

# **What Is Evangelism?**

**By David Maxson**

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound” (Isa. 61:1).

What is evangelism? Evangelism is an act of compassion. It is the greatest act of mercy one human being can show to another. Evangelism is loving those that are hurting, those that are broken, those that are forgotten, those that are poor.

Evangelism can become an act of pride. It can be a club to beat down those who already know they are worthless. It can become a way of boosting our own ego by making followers of ourselves. And when used in this way we make our "disciples" twice as much sons of hell as ourselves (Matt. 23:15). True evangelism is not about building our ego, our churches, or any other selfish agenda. True evangelism is about Jesus, not about ourselves.

See, when the message of the cross gets inside of you, there is no more room for self. It's all about Him. He is everything to you. He is your life and your reason for living. He is your highest thought. He is your Savior and your King. He is your best friend.

No, there is no pride in telling others about Jesus. You glory only in the privilege of being able to tell someone of how He set you free. You don't see the homosexual, the adulterer, the crack addict, the dead-beat dad, the murderer, the drug dealer as being somehow inferior to yourself. They are painful reminders of what you used to be.

They are harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. They are living aimless lives without hope, without purpose, without God. They are weary. They are hungry. And they don't know where to turn. What is evangelism? It's one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief" (1Tim. 1:15).

## **As An Anchor for the Soul**

The story is told of a young naval officer that was tested by the old sea captain. “What would you do if suddenly a storm sprang up on the starboard?” he asked the young man. “I'd throw out an anchor, sir.”

“What would you do if another storm sprang up aft?” “Throw out another anchor, sir.” “And what if another terrific storm sprang up forward, what would you do?” “Throw out another anchor, sir.”

“Hold on,” said the old captain. “Where are you getting all those anchors?” “From the same place you're getting all your storms, sir.”

We face many terrible storms in life. What a great thing it is to have an anchor of the soul – our hope in Jesus Christ! “The hope set before us: which we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast” (Heb. 6:18-19).

## **Need A Little Push?**

A motorist tells of a traffic backup recently. As he and several others inched forward, they finally saw the stalled vehicle ahead. A lady inside was unable to start the car, and horns sounded as angry drivers tried to pull around the old clunker. Just then, a man pulled up behind the stalled vehicle and gave it a push. With that help, the car was soon moving on its own, and traffic got underway as well.

Isn't that the way life is for most of us? Sometimes we may be halted by circumstances, and it is hard to keep going. What we all need is just someone to give us a little push to get us started again. “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2).

## Like His Father Had Done

“In the second year of Joash the son of Joahaz, king of Israel, Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, began to reign... And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, yet not like David his father. He did in all things as Joash his father had done” (2Kings 14:1, 3).

Did you know it is highly unlikely that your kids will be more righteous than you? Think about that for a minute. Let it sink in. Is that a little disturbing to you? Joash was a good father. He was judged as being a righteous king (2Kings 12:2). His son, Amaziah, walked in his father's footsteps and was also judged as righteous. However, Amaziah did not do what was right as David had done. He only did as well as his father did.

If you are a parent, the fact that you're reading this means you are probably a good parent. You're concerned about the spiritual well-being of your kids. You want them to grow up to become Christians and follow Jesus. But the fact is, our kids are going to follow Jesus only as much as we follow Jesus. Obviously, there are wonderful exceptions to this rule. Hezekiah's father, Ahaz, was a wicked king, and yet Hezekiah was arguably one of the best kings in Judah (2Kings 16:1-4; 18:1-3; see also Josiah). But for every Hezekiah and Josiah in the story of the kings, there are a lot more kings like Amaziah. Children tend to follow (and are often limited by) their parent's example. Let us lead by our words and our deeds.

## What Does It Mean?

Covetousness – Its mother is unlawful desire, its daughter is injustice, and its friend is violence.

Lust – An appetite of the mind by which temporal goods are preferred to eternal goods.

Prayer – To ask not what we wish of God, but what God wishes of us.

Preaching – Preaching has been compared with the discharge of a pipette of eye medicine from a third story window into a crowded street in the hope that it will hit someone in the right place.

Problem – An opportunity in work clothes.

Duty – Something we look forward to with distaste, do with reluctance, and boast about forever after.

Forethought – To dig a well before you are thirsty.

