer: Stick to the gospel. If you are saved, you know how someone is saved. Tell that.

Excuse: My life is not what it should be to represent Jesus.

Answer: Repent and get your life in order so you can represent Jesus.

- Psalms 51:12-13; Hebrews 12:1

Excuse: It is the preacher's job.

Answer: This is a non-scriptural notion.

Excuse: I do not want to hurt someone's feelings.

Answer: You will hurt someone's feelings if you do not – those of the Lord and His church.

- The cross offends; this cannot be avoided (John 15:18-21; Matthew 5:11-12; Galatians 5:11).
 - It offends morality, for even good works do not satisfy God (Galatians 2:16).
 - It offends philosophy, for it appeals to faith, not reason (1 Corinthians 1:19-31).
 - It offends culture, for truth is revealed to babes, not intellect (Matthew 11:25).
 - It offends caste, for God saves the poor and humble with the rich (James 2:1-6).
 - It offends will, for it calls for surrender, not conquest (Romans 8:7-8).
 - It offends pride, for only grace can save the sinful soul (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Excuse: I will let me lifestyle do the work.

Answer: There is not a single verse of scripture in support of this.

- Philip opened his mouth (Acts 8:35).
- Peter opened his mouth (Acts 10:34).

It is clear from the list above that there is no valid excuse for not being a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. A believer's failure to testify can be owing only to a few factors:

1. We really do not believe that all men are lost and bound for hell without Jesus.
2. We really do not believe that men are saved by grace through faith, which comes by hearing the word of God.
3. We believe these things, but we do not have enough concern for the souls of the others.
4. Our pride hinders us. It may be the fear of rejection, loss of popularity or income, or possible persecution, but somehow self-love overrules love for God and man.