

4. Learning to Make Contacts for Evangelism

In our last topic, we talked about learning to cross the barrier of fear in evangelism. We saw that there are two basic factors in learning to witness without fear. First, we need to be shown how to share the Gospel clearly by someone else sharing the Gospel while we observe enough times until we can explain the Gospel clearly and lead a person to Christ. Second, each time before we try to share the Gospel, we need to yield ourselves to God through prayer so that we witness in the power of the Holy Spirit instead of our own strength.

Today, we would like to focus on the second barrier: the barrier of learning to make contacts for evangelism. We saw from observing what the twelve did that they learned to share the Gospel first with relatives, friends, co-workers and other acquaintances. However, once they had learned to share the Gospel with these four groups, then they had to learn how to make contacts in order to share the Gospel.

The disciples had known Christ and had traveled with Him and observed Him for about twenty-one months before Christ sent them out two by two to share the Gospel. As we compare the accounts in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, we learn several very important lessons about how to make contacts for the purpose of evangelism. Since this was the first time Christ sent them out without going along with them, He gave them very specific instructions. He told them:

- Do not go into the way of the Gentiles - Matthew 10:5 (here, we see that Christ knew that they would learn to make contacts best if they did not have to cross the language barrier at this point)
- Do not enter into any city of the Samaritans - Matthew 10:5 (here, we see that Christ knew that they would learn to make contacts best if they did not have to cross the barrier of another culture, religion or ethnic group at this point)
- Go, rather, to the lost sheep of the house of Israel - Matthew 10:6 (Christ knew it would be easiest for them to learn to make contacts within their own culture first)
- Christ sent them forth two-by-two - Mark 6:7 (Christ knew it would be easiest to learn to make contacts with strangers if they did not have to do it alone)
- Christ told them to find out who was worthy (respected) when they first entered a city - Matthew 10:11 (Christ knew that they would find it easier to make contacts in that city if they began with those who were respected because those who are respected would have a network of contacts)
- Christ told them to greet the people when they entered a house - Matthew 10:12 (Christ knew the importance of building relationships before starting to share the Gospel)
- Christ said that if a house was worthy, to let peace come upon it - Matthew 10:13 (Christ knew that most people will let someone pray for them and told them to pray that they would know the peace of God)
- Christ also told them to be prepared for some to reject them - Matthew 10:14 (Christ knew that they would need to expect some rejection so they would not take it personally when that happened)

Before we go out to make contacts, we need to personalize the prayer in Ephesians 6:19. Pray...

“for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel.” We need to pray that God will give us His strength to speak boldly.

In order to make effective contacts for evangelism, we need to go to people and make contact with them where they live, work, and spend their free time. The book of Acts illustrates many of the most common places where we will make contacts with people: in their own homes or the homes of friends - Acts 10:24, 27, in their religious meeting places - Acts 14:1, 16:13, in the jails - Acts 16:24-27, in the marketplace - Acts 17:17, in their public meeting places - Acts 17:19-34, where they worked - Acts 19:1-3, in schools - Acts 19:9, publicly and from house-to-house - Acts 20:20-21. May the Lord richly bless you as you make new contacts for evangelism.