



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#4)

Communicating the real Good News in a way it can be accurately understood.

Proclaiming the GOOD NEWS!

WHEN YOU DON'T DO IT THE APOSTLE'S WAY...

You never really know what you're communicating!



"Would you like to go to heaven when you die?"

YOU might mean THIS:

"Would you like to go to heaven?"

"Would you like to worship and serve God forever?"



THAT WOULD BE TOTALLY BORING!

[THEIR RESPONSE]

THEY often interpret it as THIS:

"Would you like to go to heaven?"

"Would you like to have fun, pleasure and entertainment forever?"



SURE! WHO WOULDN'T?

[THEIR RESPONSE]

Did you know?

Heaven is NOT for people who's goal is to have fun and happiness.
(= People who want heaven, because "burning in hell" is not fun.)

Heaven is for those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and who long for purity of heart!
(= People who know they don't deserve heaven, yet who want to be like Jesus even now.)

PEOPLE GOING TO HEAVEN HAVE THIS ATTITUDE

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3-10 (NASB)

Blessed are the poor in spirit

DOES OUR "GOOD NEWS" ENCOURAGE THIS ATTITUDE?

Blessed are the gentle for they shall inherit the earth.
 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
 Blessed are those who have been persecuted for righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3-10 (NASB)

JESUS, I'M WEAK ... I NEED YOU!!

I AM POOR, MOURNING, LOWLY, HUNGERING AND THIRSTING!

I WANT TO BE MERCIFUL, PURE, AND PEACE-MAKING!

I'M WILLING TO BE PERSECUTED FOR YOUR SAKE!

HELP!!

EXPANDING

ON WHAT WE SAW LAST TIME:

The APOSTLES and the GOOD NEWS...

When presenting the GOOD NEWS...

THE APOSTLES DID NOT:

- ✓ **Entice** people with rewards.
- ✓ **Sway** minds with psychological manipulation.
- ✓ **Rely on** persuasive speech training.
- ✓ **Downplay** the intellect, facts, history, truth.

They did not revise and repackage the Good News, to make it more appealing to sinful nature.

A FEW MORE SCRIPTURE PASSAGES TO ILLUSTRATE THIS FACT

(in addition to those we saw last time)

- ✓ **They didn't rely on the public-speaking techniques and training courses that the world had to offer.**

... not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, ...

1 Cor. 2:13b (NASB)

For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing."

I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way.

2 Cor. 10:10; 11:6 (NIV)

REFERS TO PUBLIC SPEAKING LESSONS

- ✓ **They avoided smooth talk and flattery; they also warned people about those who used such techniques.**

For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

Romans 16:18 (NIV)

I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.

Col. 2:4 (NIV)

- ✓ **They did not modify the Good News, to make it more appealing to the sinful nature.**

For [the false teachers] mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error.

2 Peter 2:18 (NIV)

When presenting the GOOD NEWS...

THE APOSTLES DID:

- ✓ **Direct the people's attention** to the message of Scripture and Jesus Christ.
- ✓ **Focus** on facts and obligation, not on emotions and fuzzy thinking.

WHAT DID THEY DO?

- ✓ They based their message on things that were "true and reasonable" – including observable facts that even the *unsaved* could recognize.

"I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable. The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner."
Acts 26:25-26 (NIV)

CONSIDER THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGES WE LOOKED AT LAST WEEK AND TODAY

NOTE HOW OFTEN THE APOSTLES APPEALED TO:

- ✓ **FACTS, KNOWLEDGE, TRUTH** (rather than distortions of the Good News).
- ✓ **GOD'S POWER** (rather than all the techniques and tricks the world had to offer).

[This list is based on the Scripture passages from last week and this week.]

- Persuasive speaking techniques vs. the power of the cross / Holy Spirit
- Human wisdom vs. the power of God
- Cunning and clever strategies vs. speaking truth in love
- Tricks and distortions vs. truth
- World's arguments and pretensions vs. the knowledge of God
- Invented stories vs. eyewitness accounts
- Public speaking techniques vs. words taught by the Spirit
- Public speaking training vs. knowledge
- Insane thinking vs. true and reasonable words

THIS DOESN'T MEAN that they *only* quoted Scripture verses (though quoting Scripture is good).

I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT...

SORRY, I DON'T REMEMBER ANY VERSES TO QUOTE YOU ON THAT TOPIC!

★ But they *did* communicate the *message* of Scripture!

➡ They did it in a way that fit the spiritual needs and comprehension of the hearers.

THIS MEANS: ➡

- ✓ Some needed introduced to the Creator, before they could be told about Jesus. They needed to reject their false gods before they could accept Jesus. This included many of the non-Jews.
- ✓ Some knew the Scriptures, but needed to know about repentance and following Jesus. The Jews already knew about the True God.
- ✓ Some needed rebuked and warned that God was going to judge them. This included many of the Jewish leaders who had rejected Jesus.
- ✓ **ALL** needed to face their sinfulness, and their need to repent and follow Jesus!

When presenting the GOOD NEWS...

THE APOSTLES CONSIDERED PRAYER TO BE **TOTALLY VITAL** TO SHARING THE GOOD NEWS.

For that matter, they considered PRAYER to be the foundation for *everything* they did.

WHY PRAYER (along with God's Word)?

They prayed because they needed the Holy Spirit to:

- ✓ *Empower* them to proclaim the Good News, and to
- ✓ Use Scripture to *change* people's hearts.

After they *prayed*, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the **word of God** boldly.

Acts 4:31 (NIV)

The APOSTLE'S focus:

"But we will devote ourselves to **prayer** and to the ministry of the **word**."

Acts 6:4 (NET)

Today, people seem to have forgotten that being "filled with the Holy Spirit" resulted in people TALKING about Jesus and the Bible!

After they **prayed**, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and **spoke the word of God boldly. ... kept quiet, for fear that someone would accuse them of "beating people over the head with the Bible."**

Acts 4:31 (NIV)



I FEEL SO-O-O SPIRIT-FILLED!
I'M SURE THAT LOTS OF PEOPLE
ARE GETTING SAVED BECAUSE
I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING!

EXAMPLES OF PRAYER IN THE BOOK OF ACTS: *

(MANY other examples can be found throughout the New Testament.)

- ✓ **Prayer related to the Good News, salvation, and receiving the Holy Spirit** – Acts 4:23-31; 8:9-25; 9:5, 6, 11.
- ✓ **Prayer as an ongoing activity or way of life; also places set aside for prayer** – Acts 1:13, 14; 2:42-47; 3:1; 6:4; 10:2-4, 9, 31; 16:13, 16.

* [Lists based on "All the Prayers of the Bible" by Herbert Lockyer; a summary available at: <https://www.monerqism.com/all-prayers-bible>]

- ✓ **Prayer when choosing leaders** – Acts 1:15-26; 6:5-7; 13:2, 3, 43; 14:15, 23, 26.
- ✓ **Prayer during persecution (of self or others)** – Acts 7:55-60; 12:5, 12-17; 16:25, 34.
- ✓ **Prayer related to healing / miracles** – Acts 9:36-43; 28:8.
- ✓ **Prayer related to encouragement and doing God's will** – Acts 20:36.
- ✓ **Prayer of thankfulness for God's provisions and protection** – Acts 27:33, 35; 28:15, 28.

Our CHALLENGE:

1) **Learn** the Good News. (Since only the Good News, as used by the Holy Spirit, can save!)

2) **Proclaim** the Good News! (Not waiting until we think we've attained "perfection" in understanding, " or we will never say anything!)

If we direct people's focus to the WORD OF GOD:
The Spirit will be able to use the Scriptures,
and work around our imperfections.

Our OPPORTUNITY

[Same as in previous weeks!]

Do you know what the GOOD NEWS actually is?

Check the book of Acts, to see what the apostles said it was!



Then compare what they say to what you have heard.

Credits

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