

Evangelism Part 1

“13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:13-15)

In the above Scripture it is very clearly demonstrated to us that people will believe in the good news of Lord and got saved through hearing the message. They need to hear the good news and the Word of God from someone to be saved. Therefore it is necessarily that we need to continually preach the Word of God.

We as Church of God we honour the command of Jesus in *Mark 16:15 “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”* Therefore we commissioned all our trained workers to go forward with the message and the command of Jesus to go and make disciples by preaching to them the Gospel and teaching them the Word of God, *“19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)*

“32 "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32-33) The Lord would expect from us to acknowledge him before men and proclaim His Word and will to them. Evangelism might not be easy, and you might find opposition and some people who will not accept the message but the Lord would expect from you to continue to proclaim the message, *“34 Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law--36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.” (Matthew 10:34-36)*

The Lord commissioned the prophet Jeremiah to preach and teach His Word to the Israelites, *“9 Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my Words in your mouth. 10 See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.” (Jeremiah 1:9-10)*

Jeremiah was admonished to stand firm in spite of all the pressures that were surrounded him: *“17 Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. 18 Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land--against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. 19 They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.” (Jeremiah 1:17-19)* Truly Jeremiah was sent to stubborn people

who were also misled by many false prophets who taught the people rebellion and did not admonish them to follow God the same as the message of the Lord through Jeremiah. The Word of God spoke about those false prophets the following: *“25 I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream.' 26 How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? 27 They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their fathers forgot my name through Baal worship.” (Jeremiah 23:25-27)* But that is how God addresses the challenge: *“28 Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my Word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the LORD. 29 "Is not my Word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:28-29)*

The time that God had called Jeremiah to serve Him and proclaim His Word, there were many other false prophets and false teachers who were preaching messages that did not come from the Lord. Those prophets were misleading the people and condoning with them their sins and their wrong doings. Jeremiah was surrounded by such dreamers who were teaching the people things that contradict the message that God had given to Jeremiah. Sure Jeremiah was discouraged because of those preachers who were opposing the message of God and who were leading the people through their teaching to move away from God. But the Lord encouraged Jeremiah with His Word that he does not need to be discouraged; the Lord directed Jeremiah also of what he needs to do:

1- Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream: Let them speak lies and tell the people wrong things. You cannot close the mouth of those false teachers and those who compromise, and you do not need to condone with the people their sins. But you can do the following:

2- But let the one who has my Word speak it faithfully: God instructed Jeremiah to continue to speak forth the Word of God that He was receiving from the Lord. You can face the false prophets and teachers, by continually preaching to the people the Word of God and teach them the sound teaching.

3- For what has straw to do with grain? The false teaching is like a straw and it has no value in compare to the grain (the Word of God). The straw will be blown away by the wind, but the grain will remain.

4- Is not my Word like fire," declares the LORD: The Word of God that you are preaching is like the fire that will consume the false teaching (the straw).

5- And like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?: Whatever is the foundation of false teaching, the Word of God shall break it as hammer break a rock in pieces.

It is a very clear way for you to continue to serve God, and to be well maintained even you are in the mid of bad company of false teachers. You do not need to grieve or feel pain because of the false teaching, and you do not need to approve them. But faithfully continue to proclaim the Word of God to the people and to the field of Evangelism whom the Lord entrusted to your care.

The good news is that Jesus died on the cross for the sin of mankind. And you need to mention and speak about sin in detail so that people would have the opportunity to repent. ***“46 He told them, 'This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’” (Luke 24:46-47)*** The message of Jesus, the early church and the apostle were preaching the message of repentance as we can read in the following Scriptures:

A. The message of Jesus was a message of repentance: “14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!’” (Mark 1:14-15)

B. The message of the Apostles of Jesus was a message of repentance: “37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’” 38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:37-38)

C. The message of Apostle Paul was a message of repentance: “30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.” (Acts 17:30-31)

“10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10) The devil is the thief who came to kill steal and destroy. The Lord Jesus Christ came to save mankind from the hands of devil. The footholds that the devil uses in peoples’ lives are their sins. Therefore as a church we need to embrace the message of Jesus by living it and by proclaiming it to the people who are around us. Therefore what we ought to proclaim in our endeavor to evangelize is the message of repentance so the people will be aware of their sins and their eyes would be opened and got repent and have the opportunity to believe in Christ and got saved.

Let us continue go through the Scripture and learn more from the Word of God of how to evangelize and reach the lost

“26 They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. 27 When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, 'What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!'” 29 For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. 30 Jesus asked him, 'What is your name?' 'Legion,' he replied,

because many demons had gone into him. 31 And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. 32 A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them, and he gave them permission. 33 When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. 34 When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, 35 and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. 36 Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. 37 Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left. 38 The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 'Return home and tell how much God has done for you.'” So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.” (Luke 8:26-39)

Our calling to evangelize is to deliver the people out from the hands of Devil and its demons, so they will be set free from sin and to live a life that pleasant to the Lord. From ***Luke 8:26-39*** We will found out what the demonic manifestation so that we can understand what the strongholds that devil are using to oppose us to hinder us from reaching our goal in reaching the lost.

1. Shouting: “When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice.” (Luke 8:28) The enemy may use that to impart fear and trying to hinder us from reaching the lost souls.

2. Fighting and anger: “though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains.” (Luke 8:29) The enemy may use anger and fighting to impart fear and trying to hinder us from evangelizing certain person or a group of people. In addition, in our endeavour to evangelize and make disciples we need to teach about the bad effect of shouting, fighting and anger

3. Breaking rules: “he had broken his chains.” (Luke 8:29) One of the demonic manifestation is breaking rules of governments. Therefore we need to preach and teach about the importance of submission to the rules of the government.

4. Isolation: “but had lived in the tombs.” (Luke 8:27) Isolation and being away from people and society is one of the demonic manifestations. Therefore we ought to speak about the importance of having and building a purposeful and healthy relationship with the people around us.

5. Living among the dead: A sinful life, worldly life and a wild living is a life among the dead; therefore when we preach the gospel we need to teach about that.

6. Leaving homes and responsibilities: “For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs.” (Luke 8:27) In our endeavour to evangelize we need to emphasize the importance of the family; and living in the context of the family entails rules and stipulation. Many they are willing to do many things for the Lord but they

are neglecting their families. Therefore Jesus admonished the man after healing him, ***"Return home and tell how much God has done for you."*** (Luke 8:39)

7. Laziness: Demonic manifestations render the people to be without fruit; either doing nothing good, or doing many harmful things.

8. Doing things out of mind: Those demons possessed may do things as mad people do, for example urinate in public, etc.

9- Nudeness and immorality: ***"When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes ..."*** (Luke 8:27) Demons promote sexual immoralities by lust and second by nudity. We need to teach people to observe how to dress modestly for the Lord.

10. Boasting, telling lies and showing off: ***"Then Jesus asked him, 'What is your name?' 'My name is Legion,' he replied, 'for we are many.'"*** (Mark 5:9) Exaggeration and showing off is what demons always try to do.

11. People avoiding us: ***"Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left."*** (Luke 8:37) People avoiding us and avoiding to hear the message is another way of demons work.

12. Love of money: ***"Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left."*** (Luke 8:37) The people asked the Lord to leave them because their pig business got affected. Demons hide in people lives that love money and consider it more valuable than God.

The above brief descriptions are good topics of what you share with non believers in your endeavour to preach the gospel and they are good topics for discipleships.

Now we will highlights the effects of Jesus' impact on that demon possessed man and that will be the impact of our evangelism and the fruit that will bear in peoples' lives who will respond to the message:

- 1. Salvation:** That man was living among the dead and Jesus said, ***"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*** (John 5:24)
- 2. Deliverance from Demons:** ***"the demons came out of the man ..."*** (Luke 8:33)
- 3. Right mind:** ***"sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind ..."*** (Luke 8:35)
- 4. Dressed:** ***"sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed ..."*** (Luke 8:35)
- 5. Submission to God's will:** ***"The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying. 'Return home and tell how much God has done for you.'"*** (Luke 8:38-39) The man did not insist to do what he likes but submitted himself to God's will.

6. Restoration back to the plan of God: ***"Return home and tell how much God has done for you."*** So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him." (Luke 8:39)

7. The person witnessed to others about Jesus: ***"So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him."*** (Luke 8:39) So ultimately those whom we are reaching out will tell others about Jesus.

Ephesians 6:15 says ***"and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."*** God gives us feet so we can move and reach the Lost with the Gospel of Jesus and to give them the word of God that will make changes and bring blessings in their lives. Preaching should be accompanied and use the Word of God as the main item of the mission of reaching the lost. The following are good examples:

A. "He sent forth his Word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave." (Psalm 107:20) God's Word brings healing and salvation from sin and death.

B. "The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death." (Proverbs 13:14) Only through God's Word we can help people and snatch them from death.

C. "39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I ever did.' 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. 41 And because of his words many more became believers." (John 4:39-41) The Samaritan woman that believed in Jesus herself testifies about Jesus to her town, and many they believed on Him when they heard His Word. We need to give the people the Word of God in addition to our testimony about Jesus.

D. "For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you admonished them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you handed them over to the neighboring peoples." (Nehemiah 9:30) Nehemiah in his prayer to God acknowledges that God was admonishing the people and correcting them through the prophets who were using His word.

E. "But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds." (Jeremiah 23:22) God declared here that the false prophets did not give His people the Word of God because themselves were dishonouring God and were not standing in His council. The Word of God we need to use in our evangelism so people would turn from their sins.

F. "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." (Joshua 1:8) Through reading the word of God, meditating on it and obeying what is in them, success and prosperity will come into people lives. Therefore we need to use God's word in reaching the lost souls in order for them to experience prosperity and success.

My Dear and Beloved: You need to be honest in using the word of God that you receive from the Lord. Be strong and courageous and stand firm in proclaiming His word that will bring life to the lost

Paul said to the Ephesians and requested to pray for him ***“19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, Words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.” (Ephesians 6:19-20)*** Ahead of us as a Church of God a great responsibility to bring forward the message to the people that God had sent us and whom he had prepared for us. There is no way to compromise; we need to proclaim it in the way it should be and without fear. Therefore be prepared, the Lord is sending you, to go forward and bring the message to the lost.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to go and serve you and do the work that you had prepared in advance for me to do. Lord leads me to people and prepare their hearts to receive your message. Lord protect me and provide for me, and give me your message on time that is suitable to the people that you are sending me to preach the gospel to them.*

Lord bless your church and the congregation in Buraimi. Lord we trust you that you will protect us from all evil, that you will fill us with the Holy Spirit so we can continue to serve you and do the very work of yours. Lord leads us to evangelize to reach the lost and to bring them to you. Lord lead us to open new bible studies and teach your people your Word/ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and keep us away from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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