

# SENT: SHARING THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL

## Session 2 | Brian Chesemore

### January 11, 2014

#### I. Introduction

##### A. Our Recommended Text

*Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus*  
--by J. Mack Stiles. (Crossway Books)

##### B. Our Study of Evangelism

Week One: The Mission of the Church  
Week Two: The Heart of Every Ambassador  
Week Three: The Message of Every Ambassador  
Week Four: The Corporate Witness of the Church

*Revisiting our Mission as a Church*

“The mission of the church is to go into the world and make disciples by declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit and gathering these disciples in churches, that they might worship and obey Jesus Christ now and in eternity to the glory of God the Father.”<sup>1</sup>

“Evangelism is teaching the gospel with the aim to persuade.”<sup>2</sup>

“Here is how the Amplified Bible might have expanded my definition: Evangelism is teaching (heralding, proclaiming, preaching) the gospel (the message from God that leads us to salvation) with the aim (hope, desire, goal) to persuade (convince, convert).”<sup>3</sup>

##### C. Reviewing Our Goals

1. *Gain a greater understanding of key scriptures on evangelism.*  
Today we will explore Matthew 9.35-38, which addresses the heart of every ambassador.

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<sup>1</sup> DeYoung, Kevin and Gilbert, Greg. *What is the Mission of the Church?*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Publishing, 2011). Pg. 241.

<sup>2</sup> Stiles, J. Mack. *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus* (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Publishing, 2014). Pg. 26.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, 27.

2. *Recognize and repent of our excuses regarding evangelism.*
3. *Form convictions about evangelism.*
4. *Develop a practical strategy of prayer and evangelism.* Do you have that 1 person who does not know the Lord, who you are praying for daily? When you pray, let the passages we are studying inform your prayers. Let the passages we are studying soften your heart to the need of your lost friend.
5. *Cultivate a culture of evangelism in SGCL.*

“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—in our own lives and in our churches.”<sup>4</sup>

Mack Stiles, in his book, *Evangelism* adds...

“I appreciate personal evangelism, and we need to be equipped for it. But since I believe in the church as the engine of evangelism, we need to develop cultures of evangelism in our local churches, too. We want whole churches that speak of Jesus.”<sup>5</sup>

## **II. The Heart of an Ambassador**

If someone were to ask you, “What should my prayers for the lost look like?” here’s a key passage to take them.

Context:

- Teaching in their synagogues
- Proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom
- Healing every disease and affliction

This is Matthew’s summary of a season of mission in our Savior’s life.

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<sup>4</sup> Dever, Mark. *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism* (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Publishing, 2011). Pg. 17.

<sup>5</sup> Stiles, J. Mack. *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus* (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Publishing, 2014). Pg. 42.

Here are three realities that define the heart of our Savior towards the lost. These are three characteristics that should define every ambassador:

- The Gospel-mission calls for Christ-like Compassion
- Our Gospel-mission calls for eyes of faith
- Our Gospel Mission calls for labor-generation prayer

#### **A. The Gospel mission calls for Christ-like Compassion (v.36)**

1. Compassion Explained

2. What is God's solution for harassed and helpless sheep?

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days...And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace." Micah 5.2,4-5a.

#### **Let's evaluate:**

- a. Think of a particular person you desire to show the love of Christ to, to ultimately share the gospel with. How are they "harassed and helpless?"
- b. Ask yourself, "How do I position myself to show compassion for the lost? Am I with them? " I can't have a true compassion for the lost without being amongst the lost.
  - Befriend with compassion.
  - Proclaim with compassion.
  - Serve with compassion.

3. Our compassion is not generic. It's informed by our experience of grace.

#### **B. The gospel mission calls for eyes of faith**

John records Jesus as saying, "Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest."

1. Harvest fields simply need laborers.
2. Ask yourself, “Do I anticipate conversions?” Our savior didn’t just see need. He didn’t just feel deeply for the lost. He saw conversions coming.

**C. The Gospel mission calls for labor-generating prayer (v.37-38)**

A major part of the harvesting process occurs through prayer. This is where we acknowledge and demonstrate that we serve and depend upon a sovereign God. We pray, because we believe the conversion of souls depends ultimately upon God.

“The spirit of self-reliance is a blight on evangelism. Such, however, is the inevitable consequence of forgetting God’s sovereignty in the conversion of souls.”<sup>6</sup>

So let us add to our prayers for compassion and faith, prayers of dependence upon God for laborers and conversions.

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<sup>6</sup> Packer, J.I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. (Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2011).