

Sharing God's Love with Others

Class Outline

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 - D. To the nations (Mark 16:15, Matthew 24:14)

Sharing God's Love with Others

One of the most wonderful aspects of becoming a Christian is that we get to spend eternity with Jesus! Heaven is ours! Our ticket is punched and we're in!

This is wonderful, to be sure, but if that is all there is to being a Christian, why doesn't God take us to heaven as soon as we turn our lives over to Him? The reason is that there is work to be done here on the earth!

Very likely you came to know Jesus because someone told you about Him. They may have invited you to church or a Bible study. They may have shared about Jesus around the water cooler or in the lunch room.

Although the methods vary, the fact is that God uses people, just like you, to share His love with others. The exciting thing is that there are no requirements. No degree is needed. No experience necessary. It's simply just sharing His love in your heart with others. Jesus commanded it and we get to carry it out. How exciting!

From the Bible...

"Jesus came and told His disciples, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"

Matthew 28:18-20 (New Living Translation)

When You Look at The World, What Do You See?

Every day we are confronted with the reality that things in this world are not as they should be. When you turn on the news you are greeted by a steady stream of murders, robberies, and natural disasters. Flip the channel and you will find the latest lineup of shows celebrating violence and sexual immorality. Walk outside and you will find neighborhoods full of people who seem to not care at all about spiritual things.

When faced with such a mountain of challenges, too often the tendency is to either run away from the problem or condemn the world. Yet this was not how Jesus saw the world or how he approached people. Jesus lived and died FOR the world.

Matthew 9:36–37 says: “He felt great pity for the crowds that came, because their problems were so great and they didn’t know where to go for help. He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is so great, but the workers are so few.’”

When Jesus looked at the world, He saw a land of opportunity - a world forsaken that had become a bountiful harvest.

Jesus didn’t deny the problems of the world, but was so confident in a solution that he was more concerned about the laborers than he was the problems themselves. His heart broke for the crowds that surrounded Him, because His desire was to see the world restored.

Matthew 14:14 says: “A vast crowd was there as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.”

The word “compassion” as it is used in this context is expressive of the deepest emotion; a yearning of the innermost nature with pity. It is believed that the early church coined this word to express the depth of Jesus’ concern for the people around Him. Jesus desires the same depth of compassion to be represented through our lives to the extent that it brings healing to the entire world.

How Did We Get Here?

Obviously, it was not God’s desire for man to be in sin and separated from God. Let’s look at the process of what happened.

Original purpose – Born to rule

We were born to rule. Genesis 1:27-28 says: “So God created people in His own image; God patterned them after Himself; male and female he created them. God blessed them and told them, ‘Multiply and fill the earth and subdue it.’”

God created mankind in His image and blessed it. Just as God rules, we were created to rule over everything in this world and live blessed and prosperous lives.

Fallen state – A world cursed

So what happened? Genesis 3:16-17 says: “Then he said to the woman, ‘I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.’ And to the man he said, ‘Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.’”

This verse tells us how the sin of Adam and Eve caused mankind to come under a curse. This curse is what keeps mankind from living the blessed and prosperous lives he intended, and is the direct cause for the condition of the world today.

2 Corinthians 4:4 says: “Satan, the god of this evil world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe.” So, although Jesus broke the curse, the world still lives under it because they are blinded to the fact that they can now be FREE from the curse.

God’s plan – A world redeemed

Galatians 3:13 says: “But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon Himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.’”

The death of Jesus on the cross broke the curse over our lives forever. This was the reason Jesus came to this world. John 3:17 says: “God did not send His Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.” Jesus came to save people and rescue them from the curse, so that they could live in perfect health, lacking in nothing. And the most exciting thing is we each have a part to play!

What Can I Do About It?

Luke 12:48 says: “Much is required from those to whom much is given, and much more is required from those to whom much more is given.”

Since we have been given the greatest gift of all, we have an obligation to share that gift with others. So, what do we do?

Go – Take action

Matthew 28:18-20 says: “Jesus came and told His disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”

These verses are known as the Great Commission. These were the last instructions Jesus left for His disciples before he ascended into heaven. Notice the first action word that Jesus uses. He tells them to go. The word “Go” implies action. The world is not going to come to us. We need to go to the world. This was the example of Jesus.

Acts 10:38 says: “And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”

When Jesus was filled with this Holy Spirit, He went around doing good and healing all. Now Jesus wants US to go, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to do even greater things than He did!

Give – Hold nothing back

When Jesus sent His disciples out in Matthew 10:8, he told them to “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!”

We all have something to give to others and no gift is insignificant. Whether it is your time, your money, or your life, you have something to give... and the world needs what you have! If the life we live is a gift, then we need to give it away holding nothing back!

Love – No strings attached

The important thing to understand is in order to give freely we need to love freely. John 3:16 says: “For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son.” Love is the source of giving - and God is love!

1 Peter 4:8 tells us that “love covers a multitude of sins.” The world is full of sin. The only thing that will rid this world of sin is the unconditional love of God expressed through His people. This kind of love believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. It never fails!

Revelation 12:11 says: “And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.”

This provides a picture of world-changing love. After all, what else is going to change the world, if not love? Don't be afraid to give your life for love: Jesus did!

Make Disciples – Not converts

Matthew 28:18 tells us to make disciples. So what are disciples and how do we make them? A disciple is simply a disciplined follower or learner.

God told us to be fruitful and multiply. When you love in a marriage you reproduce children. When you love in the kingdom of God you reproduce disciples.

In the same way children need to be trained, disciples need to be trained to live and love as Jesus did. We need to live a life that others want to follow... and most importantly know that to effectively make disciples we must be a disciple. Nobody will follow you if you are not willing to follow someone else.

What Do I Say?

Romans 10:14 says: “And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells him?” Our voice is a powerful tool that we can use to share God's love with others.

God's thoughts - your voice

The first thing to realize is that the words we speak are powerful. They have the power to transform the world around us and move whatever mountains stand in our way.

All too often, however, we fail to speak because we inwardly believe our words will not make a difference.

In the Bible, there is an example of a young prophet making the same excuses we often make. Jeremiah 1:6-7 says: “O Sovereign Lord,” I (Jeremiah) said, ‘I can’t speak for you! I’m too young!’ ‘Don’t say that,’ the Lord replied, ‘for you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you.’”

Look at God's response. When you speak for God, he will put His words in your mouth. Whether you've known God for 30 days or 30 years, His words through your voice will powerfully transform the world around you!

The power of your testimony

If you want to reach out and share God's love with others, a great way to start is by sharing your testimony with people.

Your testimony is your own personal account of how God has changed your life. No testimony is insignificant. There is no greater miracle than a life changed by Jesus. When you share your testimony, you are sharing something that is deeply personal.

The world is longing for something that is real. When you share your testimony, you are sharing something that can be very relevant to others.

In Acts 22 and Acts 26 you can see examples of Paul sharing his testimony. He did this because he was fully convinced of the power of God at work in his life. We need to be convinced of that same power in our life. People will connect with that reality.

Where Do I Go to Share the Gospel?

Mark 16:15 says: “And He (Jesus) told them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere.’”

Everywhere you go is a great place to share about Jesus. Here are some examples of places you can go to tell people about His awesome love!

To your family

Acts 10 tells the story of Cornelius. Cornelius had sent for Peter after receiving a vision. Verse 24 says: “They arrived in Caesarea the following day. Cornelius was waiting for him and had called together his relatives and close friends to meet Peter.”

Nobody needed to tell Cornelius to bring his family. He knew that God had something special for him and he wanted all of his family to be a part of it. Your family is no less important.

To your neighborhood

The Bible tells a story of Jesus meeting a Samaritan woman by a well. After this encounter with Jesus, we see the reaction of the woman. John 4:27 says: “The woman left her water jar beside the well and went back to the village and told everyone...” It goes on to tell us that many people believed because of her testimony. The power of YOUR testimony has just as much power to change your neighborhood and city!

