

Evangelism – Live the Life Mk. 16:14-20

Thesis: To encourage each of us to teach others the gospel of Christ.

Introduction:

When it comes to teaching others about Christ, we must live the right kind of life. We cannot be hypocrites when it comes to our faith.

Example: if you do not come to church on Sunday night (by choice), you cannot encourage others to be at all the services of the Lord's church.

Evangelism is not something we do, it is a lifestyle.

I. Jesus commands His apostles to go and preach the gospel (16:14-18).

A. Notice the circumstances surrounding this command.

1. Jesus has just been raised from the dead and is about to return to His Father.
2. Jesus rebuked His disciples because of their unbelief (16:14).
3. Christ was no longer going to be physically on this earth.
 - a. This meant that someone else had to do the job of spreading His word.
 - b. The job was given to His apostles.

B. The command that Jesus gave to His apostles was simple (16:15).

1. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (16:15).
 - a. A better translation for this command would be "as you go into all the world, preach the gospel to every creature."
 - b. The command was for them to preach as they went throughout this life.
 - c. They did not have any means of mass transportation or communication.
 - d. This would mean that it would be difficult, yet it was something that they had to do.
2. They were given signs that would allow them to confirm the word (16:17-18).
 - a. These signs were given strictly so that others would believe that their words were from God.
 - 1) Jn. 20:30-31 - And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; {31} but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

2) **Heb. 2:3-4** - how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, {4} God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

b. Today, because we have the written word, we have no need of miracles to confirm the word of God (**I Cor. 13:8-10**).

C. While it was the apostles' duty to go and preach, it was up to the individual being taught to respond to the gospel (16:16**).**

1. It was not up to the apostles to force someone to obey.

2. It was up to the individual to obey the gospel.

II. The apostles fulfilled this command (16:19-20**).**

A. The apostles "**went out and preached everywhere**" (**16:20**).

1. They fulfilled the command of Jesus.

2. They also took these signs with them so that the word of God would be confirmed in them.

B. Notice the fulfillment of this command throughout the book of Acts.

1. **Acts 2**

a. Peter stands before the people on the Day of Pentecost.

b. On this occasion, about 3,000 souls were added to the church.

2. **Acts 3-4**

a. Peter and John heal a lame man just before entering the temple.

b. Because of the great crowd that gathers after this miracle, they preach the gospel at Solomon's Porch.

c. After this occasion, the church grew to about 5,000 men.

3. **Acts 5**

a. The apostles were arrested for preaching and healing.

b. However, even after they were arrested and freed by God, they continued to preach the gospel.

4. **Acts 6-7**

a. Stephen is being put on trial because of his faith in Christ.

b. Just before being killed, he preaches of Christ.

5. **Acts 8**

a. There was a great persecution in the church that was brought about by Paul.

b. **Acts 8:4** - **Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.**

C. The point is that the church preached the gospel as they went, just as Christ had commanded.

III. Today, this command applies to us.

- A. It is our duty to “go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”
 - 1. This has always been required of every Christian.
 - 2. It does not mean that we have to go across the world; but it does mean that we have to teach Christ as we go.
 - 3. Evangelism is a lifestyle that we all must have; just like the New Testament church.
- B. Remember the credentials of those that were originally given this command.
 - 1. The credentials of the apostles were not that good.
 - a. Four of the apostles were fishermen.
 - 1) Fishermen were not known for their cleanliness (both physically and in language).
 - 2) They were some of the most foul-mouthed individuals that existed.
 - b. One (Matthew) was a tax collector.
 - 1) Tax collectors were despised by the public.
 - 2) According to most people, there was no worse occupation to have.
 - 2. In fact, they were seen by the leaders of the Jews as those who were not smart people.
 - a. The apostles were not known for their education.
 - b. Acts 4:13 - Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.
 - 3. However, it was these apostles that “went out and preached everywhere.”
 - a. Col. 1:6, 23 – The indication is given that the gospel had been preached to the entire world at that time.
 - b. If these apostles, with these credentials, could preach the gospel, it stands to reason that we should preach the gospel as well.
- C. While it is our duty to go and preach, it is the duty of the one’s being taught to obey (16:16).
 - 1. Our command is simple: “Go...and preach.”
 - 2. If those who we teach believe the gospel and are baptized, they will be saved.
 - 3. If they do not believe, they will be condemned.

Conclusion:

Today, are you actively teaching the word of God to others?