

Personal Evangelism #1- Six Biblical Principles (John 4:1-42)

- Jesus was and is a master soul-winner. If you want to be a master soul-winner, you need to follow His example. In my opinion, there is no example better than in John 4:1-42.
 - ✓ There we learn how to talk to unbelievers...
 - ✓ We learn from Jesus how to engage a person in two- way conversation rather than using a scripted or canned presentation.
- There are so many evangelism tools out there, but tools come and go- BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES HOWEVER, ARE TIMELESS.
 - ✓ The Bible is full of principles for soul-winning; that's what we truly need to learn.
 - ✓ It is okay to use tools; some evangelism tools are very good
 - ✓ ...but the GOOD HAS BECOME THE ENEMY OF BEST when we put our confidence in tools and not in Biblical principles or the leading of the Holy Spirit.
 - ✓ The good has become the enemy of the best when we haven't learnt to witness without tools
 - ✓ Learning Biblical principles in evangelism can be the difference between making a disciple and just getting a decision.
- **Brothers and Sisters let's major on the TIMELESS and the ETERNAL. Let's now learn some Biblical principles to help us bring the lost to Christ. (John 4:1-42)**

1st Principle: Surrender your Own Will to Win a Soul to Christ. (Vs.1-6)

Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John 2 (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), 3 He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. 4 But He needed to go through Samaria.

5 So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

- Three roads led from Judea to Galilee Jesus chose the common shorter route through the heart of Samaria, but verse 4 says, "He needed to go to Jerusalem". This "need" was a spiritual consideration not a geographical one.
- Jesus had an appointment with divine destiny in the form of an immoral Samaritan woman
 - ✓ Jesus put the spiritual needs of this woman and the people of Sychar first.
 - ✓ We have to relinquish ownership of ourselves. *"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body[a] and in your spirit, which are God's."* (1Cor 6:19-20)
- Jesus put the needs of others before His own needs. He had a huge capacity and desire to minister to the needs of others.
- The Father's will and purpose for mankind caused Him to preach and drove Him to relinquish His will.
 - ✓ His attitude was always, *"not my will but yours be done."* (Luke 22:42)

- ✓ In Luke 4:40-42 we learn that Jesus sparked a healing revival in Capernaum after healing Simon Peter's mother-in-law. (Verses 40-41) *When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!"*
 - ✓ When it was daylight Jesus left to find a quiet place to pray. He had probably been ministering all night and wanted to "recharge". The crowds however followed him and tried to keep Him from leaving them. However, they could not stop Him from going because His purpose was hard wired in His spirit and it needs to be **HARD WIRED IN YOURS!!!**
 - ✓ Jesus purpose was to "seek and save the lost," so... *He said to them, "I **MUST** preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent."* (Luke 4:43)
 - ✓ The proclamation of the Gospel was of utmost importance to Him, there were so many people yet to hear the Kingdom message...
 - ✓ He had a healing revival in Capernaum but He left because...
 - ✓ The "I must preach, I must minister"; the "I must save one more soul from satan's grip" was burning in Jesus heart.
 - ✓ Let it burn in yours. If you don't have the "I must" in your heart get it. There are so many people yet to hear the Gospel. We must relinquish our will and desire to do our own thing and begin to seek and save the lost also.
- Where does the "I MUST" come from? It comes from a passion and determination to do Gods will!!
 - ✓ Fight for it in prayer
 - ✓ Fast for it if you have to, but, get the "I must" in your heart
 - ✓ Remember Jesus said, "GO and make disciples." If you don't have the "I MUST" in your heart you will soon run out of "GO"

2nd Principle: Start with Felt Needs (Vs.7-10)

7A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. 10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

- In asking for a drink and speaking about water, Jesus was targeting a felt need.
 - ✓ THE NEED FOR WATER and the journey for water were never far from her mind –it was a felt need.
- The fact she was at the well at midday and not in the cool of the morning or evening probably indicates the women of the city would not associate with her
 - ✓ In talking with her, Jesus was addressing a second felt need the woman had, THE NEED FOR ACCEPTANCE

- The truth is; all people have needs, they may seem okay on the outside and may even appear happy. But underneath they have all kinds of needs. THE NEEDS THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF ARE CALLED “FELT NEEDS”.
- Below their felt needs there is a much deeper need. God has already determined this deepest and most important need. IT IS THE SPIRITUAL NEED THAT ONLY CHRIST CAN FILL. It is the need to mend the broken relationship with the God who made us and loves us.
- There is usually a difference between the most important need a person has and what that person feels is their most important need.
- Most non- Christians don’t recognise their deepest spiritual need because the spiritual part of their nature is dead and unresponsive to God. (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- But when we learn to address the felt needs of our friends and acquaintances with humility and concern it warms them to us and leaves them open for the Gospel
 - ✓ (Story/ Illustration?)
- **Look at your unsaved neighbours and friends, try and discover what their felt needs are and meet them. It’s a sure way to build a bridge to their heart; One on which Jesus can walk in on.**

3rd Principle: Set Aside Prejudice and Moral Judgement.

- *Oxford Dictionary Definition of prejudice: The word prejudice is most often used to refer to preconceived, usually unfavourable, judgments toward people or a person because of gender, social class, age, disability, religion, sexuality, race/ethnicity, language, nationality or other personal characteristics. It can also refer to unfounded beliefs and may include “any unreasonable attitude that is unusually resistant to rational influence.”*
- *For the Christian; moral judgements are made according to the Word of God*
 - ✓ We know not to steal because the 9th Commandment says, “You shall not steal.”
 - ✓ We know we should honour our parents because the Bible says, “You shall honour your father and mother”
 - ✓ We know that spirit-ism, witch craft and horoscopes are wrong because of all the warnings not to do it e.g. Deuteronomy 18:10-12
 - ✓ We know that homosexuality is wrong because several scriptures tell us that, including 1Corinthians 6:9-10 that tell us no homosexual will enter the Kingdom of Heaven
- Does that mean that we should not share the Gospel with thieves, liars, witches and homosexuals- of course we should ...*For God so loved the WORLD that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*
- Jesus ignored all the common prejudices Jews had toward Samaritans, Jesus didn’t let - “wrong religion”, “wrong rituals” or the fact that she was of the “wrong race” STOP HIM FROM SAVING HER SOUL
- He climbed over the moral judgements others stumble on - She was an immoral woman (she had had 5 husbands and was now living in a de-facto relationship.

- Jesus ignored all these “would be” barriers because (other than pride) there is no barrier to God’s forgiveness ...all that mattered to Jesus was this woman’s soul. A person’s spiritual needs matter far more than their current state or station in life
 - ✓ (Illustration/ Story?)

Question: What prejudices do you have to overcome in order to win your neighbours to Christ?

4th Principle: Speak the Truth in Love (Vs.11-26)

- We must be prepared to confront people with spiritual truth. (11-12)

11 The woman said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? 12 Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?”

 - ✓ By beginning with her point of interest- water, Jesus was able to lead into a conversation about spiritual matters
 - ✓ This approach does work, but don’t get caught up trying to find spiritual parallels for everything.
 - ✓ Engage naturally in conversation and look for an opening it could come from sharing an experience or recent chat you had with another person
 - ✓ If you’re relaxed but determined, an opportunity will come.
- Don’t be afraid to go deeper-I find when people sense you are truly passionate about something they want to know why (13-15)

13 Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

15 The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”

 - ✓ People love to talk about the supernatural. If someone you’ve met starts talking about Ghosts or something like that, don’t feel intimidated. If you can, offer insight from your own experience.
 - ✓ Follow it with an experience of the God kind –perhaps your testimony.
 - ✓ (Illustration/ story?)
- Don’t be afraid to expose sin. (16-18)

16 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

17 The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”

 - ✓ A conversation between a Samaritan woman and a Jewish man was a improbability, but because Jesus took a chance and engaged this woman in conversation, He earned the right to speak further into her life
 - ✓ Jesus had a word of knowledge for the woman (1Corinthians 12:8) one of nine Spiritual Gifts God gave to Christians to use in the expansion of His Kingdom

- ✓ ...It is important when you are witnessing to be reaching out for a Word of Knowledge like the one Jesus gave this woman-it will help smash the “walls” of resistance down

- Bring Gods wisdom where there is ignorance of spiritual matters (19-24)
19 The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshipped on this mountain and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”
21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 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. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

5th Principle: Present Jesus as the Messiah (Vs.25, 26)

25 The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” 26 Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

- Jesus presented Himself as the Messiah...
 - ✓ Just name Jesus carries with it promise. In Aramaic it means “Yahweh is Salvation” the name carried the very message of the One who bore it.
- Messiah means, “The Anointed One” or “The Chosen One”
 - ✓ When we share the Gospel we present Jesus to them as The Anointed One- chosen by God to bring salvation them from sin as well as the consequences, addictions, habits, sickness, disease etc. (*Ps 103:3*)
- **Later I will teach you 3 ways to share the Gospel or three fairly simple ways to share the Gospel later**

6th Principle: Commit to the Whole Discipleship Process (Vs.39- 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. 42 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 Saviour of the world.”

- Jesus stayed with them 2 more days discipling them. We can only assume he did it the way he usually did; eating, drinking and teaching.
- Discipleship is a relational process not an event! Discipleship must not be legalistic, where I have to live up to someone else’s ideas. But discipleship should be the result of a loving relationship where” I” want to learn, mature and please my God
- THINK! - Biblical ‘DNA’ - Disciples Not Audience!
 - ✓ Pray with them and pray for them
 - ✓ Encourage them to (simply) talk with God every day
 - ✓ If they don’t have a Bible, then get them one, or encourage them to buy one.

- ✓ It is always good to offer a Bible Study when a person has come to Christ. If they say NO, don't be offended.
 - ✓ Persevere with your new friend and continue to visit them regularly
 - ✓ Eat with them often and invite them to your house for a meal
 - ✓ If they want to go to church on Sunday (or Saturday) then great, if they don't that's okay to, just continue to fellowship with them in a small group setting-just do what you can and leave the rest to God
 - ✓ Encourage them to tell their friends and family about Jesus
 - ✓ Invite them to your house for a meal
 - ✓ (Illustration/Story?)
- If for some reason you cannot disciple someone you won to Christ, find an appropriate person that can. A Good reason NOT TO DISCIPLE someone you personally led to Christ yourself could be...
 - ✓ If they are of the opposite sex: It is okay to disciple a married couple together but don't visit spouses of the opposite sex (to you) without their marriage partner present.
 - ✓ They live in another city or a long way from where you live.
 - ✓ If you are unable to because of work commitments: Oftentimes the new convert will work around your schedule, if that is not possible then BY ALL MEANS find someone else to disciple them.
 - ✓ When discipling a person would mean neglecting another: Gathering people into small-groups is one way to lessen the load, but even groups can get too big or too many for one person to do well. Perhaps they could join with someone else's group or you could encourage a friend to start a new group
 - ✓ Consider using my **Small Group Bible Study- EVANGELISM TRAINING**. it will kick start your you disciples into maturity and

Note to Lecturer/ Evangelist:

PLEASE LET YOUR STUDENTS KNOW 1) That these soul-winning principles are meant to fit into the context of "How to Bring in the Harvest-A Biblical Evangelism Strategy" – Not replace it!!!

2) The next task your students need to undertake is to fill out the Personal Evangelism #1-Contact list.

3) The Evangelism Strategy notes still apply even if you're (only) visiting those on your CONTACT LIST. 4) FOLLOWING THE STRATEGY TO THE LETTER WILL GIVE THEM FAR MORE CONTACTS- The list offers one line of contact, the Strategy offers a second. They can choose to use either approach or both at the same time.