

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28: 19-20

What is the biblical meaning of evangelism?

In Christianity, **Evangelism** is the commitment to or act of publicly preaching of the Gospel with the intention of spreading the message and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Method of Personal Evangelism

In the encounter with the woman at the well, Jesus demonstrates His method of multiplication evangelism.

John 1:1-42 that describes Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well.

Pointed out here is how all three themes of John's book are brought out in this passage:

1. Jesus is tired and thirsty, and asks for a drink showing His human nature.
2. The Lord demonstrates His divine nature in revealing this woman's past.
3. We observe as she goes from disbelief to belief and how the village goes

Note the way that Jesus approaches the evangelizing of another person. Perhaps we can adapt this method to our own advantage today.

Personal evangelism

Everyone who has received the gift of salvation should have a desire to share that gift with others. We have received something precious because of the kindness and generosity of others. We ought to be ready to pass it on to others who have not yet heard or received the good news.

This process of sharing the gospel and bringing others to Christ is called "personal evangelism." Now when I'm teaching a Bible class, this is not personal evangelism, it is preaching and teaching in the assembly. When I write a blog post, that is mass media evangelism and teaching. When, however, I sit down with one person and share my faith or teach the gospel, this is personal evangelism.

In John 4:1-42 we see a pattern or method Jesus used in the work of personal evangelism.

Making and multiplying disciples

Now before multiplying, one must first make a disciple, and the passage in John reveals to us the process that Jesus used to accomplish this first and basic step of personal evangelism, and that is to convert one soul.

A disciple is a follower, a learner, one who is committed to following, learning and obeying Christ and only Christ.

Contact

The point of contact is anywhere when two people enter a conversation: any situation where two people connect in some way (sports, work, service, family, friends). Connecting with people.

Note that Jesus made contact by asking for a drink of water. Note also that He did not allow social, religious or barriers between genders at that time to stop Him from making contact with this woman. The rule about contact is that if the gospel is for all, then there should be no barrier we are not willing to cross in order to make contact.

The Call

Usually after a personal study, a discussion or a sermon, there is a call to decide to accept as true what has been shared.

In the case of personal evangelism, the call is to follow Jesus. Even at the preliminary stage, the call is to follow the Lord, even if it is from the far off position of curiosity and finding out more. No one was ever saved without making a series of decisions. No one gets to heaven by someone else's decision or by accident. If you have not made a conscious decision to become a disciple of Jesus, then you are not a disciple!

Jesus tells the woman, "I am the Messiah," He called on her to believe this but could not force her, it was her decision to believe or not to believe. All He could do was call on her to choose.

We do this when we invite to church, ask for a Bible study, encourage hearing the gospel; every one of these is a "call" to follow Jesus.

Conversion

At some point the entire good news is conveyed, sufficient proof is provided through study and a good Christian example.

The amount of time differs from person to person, but eventually everyone must decide to follow Jesus or not. Eventually we bring them to the point of expressing their faith in obedience to Jesus' commands of repentance and baptism.

Sometimes we fail here by going to extremes:

1. We never ask or encourage the person to make up their mind, to make a commitment. We think that they will come to it by themselves. Even Paul the Apostle, when he was brought to this point, only moved when Ananias pushed him with these words, "And now why do you delay? Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins calling on His name." ([Acts 22:16](#))

2. We also fail by asking too soon. We have only shared the basics, not developed a relationship, have not provided sufficient evidence. Faith grows at a slower pace than understanding. We may understand something without necessarily believing that it is true, right or good.

We rush to conversion and when people balk, we turn away from them instead of continuing to provide contact, challenge, proof, calling and encouragement to convert.

In the story of the woman we see her believing the proof Jesus gave her, confessing that faith by acknowledging her hope for a Jewish Messiah that would save her, a Samaritan. Today she would confess Jesus' name, repent of her sins and be baptized to demonstrate her conversion.

Consecration

The one who was formerly a non-believer, now becomes a believer and follower of Jesus. The convert, or new disciple, begins to act and sounds like a disciple.

For example, he begins to have a prayer life; read and study the Word; identify and assemble with the other disciples; find ways to serve the Lord with his own skills.

The woman, after her contact with Jesus, is immediately energized to share her brief but powerful encounter with Jesus among her family and community. Not everyone's consecration to service is as fast as the woman's, but not everyone is discipled by Jesus Himself.

“Bible Talk.”