

SENT: SHARING THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL

Session 1 | Brian Chesemore

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I. Introduction

A. Our Recommended Text

Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus
--by J. Mack Stiles. (Crossway Books)

B. Our Goals

1. Gain a greater understanding of key Scriptures on Evangelism. The Word of God declares again and again, that Christ really did come to redeem a people for his own glory.
2. Recognize and Repent of our Excuses regarding evangelism. Excuses like, "What if they get offended? What if they ask a question too difficult for me? Don't I have to get to this first?"
3. Form convictions about evangelism. You're not going to feel like evangelizing. You and I need biblical convictions to overcome weakness and sin.
4. Develop a practical strategy of prayer and evangelism. Just like we fail to spend time in God's word when we don't have a plan, we miss out on opportunities to share the gospel because we fail to develop a plan.
5. Cultivate a culture of evangelism in SGCL.

II. Evangelism: The Mission of Every Christian and Church

Today, we look at the preeminent text on mission, Matthew 28.16-20.

"From Sinai to the Mount of Transfiguration to the Sermon on the Mount, mountains are places where the most important instruction or revelation is given. This scene is no different. Jesus has brought his disciples together one last time for something truly significant."

A. One Absolute Reign:

Jesus, victorious over death, has been clothed with Authority. We need to contemplate the authority of Jesus...over all things.

In his Kingly reign--in his full authority--what will he command? To what will he call his disciples?

B. One Comprehensive Commission

In his seat of Authority, the King commissions his disciples to embark on a mission. What is the mission? If you look closely, you'll see verbs translated go, make, and participles like baptizing and teaching. But there is really just one goal in verses 19-20. It's to "make disciples of all nations."

The Gospels culminate in this commission. Then as you turn in your bible to Acts, we begin to see this commission fulfilled in the life of the early church.

1. Go
2. Baptize
3. Teach
4. Defining Evangelism

"Evangelism is teaching the gospel with the aim to persuade." ¹

"Here is how the Amplified Bible might have expanded my definition: Evangelism is teaching (heralding, proclaiming, preaching) the gospel (the message from God that leads us to salvation) with the aim (hope, desire, goal) to persuade (convince, convert)." ²

"The mission of the church is to go into the world and make disciples by declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit and

¹ Stiles, J. Mack. *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus* (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Publishing, 2014). Pg. 26.

² Ibid, 27.

gathering these disciples in churches, that they might worship and obey Jesus Christ now and in eternity to the glory of God the Father.”³

“The responsibility of the church in the new age is the same as its responsibility in every age. It is to testify that this world is lost in sin; that the span of human life—no, all the length of human history—is an infinitesimal island in the awful depths of eternity; that there is a mysterious holy, living God, Creator of all, Upholder of all, infinitely beyond all; that he has revealed himself through Jesus Christ the Lord; that there is no other salvation, for individuals or for nations, save this, but that this salvation is full and free, and that whoever possesses it has for himself and for all others to whom he may be the instrument of bringing it a treasure compared with which all the kingdoms of the earth—no, all the wonders of the starry heavens—are as the dust of the street.

An unpopular message it is.—an impractical message, we are told. But it is the message of the Church. Neglect it, and you will have destruction; heed it, and you will have life.”⁴

C. One Enduring Promise

We will never and could never do this mission in our own strength. It truly is Jesus, by his Spirit, who is with us now, and throughout our lives, and to the End of the Age.

³ DeYoung, Kevin and Gilbert, Greg. *What is the Mission of the Church?*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Publishing, 2011). Pg. 241.

⁴ J. Gresham Machen, “The Responsibility of the Church in our New Age” as quoted in DeYoung, Kevin and Gilbert, Greg. *What is the Mission of the Church?*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Publishing, 2011). Pgs. 248-249.