**Teach The Good News!**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday January 28th, 2024

Text: II Timothy 2:24-26 Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:13-16

### Intro

1. What do you do when you hear good news?
	1. When someone in your family is getting married, you tell your friends, family and neighbors!
	2. When someone in your family is having a baby, you tell your friends, family and neighbors!
2. *Luke 24:13-27:* The good news spreading from Jerusalem was that Jesus was alive!
3. Luke 24:6: “He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee,”
	1. The women had come to the tomb to further prepare the body of Jesus after the Sabbath and worried about the large stone sealing the tomb.
	2. When they arrived they found the stone rolled away and an angel told them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead?”
	3. Then he said, “He is not here. He is risen” (Luke 24:1-6)
4. *Mark 16:*15-16: Jesus sent His disciples into all the world to preach the good news!
5. *I Corinthians 15:1-11:* Paul said he preached the good news of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection to the Corinthian saints, and they were saved by the gospel.
	1. *Romans 1:16-17:* The risen Christ is the Good News (gospel) that is the power of God for salvation! (His resurrection from the dead is the cornerstone of our faith – I Cor. 15:1-19)
	2. *I Corinthians 15:13-19:* If Christ wasn’t raised from the dead, our faith is in vain.
6. We need to share the good news that Jesus died for our sins and raised Himself from the dead and invites those who obey Him to live with Him forever!
7. Saints are to teach the good news that brings salvation to all men, using approaches that suit the need or style of the teacher!
	* 1. Teach the Gospel
			+ 1. I Peter 2:9

Saints are a “chosen race,” a “royal priesthood,” “the people of God” “so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light!”

Saints are to “proclaim” (to preach) the excellencies of God!

The Greek word for “proclaim” means to preach, teach, to herald, to celebrate.

* + - * 1. Paul said to Timothy in II Timothy 2:15: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

We looked last week at the man born blind accurately handling the word of truth when he was interrogated by the Pharisees and he came to the accurate conclusion as to who Jesus was and where He came from: Jesus wasn’t a sinner and He was from God.

* + - * 1. Paul said to Timothy in II Timothy 2:24-26…

II Timothy 2:24-26: “The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.”

In verse 24 Paul said “The Lord’s bondservant must…be able to teach.” Notice he didn’t say the preacher, or the elders or deacons, or only the men, but he said the “Lord’s bondservant” must be “able to teach.” He is saying it is the responsibility of every Christian to be able to teach!

That doesn’t always look like public teaching (the women can’t publicly teach men) but all Christians need to be able to teach.

In fact the Apostle Peter addressed the issue of readiness when he said, “but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence” (I Peter 3:15).

Paul says all saints are to be “able to teach” and Peter says all saints are “always” to be ready to give a defense (that is an answer) for the hope within us.

The goal of our teaching from II Timothy 2:24-26 is to help the lost “come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.”

That was Jesus’ mission (Luke 19:10: “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”) and it is our mission still today!

While not all saints have the ability to or should publicly teach (James 3:1), all Christians can teach through their influence and example.

The preacher can’t do all the work alone. He doesn’t know everyone you know, he is not at your place of business, or school, or run into the same people at market, he doesn’t know all your neighbors and friends.

We can influence the people in our inner circle, our family and friends, and we can be a positive influence on our co-workers at our places of business, strangers we meet at market, and anyone we come into contact with.

Often the only sermon the people we will meet is our lives, our speech and conduct! They need to see Jesus in us!

* + - * 1. The church will only grow if all members are doing what they can to teach the gospel!

#### Daily Living

* 1. Be an example of Christ’s teachings
		1. Matthew 5:13-16: Jesus said His followers are salt and light, and that as His followers they are expected to live in such a way as to bring glory to God!
		2. Others ought to observe your godly conduct!
	2. Does your life, your marriage, your work ethic, and your parenting exemplify Christ’s word in your speech and conduct?
1. Colossians 3:17: “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”
2. As people ask you about your parenting, your choices at work, or what they observe in your marriage and life, take those opportunities to teach the good news!
3. An old adage: “Your life may be the only sermon someone hears. Make it a good one.”
	1. In being godly servants of the Lord, we may use the opportunities in everyday living to teach the gospel!

#### The Right Approaches

* 1. There is no “right way” to teach the good news – You must find the approach that suits you as well as the situation.
		1. Some respond in obedience to the gospel out of fear, love, guilt, confrontation, reasoning and persuasion, a question, or by example and influence! (etc.)
		2. Be the example of godliness and righteousness in your life, and as you teach, be yourself that you might have the maximum spiritual effect!
	2. Matthew’s Invitational Approach
		1. Luke 5:27-29, 30-32 (Matthew 9:9-13)
			1. Matthew (Levi) invited Jesus and His disciples to his house for “a big reception” (NET: “a great banquet;” NKJ: “a great feast”) and invited many of his tax collector friends (“a great crowd”).
			2. This was a great way for his friends to meet Jesus. Tax collectors and sinners were eating with Jesus, which bothered the religious leaders (Luke 5:30-32), who complained to Jesus’ disciples.
			3. Jesus pointed out that the ones who need healing are the sick!
		2. Perhaps you have friends or family that you want them to meet godly influences and could invite them to Christian get-togethers!
		3. You can use our Invitation Cards to invite friends, family, and neighbors to Bible studies or services, or invite them to check out our website!
		4. Perhaps you have friends or relatives that need to meet Jesus and just need an invitation!
	3. Jesus’ Personal Approach
		1. Luke 19:1-10
			1. Jesus stopped in the middle of a crowd that was following Him to look up into a tree and speak to Zacchaeus, a short tax collector who climbed into a Sycamore tree to see Jesus as He passed by, and told him to come down as Jesus desired to spend time with him!
			2. Jesus taking time to bring him from the curiosity stage by investing his personal attention to the man led the tax collector to change his life.
			3. Jesus said He came to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10)
		2. Perhaps you know someone interested in spiritual matters, and maybe they just need someone to give them personal attention so they might meet Jesus!
	4. Philip’s Conversational Approach
		1. Acts 8:26-40
			1. Sent by an angel, Philip was on a desert road and overheard the Ethiopian Eunuch, the Treasurer for the Queen of Ethiopia, reading from Isaiah 53 as his chariot passed by.
			2. He ran to the chariot and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”
			3. This led to an invitation to join the man in the chariot and starting where he was at (in Isaiah 53) he preached to him Jesus!
			4. This resulted in the man stopping the chariot to be baptized in a body of water they were passing, and he went away rejoicing!
			5. Philip started the conversation with a question on understanding.
		2. Story about the lady in Mbezi, Tanzania, who invited us to sit & study with her
			1. A lady invited us to sit with her in her yard. She had a Bible open and asked if she could just ask a question.
			2. She said, “I am a Lutheran but as I read the Bible I don’t see Lutherans. Can you tell me why there are no Lutherans in the Bible?”
			3. I started where she was at and answered her questions and taught her about Jesus and the church that He died to save.
		3. Perhaps you could start a conversation with a simple question like Philip did, or start where they are at (where their understanding is) and preach to them Jesus!
	5. Tabitha’s Service Approach
		1. Acts 9:36-43
			1. \*YLT: “…this woman was full of good works and kind acts that she was doing.” (\*NIV: “she was always doing good and helping the poor”)
			2. Tabitha (Dorcas in Greek) of Joppa died and the saints there sent for Peter in nearby Lydda to come.
			3. When Peter came the widows that were gathered there were crying and showing him all the clothing Tabitha made for them while she was still alive!
			4. Acts of kindness can go a long way to demonstrate the love of Jesus! (James 2:15-17; I John 3:17-18)
			5. Matthew 5:16: Saints are to be lights and let others see their good works so that they may glorify God!
			6. Galatians 6:10: Saints are to do good to all people, especially to other Christians!
		2. Story about the daughter of a member of the congregation in Alaska…
			1. A member’s daughter died out of state, and I was asked to perform a Memorial Service for her. I didn’t know her and so I prepared some comforting words based on the information I was given.
			2. When I arrived all that I prepared went out the window!
			3. Tables and more tables were all set up with things with tags. I first wondered if I was in the right place for it looked like a flea market or a garage sale.
			4. I was quickly informed that these were things loaned by individuals that the lady who had just passed away had made for people.
			5. I read the tags and saw names and dates and sometimes circumstances as to the reason for the item.
			6. I immediately thought of Tabitha as I was reminded of the widows who showed Peter what all she had done for them and so I spoke about her in Acts 9 instead of what I had prepared.
		3. Perhaps there are people in your life you can serve in some way to show them the love of God and bring them to Jesus!
	6. People respond in many ways, and you can find the approach to teaching that best suits you and the need!

## Conclusion

1. We need to have the mindset that all people matter to God and are worthy of our time, love and concern! (II Timothy 2:24-26)
2. With that mindset we ought not to “judge a book by its cover” in our approach to teaching people, and that we might do away with our own bias, prejudices, and false image that the church is for perfect people.
3. Jesus said He came to heal the sick and save the lost (Luke 5:31; 19:10)
	1. The blood of Jesus was shed to forgive the sins of a repentant sinner (Acts 10:34-35; Ephesians 1:7)
4. There are more styles exemplified in the \*N.T. but, hopefully, these approach styles will give us all ideas on how to be more effective in reaching the lost of the world, by starting on those in our own circle of influence!
5. If not a Christian, will you repent and be baptized to have the hope of eternal life?
6. If a Christian who has erred, repent and come back to God!
7. Whatever your requests may be, let them be known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!

\*Abbreviations:

* NIV: New International Version
* N.T.: New Testament
* YLT: Young’s Literal Translation