

LBC Discipleship Course

Know Christ & Make Him Known Lesson 8: "How Can I Change The World?" (TC)

2011 Church Goal: 250 discipleship courses completed. For you to gain credit you must complete the homework and know one of the following memory verses or three of the following scripture references:

Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Mark 16:15 "And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**"

Revelation 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ

What is 750,000 miles long, could wrap itself around the earth 30 times, and it grows an additional 20 miles longer with each passing day? The line of people who do not know Jesus Christ. A study has been done that says only 2% of church members have led another person to the Lord! Why? Only 51% of Protestants feel a responsibility to share their faith with others (2006). That means 49% of Protestants don't feel the need to share their faith (Barna Research). For Christians to share the Gospel we must realize it is our personal responsibility to witness. The Bible confirms this.

I. Why is sharing the gospel important?

- a. Hell is real! (Revelation 20:15; 21:8; Luke 16:19-31, / "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments," Luke 16:23)
 - i. Most people do not share the gospel because they do not understand the reality of a place called Hell. It has been said that it would be better for a young man studying for the ministry to spend 5 minutes in hell, rather than 4 years in a Bible college!
 - ii. When Dwight L. Moody was in London during one of his famous evangelistic tours, several British clergymen visited him. They wanted to know how and why this poorly educated American was so effective in winning multitudes of people to Christ. Moody took the three men to the window of his hotel room and asked each in turn what he saw. One by one, the men described the people in the park below. Then Moody looked out the window with tears rolling down his cheeks. "What do you see, Mr. Moody?" asked one of the men. "I see countless thousands of souls that will one day spend eternity in hell if they do not find the Savior."
 - iii. When is the last time you personally considered someone who is not saved spending an eternity in a real place called Hell, only moments after they die?
- b. Jesus commanded us to go! (Matthew 28:18-20; John 20:21; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:6-8; Romans 10:13-15 / "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" Matthew 28:19).
 - i. Jesus did not suggest that we share the Gospel, nor did He ask, He commanded us to! Therefore the believer has two choices to make concerning sharing the Gospel, obedience or disobedience.
- c. It was the most important thing Jesus came to do and gave us to carry out! (Luke 19:10; I Timothy 1:15 - "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners")
 - i. Many evangelical churches today view caring for people's physical needs as the most important thing to do, such as feeding and clothing the poor, helping people with their water, electric, sewer bills and house payments. While these are good and important things for Christians to do, they are not the most important. People's spiritual needs are

much more important to meet than simply a physical need. That is why Jesus came to “seek and to save that which was lost”. These can be used as tools and help soften hearts, but the message of the Gospel must always remain central.

- d. It is our personal responsibility to share the Gospel! (Ezek. 33:8; Acts 20:26-27; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8 / “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15)
 - i. Many Christians today do not feel a personal responsibility to share the Gospel; they view it as a responsibility for the pastor or staff to carry out, or for other believers who are more “spiritual” than themselves. For the Christian, there is no greater responsibility than to faithfully proclaim the message of salvation to a lost and dying world.
- e. Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven! (Acts 4:12; John 3:3, I John 5:11-12; John 3:36 / “I am the way,...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” John 14:6)
 - i. According to the Bible, how many ways of salvation are there? One!

II. Why I do not share the Gospel?

- a. Have you ever shared the Gospel with someone before?
- b. Have you ever personally led someone else to Jesus Christ?
- c. The biggest hurdle in sharing the Gospel is “Put your name”.
- d. Write the one main reason you do not share the Gospel or haven’t in the past when you know you needed to - _____
 - i. We are afraid, so we hide it. (I Corinthians 4:3)
 - ii. We are spiritually asleep, which means we don’t think about it. (I Corinthians 15:34)
 - iii. We have a fear of not knowing what to say. (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - iv. Don’t feel it is our responsibility. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- e. For us to share the Gospel, we must make the “WHY I SHOULD” share the Gospel more important than “WHY I DO NOT”.

III. How do I overcome my fear of sharing the Gospel?

- a. Put yourself in last place! When we put the needs of other people ahead of your own thoughts, feelings, or needs, then sharing the Gospel is easy.
 - i. When we come to grips with the fact that there is a lost world dying and going to hell, it is easy to make yourself last.
- b. Present your life as a “living sacrifice” because it is “your reasonable service”. (Romans 12:1)
- c. Go soul winning or on visitation with someone who has been, and watch and learn.
 - i. Paul told the believers in Corinth: I Corinthians 11:1 – “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”
- d. Follow Christ closer
 - i. Matthew 4:19 - “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”
 - ii. John 15:5 – “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:”
- e. Set Goals
 - i. Set a goal to invite at least 1-2 people to Church every week, and then set a goal to share the Gospel with someone.
- f. Realize it is not your job to save people; it is your job to tell them.
 - i. Don’t be discouraged and upset if people do not get saved; be upset if you don’t tell them!
 - ii. Some people say they don’t share because they do not have the gift of soul winning. QUESTION: Is soul winning a gift? NO! Soul winning is not a gift, soul winning is a command. This means we should all be sharing the Gospel!
 - iii. What is our responsibility to the unbeliever? To tell them about Jesus.
 - iv. So if we share with 1 million people, and no one gets saved, have we fulfilled our responsibility? Yes!

- v. Whose job is it then to save them and bear the fruit? God's! (I Corinthians 3:6-7)
 - 1. If we faithfully share the gospel, we can be certain God will do His job and bring the increase. God blesses our obedience!

IV. **Let's be clear about the Gospel! What exactly is it?**

- a. Today there is much confusion about what the Gospel is. Most Christians are not effective in sharing their faith because they are confused as to what the Gospel is. If we don't know "what" the Gospel is, how can we tell others? There are also many "false" gospels being proclaimed today. (Galatians 1:6-10)
- b. The Gospel is the "good news" of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (I Corinthians 15:1-4)
- c. It is necessary for Jesus to have died for our sins, but if He did not rise again what would that mean according to I Corinthians 15:12-19?
 - i. We would still be in our sins. Our preaching and faith would be in vain. We would be most miserable. Our loved ones will have perished. There would be no resurrection.

V. **How does someone partake of the good news or Gospel of Jesus Christ?**

- a. Some say it is through baptism or keeping certain sacraments of the church. Once you "know" about the Gospel, how does it get applied to your life? How do you get saved? What is necessary? In order for someone to partake in the salvation that God has made available through Jesus Christ, there are three inseparable truths that must be evident in the sinner's life.
 - i. The first step in order for someone to be saved is for them to realize they are a sinner! (Romans 3:12; Romans 3:23)
 - 1. Without the knowledge of sin, the person has no reason to be saved!
 - a. Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
 - ii. Next they must understand the penalty for sin. (Romans 6:23; Luke 16:23)
 - 1. Everyone will face this judgment. No one is exempt!
 - a. Believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ. (Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10)
 - b. Unbelievers at the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15)
 - iii. Understand that Jesus died to pay for your sins!
 - 1. John 3:16; Romans 5:8
 - iv. Believe in Jesus Christ and confess Him as Lord and Savior!
 - 1. John 3:15-16 – "(15) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (16) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
 - v. The second step is for the sinner to repent of their sins.
 - 1. Repentance begins with a change in mind concerning sin that results in a change of action; the sinner turns from their sins and turns to Christ. This doesn't mean a sinner becomes perfect in his deeds, but true biblical repentance begins the work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life, Who then begins to transform the believer. He changes us, our desires, thoughts, and will. (Philippians 1:6,hath begun a good work in you....)
 - a. Luke 13:3, 5 "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."
 - vi. The third step is to confess Jesus Christ as their Savior.
 - a. Romans 10:8-10, 13 – "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; (9) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth

confession is made unto salvation. (13) For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

- b. Matthew 10:32 – “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.”

When an unbeliever believes in, or places their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, repents of their sin, and confesses or calls out to Jesus Christ to be their Savior, they are saved! This is known as “Conversion”. How can you change the world? Each one reach one! Who do you know that isn’t saved? What will you do now?