

Bridgeway Community Church
Series: The Church That Shares, Cares & Dares
October 11, 2020

A Church That Shares - Pastor Sandy Pope

“Preach the gospel always and use words if necessary.” - St. Francis of Assisi

- that is NOT anything he ever said! No one really knows where it came from
- it was the antithesis of his life because he did preach the gospel in very creative ways

Christ’s command to preach the gospel is what we should adhere to

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them [the disciples] and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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.”

This great COMMISSION has become for some the great OMISSION or for you it has become the great SUGGESTION

Evangelism = spreading the good news of Jesus Christ

1. There is a burden that people want to share their faith have for the lost

Romans 10:1

Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.

2. There has to be compelling preparation

Learning about the people who will be ministered to - how they live, what they believe

Learning effective methods in sharing the gospel

God sent evangelists to the church specifically so that congregations can learn to share the gospel

Ephesians 4:11-13

It was he [Christ] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Evangelism isn't just knowing what to say, it's knowing what the gospel means in a meaningful way and sharing that information on how God saved your soul and transformed your life.

3. Building relationships in a compelling way

- getting to know them, what are their needs, what their interests are, how we might help them

4. Reliance on the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit in evangelism gives us boldness to graciously speak the message of the gospel and He also prepares the hearts of the person who is listening

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

5. Persistence in prayer

Praying for points 1-4

God has a plan for YOU sharing the gospel

Maybe God wants to use YOU in addition to what happens in the Sunday service

Our kindness and compassion is important but words are necessary

Why is evangelism so hard?

Don't have confidence - Come to a Bridgeway "Learn to Share Your Faith" seminar

Fear rejection - Jesus told us we would face rejection

John 15:18-21

[Jesus speaking] "If the world hates you [his disciples], keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me.

There might be rejection, but there also could be acceptance!

The Politicizing of the word 'evangelism'

Evangelism is NOT a political party

Because evangelism might seem hard it doesn't mean that you have an excuse from not sharing the gospel

The hardest part of the gospel of Jesus Christ was already done for you when Jesus laid down his life to pay the punishment for your sins

"What if I try it and it fails?" What if you try it and it succeed?!

Evangelism is hard, but it's worth it because to Jesus, you were worth it.

CLERGY INTERACTION/DIALOGUE

Jared - it is a myth that sharing the gospel for a pastor is easy!

Minister Tracey - sometimes sharing with those who know you well is harder is because you might 'pre-decide' how they are going to respond. Don't answer for them! Trust the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Steve Hardnett - Be patient! Let the gospel and the Holy Spirit do their work.

Sandy - I never share the faith the same way every time. Jesus modeled it! He didn't have a script! Each person he reached out to was unique, personal. Woman at the well, rich young ruler, Zacchaeus, etc.

Ronald - For introverts starring ANYTHING with ANYONE is hard for me because of my personality. What would you say to them?

Sandy - I think introverts make the best evangelists because they listen better and don't try to do all the talking! Introverts also pray for boldness and know that Jesus is with them.

Pastor Jared

John 4 - The Samaritan Woman

John 4:4-5

Now he [Jesus] had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

v. 4 Jesus 'had to go through Samaria'

The Jews and Samaritans did not get along at all

Jews would walk all the way around Samaria to get to where they were going

We see this pattern in Jesus' life of dependance on the Holy Spirit and time with the Father. That is what led him to reach out and bridge this culture caused him to have to go through Samaria.

v. 6 - the humanity of Jesus

John 4:6

Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

- he was tired and needed rest, he was thirsty and needed a drink just like anyone else
- the Samaritan woman comes along with the same needs that Jesus had

John 4:7-9

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus asks her for this very common human need.

She immediately goes to what divides them. Jew/Samaritan man/woman

John 4:10

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

Jesus points out another common need, it is a spiritual need - a God-shaped void

Jesus is working on both the human level and the spiritual level, but she keeps focusing on the human level only.

John 4:11-12

Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?”

She goes back to something that divides them

To a Jew, a Samaritan claiming to have Jacob as a father would have been insulting

John 10:13-14

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

The woman responds only to the human level

John 10:15

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

John 10:16-18

He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

She realizes now that Jesus has an insight into her life and is NOT just another man.

John 10:19-20

Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

Again, she focuses on another issue that divides them.

John 10:21-24

Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

She is worried about WHERE they should worship.

Jesus is concerned about WHO they should worship.

Jesus keeps constantly drawing her back to what unifies them - their humanity, their spiritual need, who they worship.

Share like Jesus!

- build bridges across cultures
- use the things we have in common to unite people

CLERGY INTERACTION/DIALOGUE

Pastor David - Can you share with our congregation some of the work we are doing to cross into other cultures?

Jared - Bridgeway has 11 different missionaries around the world that we support. Mexico, Jordan, Peru and some we can't share because of the dangerous places some of them are.

Jared - My challenge is we are all missionaries! Whether it is across the world or across the street, God is calling us to build bridges and share his gospel. There is a missionary call on each one of us.

DA - the older model of missionaries of training and sending them to countries around the world. In the 21st century how do we answer the call to be missionaries around us?

Jared - God calls us to our neighbors. The good Samaritan story - EVERYONE is our neighbor, not literally just the person who lives next door to our home. And most of our communities are diverse so to minister to our neighbors there are some cultural bridges that need to be built like old style missionaries used to do.

Pastor Gary - Dr. Spader's book [The Everyday Commission](#)¹.

Jared - It is 'neighboring well,' being a good neighbor, but it is not just about being present, but praying for opportunities and opening your mouth as well.

¹The Everyday Commission: Discover the Joy of Partnership with God by Dann Spader. Out of Print but available on Amazon and several other books by Dr. Spader are available.