

#### 4. Sharing One-to-One for Evangelism

In our last topic, we gave a general introduction to sharing one to one (meetings from house-to-house). We mentioned that there are several types of one to one Bible studies:

Evangelistic Bible studies - John 3 and 4

Follow-up Bible studies – Acts 18:24-26

Growth Bible studies – Luke 10:39

Ministry equipping Bible studies – 2 Timothy 2:2

Specialized training Bible studies and many others – Acts 28:30-31

Today, we would like to focus on the first type of one-to-one Bible study mentioned above – the evangelistic Bible study. One of the things that we see in the ministry of Christ is that He spent a lot of time in the homes of people. Christ went to the homes of people with all types of backgrounds. These included:

- A fisherman – Mark 1:29-34
- A house whose owner is not named – Mark 2:1-12
- A tax collector (Matthew) – Mark 2:14-17
- A man whose home was in the tombs – Mark 5:1-20
- A certain ruler – Mark 5:21-43
- A house among the Gentiles – Mark 7:24-30
- A home of a Pharisee – Luke 7:36-50
- The home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus – Luke 10:38-42
- The home of one of the chief Pharisees – Luke 14:1-6
- The home of Zacchaeus – Luke 19:1-10
- The home where Christ was staying – John 1:35-42
- The home where a wedding was being held – John 2:1-11
- The home where Nicodemus visited Christ – John 3:1-21

In addition to this list, Christ visited many other homes. These are just some of the homes where Christ was making His first recorded visit. That meant that, in each of the above homes, Christ was visiting these homes for the purpose of evangelism.

One of the things we notice about many of these visits to homes is the fact that Christ has some of His disciples with Him as He visited these homes. This meant that Christ had a double purpose as He visited these homes. For those He visited, Christ had the opportunity to share the Gospel with people in their homes. However, for the disciples who were going along with Christ, they were being trained how to share the Gospel with people in their homes.

Peter learned from the example of Christ the importance of training others for evangelism by taking them with him when he went to share the Gospel with others in their homes. In Acts 11:12, we read, “Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house.” Peter took six brothers along with him when he went to share the Gospel in the house of Cornelius. That gave the six brethren the opportunity to see how Peter shared the Gospel with the Gentiles and helped to prepare them for the

opportunities that they would have in the future to share the Gospel.

The book of John gives us two examples of Christ having an evangelistic Bible study with one individual. There are many lessons that we can learn from the way that Christ shared the Gospel with Nicodemus and with the Samaritan woman at the well. In John 3, we see that Christ used confrontation as He shared the Gospel with Nicodemus. In John 4, we see that He used compassion as He shared the Gospel with the Samaritan woman.

In John 3:1, we see that Nicodemus came to Christ at the place where Christ was staying. The first thing that we notice is that he came by night and alone. Many people are interested in learning about Christ, but will never show that interest publicly because of fear (in the case of Nicodemus it was fear because of his position – he was a ruler of the Jews). If we do not meet such people in their homes or some other private place, they will never hear the Gospel because they will not go to a church service where they will be seen by others. If we do not go to such people where they live, work, or spend their free time, they may not have the opportunity to hear the Gospel.

We also see that Nicodemus recognized that God was with Christ. Since Nicodemus was a religious leader, who knew the Old Testament but was depending on his own efforts to be right with God, Christ confronted him by telling him that, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” – John 3:3 By this statement, Christ aroused the curiosity of Nicodemus which caused him to ask two questions, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” In this verse, we see that Christ was helping Nicodemus understand that he was separated from God.

Christ took the questions and used them to explain the difference between physical birth and spiritual birth. Christ pointed out to Nicodemus that he must have both a physical birth and a spiritual birth in order to enter the kingdom of God. Christ also used a very common illustration which any person could understand – the wind. (In using illustrations, we want to choose something the other person understands and can relate to, not just an illustration we understand.) This caused Nicodemus to ask another question, “Nicodemus answered and said to Him, ‘How can these things be?’”

Christ then used a Biblical illustration from Numbers 21:5-9 to introduce the love of God for Nicodemus and for the whole world. This illustration showed Nicodemus that only through Christ, the only begotten Son of God, would Nicodemus be saved and have eternal life. Christ also told him that He did not come to condemn the world but rather that He came to save it. Then, Jesus concluded this evangelistic Bible study by helping Nicodemus to realize that He had a choice – He could believe and escape condemnation or he could remain in his state of being condemned already.

In John 4, we see that Christ had an evangelistic Bible study with the Samaritan woman. The first thing we notice is that Christ chose to meet her in a public place. Since Christ was talking alone with the woman, He chose to talk in a place where others could see them and there would be no question of His integrity and character.

Christ began their conversation with a request for a drink of water. The first response of the woman displayed the hostility of the Samaritans toward the Jews. Christ showed her that He accepted her by accepting her opinion about the Jews. However, Christ also used her response to offer her living water (verse 10 and verse 14). This caused her to become curious, and she started to treat Christ with respect, since He had shown respect to her.

When the woman asked for that living water, Christ did not rush for a quick decision. Instead, Christ told her to get her husband so that both of them could hear how to have eternal life. (We also need to keep our focus on reaching the whole family not just one individual.) The woman immediately answered, “I have no husband.” Instead, of condemning her for her lifestyle, Christ twice complemented her for telling the truth. At the same time, He also helped her to realize that He knew all about her and still accepted her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ ‘for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.’” (verses 16-18)

The woman immediately tried to change the subject by asking which was the right place to worship. (today, people question which church is the right church). Christ answered that question by showing that it is not where we worship, but who we worship, as verses 23 and 24 say, “‘But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.’” That gave Christ the opportunity to introduce Himself as the Messiah.

As the woman went back to the town to get others to come and meet Christ, He took the opportunity to help the disciples, who had returned, to expand their spiritual vision. He helped them to see that the Samaritans also needed Christ. (verses 27-38) Notice, again, that Christ used this both as a time to reach the woman, and many other Samaritans, and also as a time to train His disciples and expand their vision. We will also accomplish both as we take others with us as we go to the homes of people to share the Gospel with them.

The result of this evangelistic Bible study is seen in John 4: 41-42, where we read: “And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, ‘Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.’” What began as a one-to-one evangelistic Bible study resulted in the Gospel being shared with a whole town, as well as an expanded vision for the disciples.

The Lord will use you as you go to the homes of people and pray that the Lord will give you opportunities to have evangelistic Bible studies with them. May the Lord richly bless you as you yield yourself to the Lord and allow Him to work through your life to reach others for Christ through evangelistic Bible studies.