

## EVANGELISM

(Moerewa CF – 6/10/87)

“Evangelise or Fossilise” – Frank Houston.

1. **Mat 9:9-13.** In Jesus’ day the religious people hated the tax collectors, and the sinners. **Tax collectors** were Jews who worked for the Roman rulers, collecting taxes for them, collecting more than they should, and making themselves wealthy. They were dishonest cheats, hated by other Jews. E.g. Zaccheus, *Lk 19:1-10*. **Sinners** were Jews, who were non-religious, did not keep the law, the sacrifices, or attend temple services. They were often poor, sick, lonely, hungry, poorly clothed, and may have been immoral. E.g. *Lk 7:36-48, Jn 4:1-26*.
2. Jesus met and ate meals with these outcasts. The religious Jews judged Jesus for this, and criticised Him, *Mat 9:11, Mat 11:19*.
3. Jesus told the religious self-righteous Jews, that God wants us to show mercy to sinners rather than perform more religious ceremonies.  
He said, **“I have come to call sinners to repentance.”** *Mat 9:13*.  
He came to show God’s mercy to sinners.  
In *Lk 19:10*, “the Son of Man has come to seek and save the lost.”  
Also, *Jn 3:16,17, 1Tim 1:15, 1Jn 4:9,10, Rom 5:10, Lk 14:15-23, Lk 15:7,10*.
4. **The value to God of one soul**, is the price He has paid – which is His Blood. This is worth more than the whole world, *Mat 16:26*.
5. **Our Christian ministry** is:
  - a. **to God**, in worship, praise, prayer.
  - b. **to saints**, in fellowship, to edify one another.
  - c. **to world, to save the lost.**
6. **Our commission from Jesus.** Our marching orders – **SAVE SOULS!**  
*Mk 16:15,16, Mat 28:18-20, Ac 1:8, Jn 20:21*.
7. **Many have obeyed:** *Ps 68:11, Ps 107:1,2, Ac 8:4, Ac 11:19,20, 1Thes 1:5-8*.
8. Practical Steps towards being a Witness for Christ.
  - a. Seek God daily – *Mat 4:19, Ac 4:5-13, Mk 3:14,15, Ac 4:29-31*.
  - b. Offer yourself, *Is 6:8*. God wants our availability not our ability.
  - c. Be filled with the Spirit, *Ac 1:8, Eph 5:18,19, Lk 11:13, 2Tim 1:6*.
  - d. Pray for labourers, *Lk 10:2, Mat 9:37-39*.
  - e. Pray daily for five lost souls, that you know, seek opportunity to witness to them.  
Pray for words to speak. *Eph 6:19*.
  - f. Pray for boldness, *Pro 28:1, 1Thes 2:2, Eph 6:18-20, Ac 4:29-31*.
  - g. Refuse, reject fear. *Ac 18:9,10, 2Tim 1:6,7, Is 41:10, Is 43:1-3*.
9. **Pro 11:30 – He who wins souls is wise.**  
The Gospel is the Good News of the Kingdom of God and of salvation through Jesus Christ, to be received by faith, on the basis of His sacrificial death, burial, resurrection and

ascension to God's throne. *Mk 1:14,15, Mat 9:35, Mk 10:29,30, Rom 15:19, Lk 9:6, Lk 4:18, 1Cor 9:14,16, 1Thes 1:5, Rom 1:15,16, 1Cor 1:17.*

Once we have received and benefited from this good news – Gospel, we become responsible **to seek to communicate it to other people** with whom we come in contact. The word **gospel** occurs approximately 100 times in the New Testament and it is used 50 times with some word like preach, declare, speak, publish. **The Gospel is good news to be preached** and declared to all men. *Mat 4:23, Mat 24:14, Mk 13:10, 1Cor 15:1, 1Thes 2:2.*

**In 2K 7:1-16** we read of four leprous men, sitting outside the gate of the city of Samaria, while the city was besieged by the Syrian army. There was extreme famine in the city. The four lepers reasoned this way. They said, "If we go into the city we shall starve, if we sit here we shall die, but if we go out to the Syrians, they may let us live and perhaps we can get food." When they arrived at the Syrian camp, they found the army had fled leaving all behind, plenty of food, clothes and provisions. After taking the spoil they wanted and eating to the full, they remembered their fellow citizens dying of starvation in the city of Samaria. They said, "We are not doing this right. **This is a day of good news**, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, **come let us tell the King's household.**"

Jesus said that we receive power when we are baptised with the Holy Spirit, and as a result we shall be witnesses unto Him in our local district, in places more distant, and unto the ends of the earth. *Ac 1:5,8, Mk 16:15,16,20.* **We are His witnesses in the power of the Spirit to confess Christ before men.** *Mat 10:32.*

We are all called to share the good news of the Gospel, one to one, *Ac 8:35*, and with larger groups of people, if we have opportunity, *Ac 8:5,6.*

**Pray for:**

- a. opportunities to witness for Christ, *Col 4:3.*
- b. boldness to speak out in confidence, *Eph 6:19,20.*
- c. words to speak that are given by the Holy Spirit, *2Thes 3:1.*
- d. 5 unsaved people with whom you have contact every day.
- e. for God to thrust out labourers into His harvest, *Mat 9:38.*

**Exercise faith, confess and believe God's promises.**

- a. *Rev 3:8* – the Lord sets an open door before us.
- b. *Pro 28:1* – the righteous are as bold as a lion, *Pro 3:26, Pro 14:26.*
- c. *Mat 10:20* – the Holy Spirit puts His words in our mouths.
- d. *Lk 5:10* – do not be afraid, from now on you will catch men.
- e. *Ac 18:9,10*, - do not be afraid but speak, do not keep silent, for I am with you.
- f. *Ac 4:20* – we cannot speak the things which we have seen and heard, *2Cor 5:14.*

If you do not have a regular responsibility of Christian service and witness, consider becoming a worker in Open Air Campaigners or some similar group. They will train you and help you to gain confidence in witnessing.

**Carry Christian tracts** you can distribute to those you meet, e.g. Selwyn Hughes' tract, "How to become a Christian," Four Spiritual Laws booklet. **Learn basic salvation verses** and how to lead a person to Christ. Think through the basic points of counsel to a new convert.