

## HABIT 3: MAINTAINING AN EVANGELISTIC LIFESTYLE!

Jesus called us to follow him and become fishers of people. This is Jesus plan for changing the world, one person at a time. “Evangelize” simply means to share the good news. We shouldn’t have to set aside time “for evangelism.” Rather, as disciples we can share the good news everywhere they go – in the streets, in the home, on the job, all alone... The challenge is to train ourselves to maintain the HABIT of an evangelistic lifestyle. Let’s consider how!

### **Memory Verse: Matthew 28:18-20**

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

### **OUR MOTIVATION = LOVE... for God and People**

- 1) **Christ’s Love Compels Us**, making us ambassadors & messengers. (2 Corinthians 5:14-20)
- 2) **Love for God** leads us to obey Jesus... even when we don’t feel like it. (John 14:15)
- 3) **Following Jesus**, we take on his heart and compassion for people. (Matthew 9:35-38)

### **OUR EXAMPLE = Jesus’ evangelistic lifestyle**

- 1) Jesus demonstrated an amazing heart for the lost.
- 2) Jesus shared his faith wherever he went.  
*Example: Jesus’ evangelism in the Gospel of Mark*
  - By the Sea of Galilee (1:14ff); in the synagogue (1:21ff); in people’s homes (1:29ff,32ff).
  - Around town (2:1ff); by the lake (2:13ff); in a foreign land (5:1ff); in his hometown (6:1ff).
  - On the way to Jerusalem (10:32ff); as they entered (11:1ff); in the temple (11:12ff).
  - (14-15) In the garden; mistreated before authorities; at the cross; after resurrection!

### **MAKING DISCIPLES – The Process (Luke 10:1-24)**

- 1) **PRAY**: “Ask the Lord of the harvest”
  - Make a DECISION before God. Everything starts with your relationship with God.
- 2) **WORK**: “To send out workers”
  - Jesus needs workers. We follow Jesus as “hard-working” servants. (2 Timothy 2:6)
- 3) **SOW SEED**: “Into his harvest field” [See the parable of the sower, Luke 8]
  - The seed is the Word of God – as we go, we scatter the seeds of God’s Word.
  - “When you enter a house” – Jesus sowed seeds through relationships.
  - Invite people into your life, don’t just invite them to church.

### **Evangelism Encouragements!**

1. **You have something to share!**
  - Share how God has had mercy on you! (Mark 5:19-20)
2. **The “gospel” means “good news”!**
  - Experience & share it! (Mark 1:17-18)
3. **Sharing our faith glorifies God!**
  - Our lifestyle will make God known. (1 Corinthians 10:31)
4. **Share “as you go”!**
  - Make the most of every opportunity!
  - Ex: The woman at the well. (John 4)
5. **It’s on our lips when it’s on our heart!**
  - “from the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.” (Matthew 12:34)
6. **It takes words... so open your mouth!**
  - Jesus is the Word; He spoke! (John 1)

- 4) **FIND A WORTHY PERSON:** [Matthew 10:11ff] “someone who promotes peace” [Luke 10:5]
  - A “worthy” person: Someone who knows what you are all about, wants a relationship with you, and wants to learn from you; they are willing to put forth *effort* and *time*.
  - Not just people who are open to a relationship with us... many want a friend.
  - Make room in your life to reach out to a few people at a time.
  - Be willing to move on: Jesus said, “take your peace back” – keep looking for the “worthy.”
- 5) **GROW IN EFFECTIVENESS:** [Hebrews 5:11-Hebrews 6:3]
  - Mature Christians become effective teachers of the elementary truths of God’s Word.
  - Practice studying the Bible with people – the more we ‘practice’ the better we get!
    - hear lessons on fishing but don’t go out and fish... you’re not a fisherman
    - hear lessons on driving but don’t go out and drive... you’re not a driver
    - hear lessons on evangelizing but don’t go out and evangelize... you’re not an evangelizer... not a disciple... not like Jesus!

*We must actually practice what we believe!*
- 6) **WORK TOGETHER:** “He sent them out two by two”
  - Teammates: Work together to meet each other’s friends, evangelize, and study with people.
  - Purposeful: Prioritize evangelism in your life!  
Ask people to study the Bible.
- 7) **EXPECT FRUIT:** “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name”
  - Be faithful, patient, consistent: fruit will come!
  - Jesus warned them, “do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven” – true joy doesn’t come from results but from relationship.
  - Disciples bear fruit... Jesus commanded us to “go and bear fruit.” (John 15:8,16)
  - We remain on this earth to bear fruit. (Philippians 1:21-22,25)

### Are You Competent to Convert?

Where do you see yourself?

#### **1. Concerned but Unmoved**

- Knows what is right and desires it
- But... doesn’t do what is right due to fear, busyness, unbelief, etc.

#### **2. Consistent Evangelizer**

- Shares how Jesus changed their life!

#### **3. Confident Studier**

- Builds a friendship
- Leads basic studies with confidence
- Transfers knowledge effectively
- Confronts people with scripture

#### **4. Converter**

- Persuades the heart with scripture
- Discerns life issues
- Helps people change (repent)
- Inspires and conveys urgency
- Calls people to a decision

**Challenge: Continue to Grow!**

### CONCLUSIONS

- 1) Jesus changed the world by sharing good news in a way that inspired people to follow him.
- 2) As disciples, we have committed our lives to following Jesus, saying, “Jesus is Lord.”
- 3) We have the opportunity and responsibility to participate in the ministry of Jesus.
- 4) Jesus’ example: live an evangelistic lifestyle, find “worthy” people, call people to decision.
- 5) Imagine how God will use you: Expect others to become disciples!

### Recommended Reading

\* Randy McKean, *Radical Faith*, IPI Books, 2015, [www.ipibooks.com](http://www.ipibooks.com)