

QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 5-6

Next week we will be taking some time in community group to make an evangelism plan. And then the following week we will share whether we made a plan or not.

Remember why we are doing this?

1. This is our goal: that we might "...be more understanding and obedient in evangelism.... I also pray that as you come to evangelize more, you will help your church to develop a culture of evangelism. What do I mean by a culture of evangelism? I mean an expectation that Christians will share the gospel with others, talk about doing that, pray about it, and regularly plan and work together to help each other evangelize. We want evangelism to be normal-in our own lives and in our churches."
2. Similarly to the story that begins the book, have some share stories where you have seen the gospel's power at work in your life or in the life of someone else.
3. Highlight any question from past chapters that you might think your group might need to spend some more time on.

Chapter 5 What Isn't Evangelism?

Summary: Evangelism isn't...:

- a. Imposing on people. On the contrary, it is presenting not mere opinion but fact. "The Bible presents the human problem never be solved by coercive force or imposition. Therefore, all I can do is present the good news accurately, live a life of love toward unbelievers, and pray for God to convict them of their sins and give them the gifts of repentance of faith" (p71).
- b. Personal Testimony. "Who will object from thinking you've gotten something good from Christ? But wait and see what happens when you try to move the conversation from what Jesus has done for you to the facts of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, and how that all applies to your nonbelieving friend" (p74).
- c. Social Action of Public Involvement. "Being involved in mercy ministry may help to commend the gospel, ... to be evangelism, the gospel must be clearly communicated, whether in written or oral form. When our eyes fall from God to humanity, social ills replace sin, horizontal problems replace the fundamental vertical problem between us and God, winning elections eclipses winning souls" (p75).
- d. Apologetics. "By far the greatest danger in apologetics is being distracted from the main message" (p78)
- e. The Results of Evangelism. 2 Cor. 2:15-16 "Note that the same ministry has two different effects.... The same seed was planted in various places. The response varied not according to how the seed was planted but according to the nature of the soil (p79).

- f. Are these bad? No but they should be used as means to get to the gospel not as replacements for the gospel
- 4. Which one of these are you most tempted to call evangelism in your attempts to share the gospel with others?
- 5. Explain the difference between your personal testimony and the gospel.
- 6. Are you tempted to confuse feeding the poor on Sunday morning or meeting physical needs for people with the gospel? As a church who wants to live sacrificial lives of love toward unbelievers we must be careful to speak the gospel not just live loving lives before them.

Chapter 6 What Should We Do After We Evangelize?

- 7. Summary: Negative responses include "I'm undecided", "I want to wait," "not now," and "no never." When positive responses are given we celebrate but we know that some "yeses" are false. So our best friend is time and the evidence of continual repentance and continual faith that is required of a believer.
- 8. Recount a time when you might have received a negative response. How did you handle it and what comfort can we receive from Mark Dever's counsel?
 - a. D. Martin Lloyd Jones quote, "If what happened to you last night does not last twenty-four hours I am not interested in it. If you are not as ready to come with me now as you were last night you have not got the right, the true thing. Whatever affected you last night was only temporary and passing, you still do not see your real need of Christ" (p88).
 - b. Interruptions should not be seen as devastating. (see the bottom of p88).
- 9. If in your past, you had one of these negative responses share how your negative response later resulted in a positive response. This should give hope to us all as we share the gospel.
- 10. I want you to feel the freedom if the person does not seem attracted to the gospel to drop the conversation if you have been clear about what the gospel is. "Continue to pray for them. Make sure they understand what you are saying, but realize that you have indeed evangelized" (p87).