

How to Bring in the Harvest – A Biblical Strategy (Luke 10:1-9)

- Very few churches, evangelists or church-planters have an evangelism strategy. Many well-meaning Christians believe if they faithfully and consistently preach the Gospel every day they will get results– but without a strategy the results will be minimal at best.
- Others have substituted evangelism tools for a strategy. The “mass” use of one or two evangelism tools is not a strategy.
- According to the Oxford Dictionary a tool is a device or implement, especially one held in the hand, used to carry out a particular function.
- On the other hand (pardon the pun) a Strategy is 1.a plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall aim 2.the art of planning and directing overall military operations and movements in a war or battle.
- BROTHERS AND SISTERS we are engaged in a war for the souls of men. We need to be strategic. In evangelism, a strategy is the “framework” in which tools are used. Even the best evangelism tools have limited impact without a good strategy.
- Moses and Aaron had a tool- a rod, but God gave them the strategy for its use. With a rod they produced plagues, parted a sea, won battles, and freed a nation.
- By all means, use what’s in your hand but do it in the context of a GOD BREATHED EVANGELISM STRATEGY.
- Is there such a thing as a Biblical Evangelism Strategy? YES!!!
- On two occasions, JESUS THE MASTER EVANGELIST taught His disciples an evangelism strategy. The first (Matt 10:1-14; Luke 9:1-6) was when he sent out the 12; the other when Jesus sent out the 70 (Luke 10:1-9). On both occasions Jesus gave an almost identical STRATEGY.
- Many have missed seeing these passages of scripture for what they were or dismissed these them as culturally irrelevant or out-dated (NEVER); They need only be contextualized – adapted to apply to a different time and culture.
- ...SO WHAT IS THIS STRATEGY? Let’s look at Luke 10:1-9

1 After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. 2 Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest. 3 Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. 4 Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road. 5 but whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ 6 And if a son of

peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you. 7 And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the labourer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house. 8 Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. 9 And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' Luke 10:1-9

Here we see SIX STEPS into the heart of a community...

Step1: Work In Groups of Two.

1After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.

- There several reasons why Jesus Sent them out by two's
 - ✓ 1st: Two people can do more than one person can by themselves.
Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labour. Ecclesiastes 4:9
 - ✓ 2nd: For Protection and Support.
Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes 4:12
 - ✓ 3rd: More Power in Prayer.
"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven." Matt 18:19
It helps for one person to pray while the other is ministering.
 - ✓ 4th: Corporate Anointing.
"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." Matt 18:20
 - ✓ You tend to learn from each other as you observe each other witnessing. It's an important part of the discipleship process.
 - ✓ When there are two of you, one can deal with any distractions while the other witnesses.

Step 2: Ask the Lord to release more Soul- Winners.

2 Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.

- There are really only a few verses that show us how to pray for the lost, Luke 10:2 is probably the best known. Here Jesus didn't instruct us to pray for the harvest; our prayer is for the Lord to send out workers. In this next instruction He didn't even ask us to pray for a future crop!

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” John 4:35

- Understand that the crop is already ripe for the picking- there are fields of them. The problem is finding the workers to bring them in. But as much as we pray for workers we must also realize we are to be the answer to other Christians’ prayers. We need to be available.
- John 4:36-38 makes several other points worth consideration.
 - ✓ 1st: There is a reward for the harvesters! *“And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together”v.36*
 - ✓ 2nd: The way has been prepared in advance! *“For in this the saying is true; one sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you have not laboured, and you have entered into their labours.”v.37, 38*
 - ✓ 3rd: The primary objective is to reap. *Though both “reapers” and “sowers” are important, the Saviour wants us to keep focused on “bringing in the harvest” (John 4:36, 38)*

Question: How does God “send”? Does He grab hold of you and force you to preach? Does He speak to you and threaten you with dire circumstances if you don’t become a witness? ... Of course not! ... For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Any true motivation must come from love. Ask God to put love for the lost in others hearts but also in yours.

Step 3: Trust in God’s Provision.

3Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. Carry neither money-bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road.

- Later in Luke 22:36 Jesus (just before He went back to Heaven) revoked this instruction. *Then He said to them, “But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.”*
- This does not change the fact that we are called to live in faith for God’s provision (*Hab.2:4, Rom 1:17, Gal.3:11, Heb.10:38*).
- Jesus instructed us to pray *“Give us this day our daily bread” Matthew 6:11*
- Trust God for your provision- Apparently Priests on their way to the Temple in Jerusalem were not supposed carry money or provision’s just in case they were side-tracked from their principle mission.

- *“and greet no one along the road”* ... Jesus is essentially saying, “Don’t get side-tracked worrying about provision, focus on your mission, don’t even greet anyone on the road”
- It is foolish to worry about something God has already promised to give you
- Matthew 6:33 says, *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* If this is true (and it is), two things that will stop you receiving provision are...
 - ✓ Inaction- not seeking first the Kingdom and,
 - ✓ Lack of righteousness- not seeking God’s righteousness
 - ✓ The third is lack of faith: 6 *“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” James 1:6-8*
- Remember; if its Gods will its Gods bill!!! Don’t let Inaction, lack of righteousness or lack of faith rob you of provision anymore. Trust Him to provide for your every need as you win the lost.

Step 4: Find the House of Peace.

“But whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ 6 And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you. 7 And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the labourer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house”.

- Whatever home we enter we are to bring peace to.
 - ✓ Don’t be unnecessarily confrontational
 - ✓ Don’t be judgmental
 - ✓ Say ‘Peace to this house,’ in other words- BLESS THEM.
- Remember you are looking for a certain person, *“A son of peace”*- THEY ARE KEY TO THE WHOLE STRATEGY.
 - ✓ A “son of peace” can be either a male or female –in my experience they are mostly female.
 - ✓ A great example of a “person of peace” is the Samaritan Woman (John 4:1-42) 39 *And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.” 40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of His own word.*

- ✓ I imagine that Jesus and His disciples stayed in her home those two days meeting and sharing with her family and friends.
- ✓ A person of peace may or may not already be Christian- Remember the seventy disciples were sent to Jews. And the events of John 4 took place in Sychar a Samaritan town.
- ✓ A person of peace (spoken or unspoken) is willing to let you use their “house of peace” as a base for outreach

Other Key Points:

- It is possible to work from several of these “bases of operations” at the same time
- Fellowship regularly with them and their friends; Jesus spent more time building relationship - eating and drinking with people than anything else! We need to follow His lead!
- Be upfront about being a Christian and don’t get locked into sharing the Gospel the first time you meet unless invited to do so- At this stage, it’s more important to make a friend. REMEMBER YOU KNOW WHERE THEY LIVE and you want to keep going back.
- Meet their friends. Once they are comfortable with you share the Gospel. You might be surprised how many come to Christ this way.
- Ask permission to have a Bible study in the home and/ or their friend’s homes as well
- *“Do not go from house to house”...* is an encouragement to build relationship, not a prohibition against door to door evangelism. It is a good idea to do “house to house” evangelism, but only to find the son of peace.
- Those that are planting micro/ house churches would do well to adopt this as their planting strategy as it is very cost effective, fun and easy to do- and it works

Step 5: Meet Peoples Need’s

“Heal the sick” V.9a

- There is no substitute for God. (There is no high like the Most High!) All else is *“meaningless, a chasing after the wind”* (Ecclesiastes 2:17). When we begin to meet peoples felt needs in the Power of Holy Spirit they become responsive and open.
- The New Testament is full of examples of Jesus first meeting peoples felt needs in order to share deeper truth. –the woman at the well, the woman caught in adultery, Zacchaeus ,the man crippled for 40 years and blind Bartimaeus are just some examples.

- It is not by accident that Jesus launched His ministry by quoting Isaiah 61:1-2a (Luke: 4:18-19). These verses are all about meeting needs in order to bring a person to wholeness.
- In Jesus time, Hebrews did not divide people into body or soul but saw them as a whole person and when they spoke of healing they thought not just of saving souls but of the whole person- to be biblical we have to think of people the same way.
- The unsaved need to see things only God can do. When we walk in obedience to God's Word and in the power of the Spirit, God-sized things happen.
- If you will ask them what their needs are and then pray for them, God will oblige them with a miracle. He alludes to this in Luke 10:9, speaking specifically of the miracle of —healing.

Step 6: Share the Good News

...and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near you now.' V.9b

- The Gospel is Good News; make sure you share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Remember the ultimate purpose of the strategy is not to win friends but save souls.
 - ✓ Don't be ashamed of the Gospel it truly is *"the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes"* Romans 1:16
- Don't be fearful. It may be helpful to remember that, unless you minister in a nation that is truly antagonistic to the Gospel, there is only three possible outcomes from sharing your faith.
 - ✓ The person can accept Jesus Christ
 - ✓ The person can reject Jesus Christ
 - ✓ We can plant a seed
- ...But regardless of what nation we minister in, if we share the truth with same level of commitment Jesus did, we will come into conflict and suffer to. Therefore Jesus said; ... *"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* (Matthew 10:28)
- *'The Kingdom of God is near you now'* Despite what some may say, there is very little difference between the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Gospel of the Kingdom, It need only be a sentence or two
 - ✓ After sharing - the Gospel Paul preached (1 Corinthians 15:2-5).
 - ✓ Tell the person you are sharing with, that, Jesus is Saviour and King of the universe. On the cross Jesus dealt with not only our sin but also all kinds of

sickness and disease (Ps103:3, 1 Peter 2:24) and there is no problem too big for Him.

- ✓ We tell people, “you don’t have to live with that addiction any longer, you don’t have to be sick, cripple, blind or lame- Jesus dealt with those things on the cross.
- ✓ Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, what He 2000 years ago He still does today. 😊

Note to Lecturer/ Evangelist.

- Before you teach this strategy make sure you talk with the church leaders about appointing someone to champion the cause. The person needs to be able encourage and exhort without being authoritarian
- If you are a member of that church or organisation then you could be that person.
- Make sure you know how to share the whole Gospel and have memorized your testimony and can share it naturally
- Prepare a set of notes for your students. Make sure you have agreement
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- of at least two people, do this by having those that will commit to this raise their hands. There is something about a public commitment that strengthens resolve and focus
- Prepare a set of these notes for those you have trained.
- If you are on your own, or if there is just a small group of you all you’ve learnt still applies and will still work just as well. Remember that Biblical Evangelism is not for the specialist/ preacher but for everyone to be actively involved in.
- Make sure you know how to share the whole Gospel and have memorized your testimony and can share it naturally

Implementing the Strategy- These are the steps you need to take.

- Learn to share the Gospel: Read; *Gospel Workshop #1 and #2*.
- Practise sharing the Gospel. It should not take you more than a few hours of practise before you can present it well. If you are sharing the Gospel to illiterate’s then make sure you learn The Gospel Hand.
- Prepare your testimony and commit it to memory: Read; *Testimony #1 and #2*.
- Finish filling out Contact List (*Personal Evangelism #2*) and make these people your priority-all the above still applies. You are still looking for the Son of Peace. Door Knock only to increase contacts

- Find a ministry partner who you can work with- Unless you're teamed with your sibling or spouse, make sure you're witnessing partner is the same sex.
- Set aside at least 3 hours a week for visitation and/ or door knocking.

- **Pray in faith for the lost.**

A Model Prayer: Lord, I thank you that you have made it clear to us that you are not willing that any should perish but that ALL should come to repentance and a knowledge of salvation (2 Peter 3:9). The main obstacle to this is that the god of this age, satan, has blinded the minds of those who are perishing to stop them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ (2 Cor. 4 v 4) Therefore, in the name of Jesus we command satan's works to be destroyed, every bondage and blindness gone. We command hearts to be opened and receptive to the seed of the Word as we bring it to them. Thank you lord that you will set up divine appointments with those whom you have prepared in advance and are now ready to receive your Word.

- ✓ This type of praying is led by the Holy Spirit as He brings scriptures to your lips. The most powerful praying is the declaration of God's known will into a situation to turn it around. Jesus never begged God in prayer. He operated in authority and He wants us to imitate His example.
 - ✓ Pray every day for the Lord to send out *Workers* (Matthew 9:37-38), pray for *Opportunities* and *Words* to speak (Isaiah 50:4) –W.O.W
 - Teach other Christian what you've learnt refer them to Soul Winner Ministries website. Take them with you when you share your faith
 - Be an example to others-Keep sharing your faith the Biblical way and don't give up!!!
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