

the 'art' of personal witnessing



we previously observed the
“essence” of a witness

Is. 44.8 ‘Do not tremble and do
not be afraid;

Have I not long since announced it
to you and declared it?

And you **are My witnesses.**

Is there any God besides Me,

Or is there any other Rock?

I know of none.””

the world is a
global courtroom



a witness has an incredible largeness of being

it's the largeness of the I AM in you



includes the 'God factor' in all plans

embraces a larger view of things

elevates the lives of those around them

filled with the Holy Spirit

"Got tired of living large."

the “act” of witnessing

Acts 1.8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My **witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

practical reality of witnessing

1. Between 15-30 is the best time for evangelism
2. a new believer's window of opportunity
3. social contact with peers the key



The Believer's Secret of Happiness

“In every believer's life there are two big days, two days of special rejoicing. The first happy day is the day when he believes in the Lord. The second happy day is the day when he for the first time leads someone to Christ. To many, the joy of leading a person to the Lord for the very first time even exceeds the joy of their own salvation. But many believers are not happy, for they have never uttered a word for the Lord nor ever led a soul to Christ. Do not let this be your condition; do not degenerate to the point of having no joy.”



Spiritual Exercise by Watchman Nee p. 70 CFP

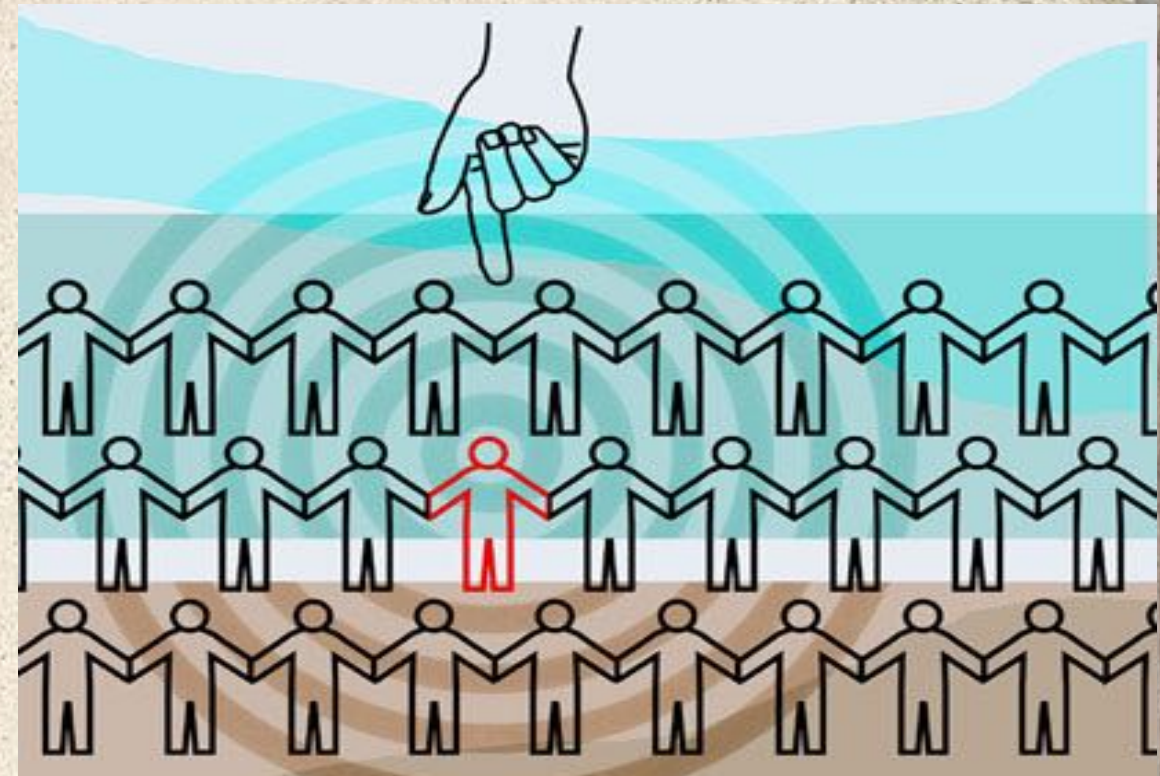
hitting the wall

breaking into the
“witness zone”



what is the witness zone?

1. out of your 'comfort zone'
2. penetrating into someone else's 'personal space'
3. your words + Holy Spirit's conviction = Kingdom zone

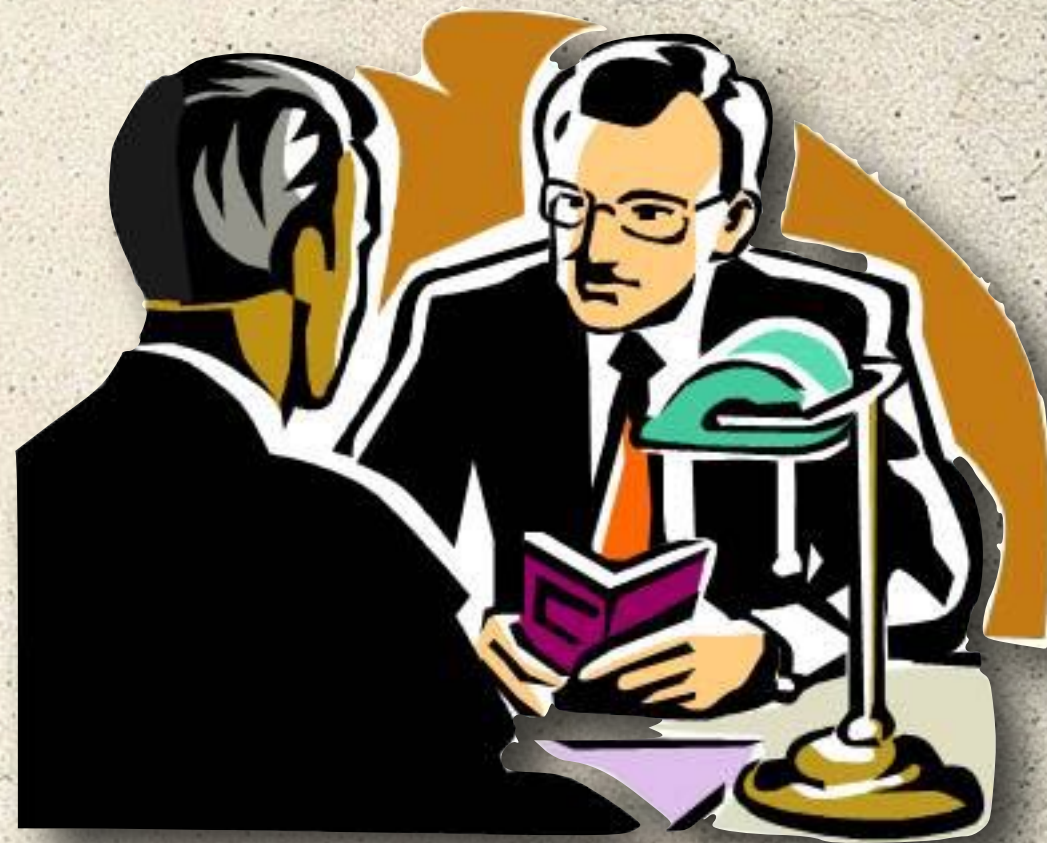


3. the witness zone brings in the Spirit's Presence

two moments of impact:

1. when you first break
into their space

2. when you lead them
into 'His Space'



We have taken the
three steps of
preparation to enter
the Witness Zone of
Divine Appointments

#1: Psa 51.12-13 we are willing
“... so sinners will be converted to Thee”

1. the willing find witnessing opportunities all around

2. the fearful need to be willing to fail for Him

3. “intentional disciples”
believe their lives are in a certain place by and for the will of God



#2: 1 Pet 3.15 - we prepare our heart “available to give a reason...”

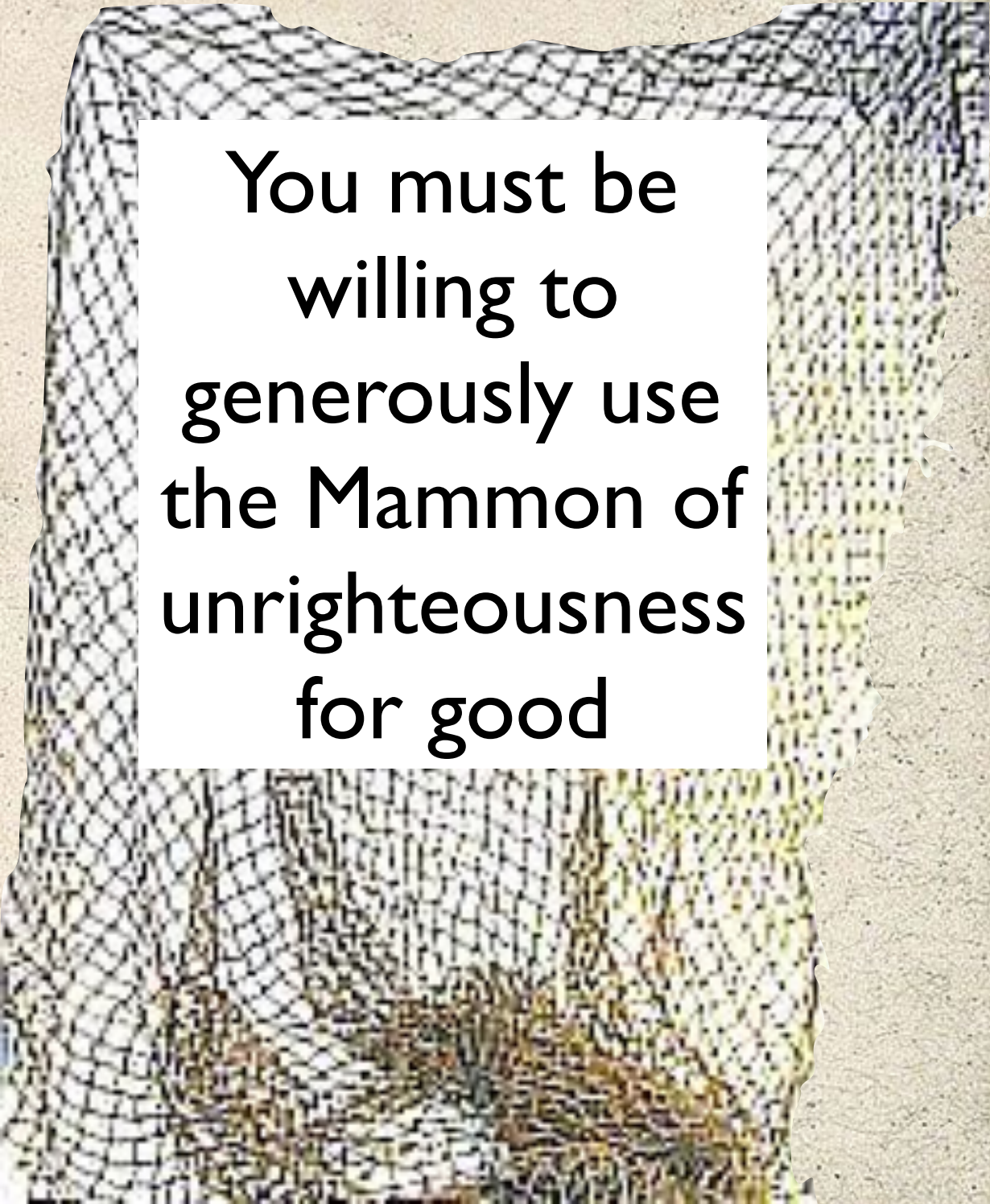
1. make a prayer list of those in your ‘life zone’
2. the Spirit in prayer will impress someone upon you
3. pray for an opening (question or observation)



3. nets repaired
and ready with
time and money

kinds of nets available

- the 'help' net -
- the 'event' net -
- the 'interest' net -
- the 'media' net



You must be
willing to
generously use
the Mammon of
unrighteousness
for good

If your will, prayer and money are dedicated,
you are ready to enter the 'witness zone'

Col. 4.5 Walk in
wisdom toward them
that are without,
redeeming the time.



Concepts of
witnessing: 4
reality checks

1. Witnessing is a self-denying,
faithful part of normal life

Acts is a book
'telescoping' years
of faithful, thankless,
sometimes difficult,
sometimes closed
door witnessing

**"Shake
The
Dust Off
Your
Feet!"**

2. You never 'succeed' or 'fail' at Witnessing

God uses the willing
witness to:

- plant a seed
- water the ground
- cultivate
- harvest
- enrich fruit

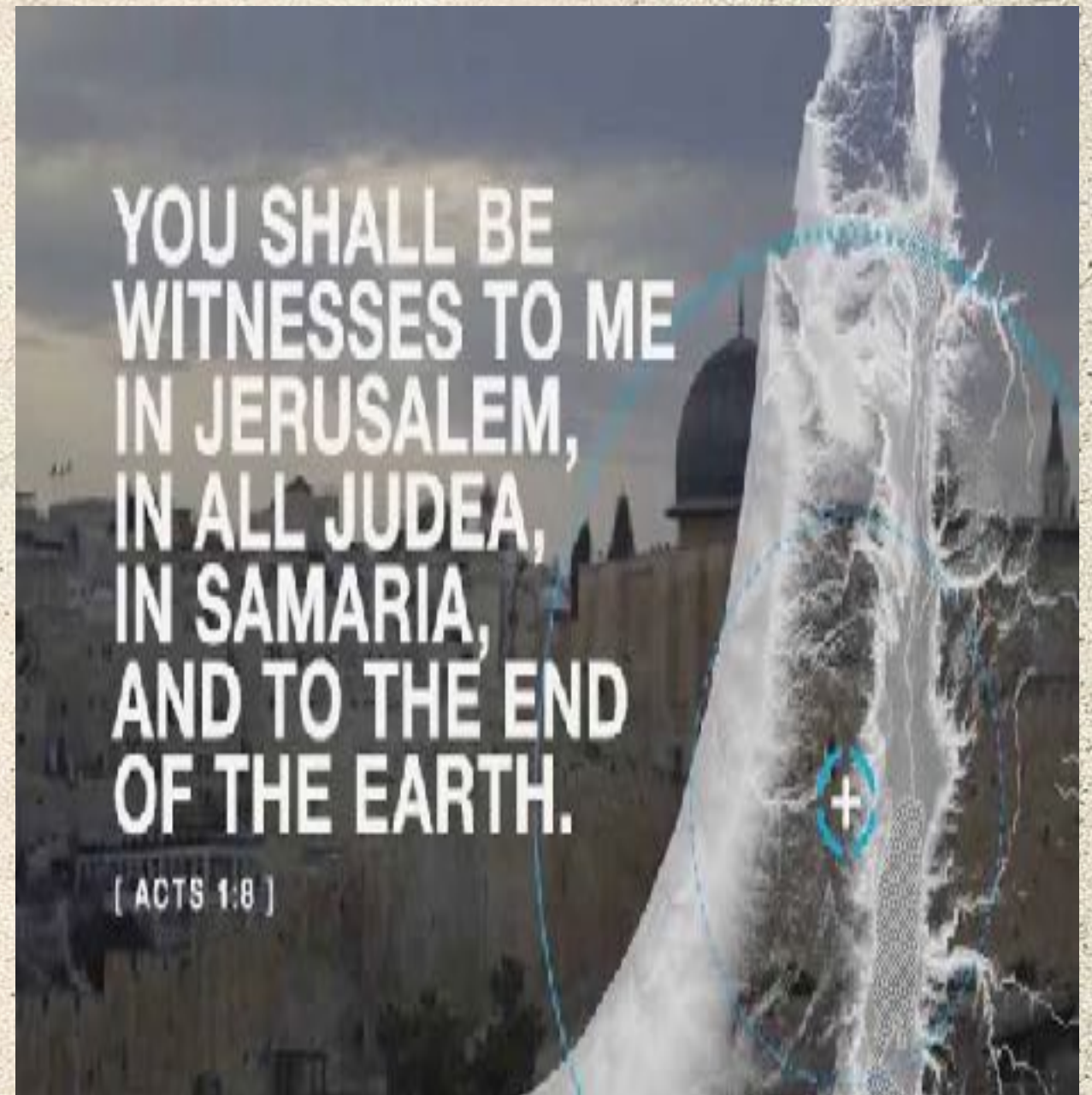
It's not important who
does the planting, or
who does the
watering.
What's
important
is that God
makes the
seed grow.

- 1 Corinthians 3:7 (NLT)

3. You may go out to reach the lost; the Lord may want to make a disciple

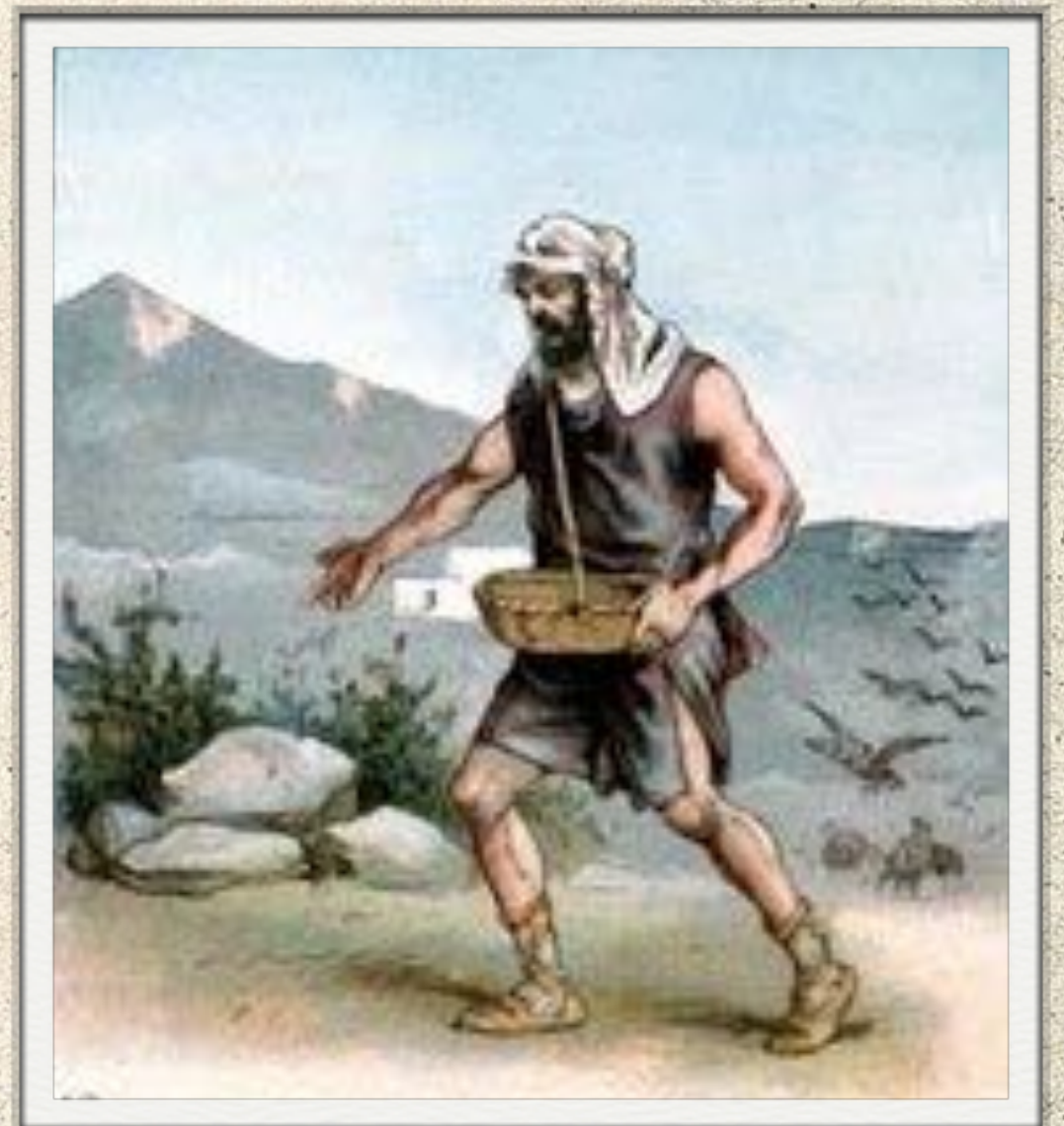
Acts 1.8 interpreted

- 1st witness to Jerusalem (church peeps)
- 2nd to religious background peeps
- 3rd to nominal, worldly christians
- 4th to unbelievers



4. You sow along your journey; God uses all sowing for His Kingdom

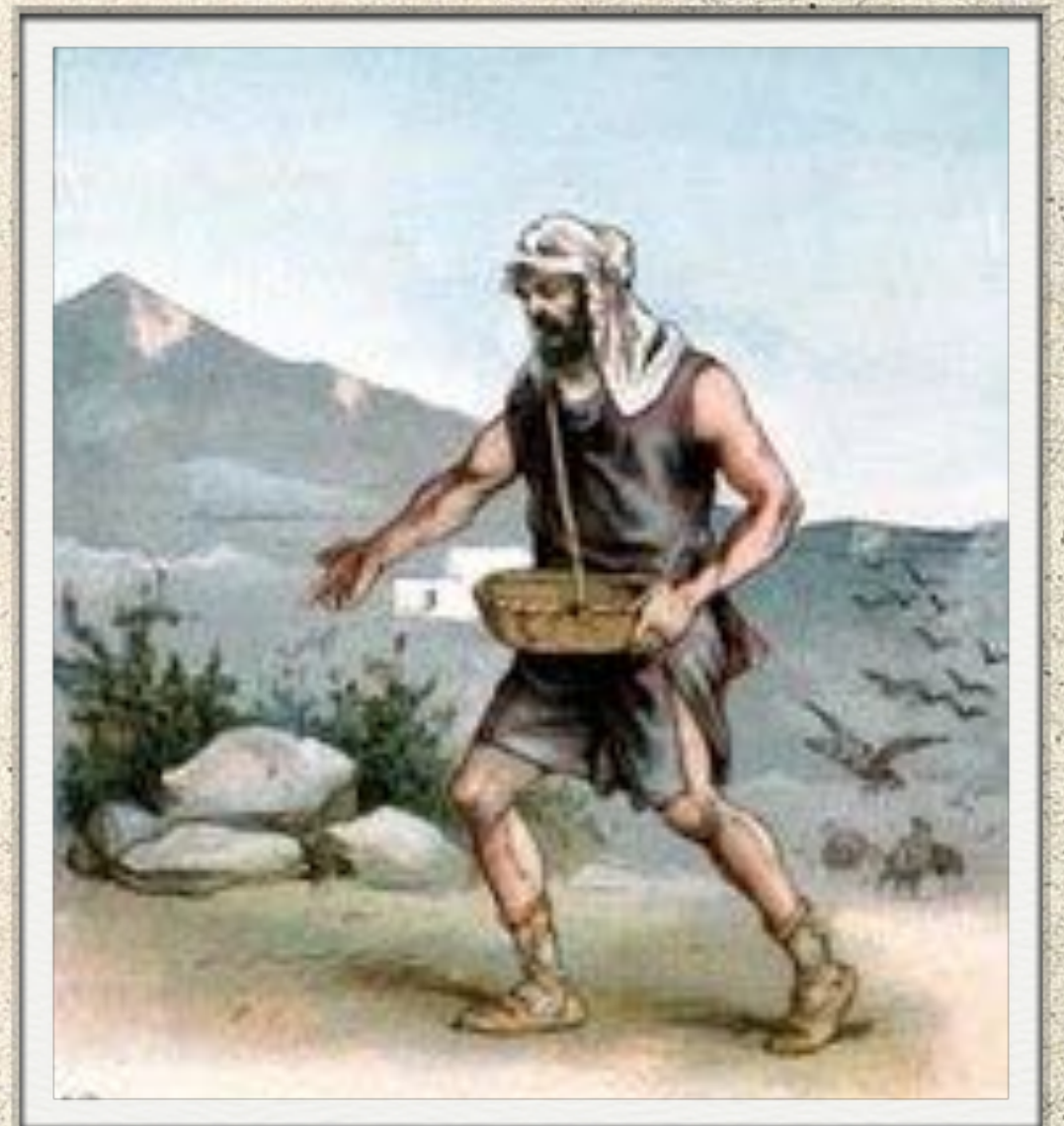
- You can't determine the soil's preparedness -
- Your seed will find 'good' soil and will multiply fruitfulness 30,60,100
- Even seemingly fruitless sowing is used in judgment in the Kingdom



Larger Picture:

1. Evangelism is a vital part of our Kingdom service

- The “normal church” has been given evangelists to keep the door open -
- The whole church is called upon at seasons to “do the work of an evangelist”



2. Evangelism is only a part of our Kingdom service

- The "Lord of the Harvest" gathers in to the church where the whole Body shepherds and makes disciples
- The Head of the church also sends master builders to build up His church unto maturity



3. The reality of the church's testimony is the secret to evangelism

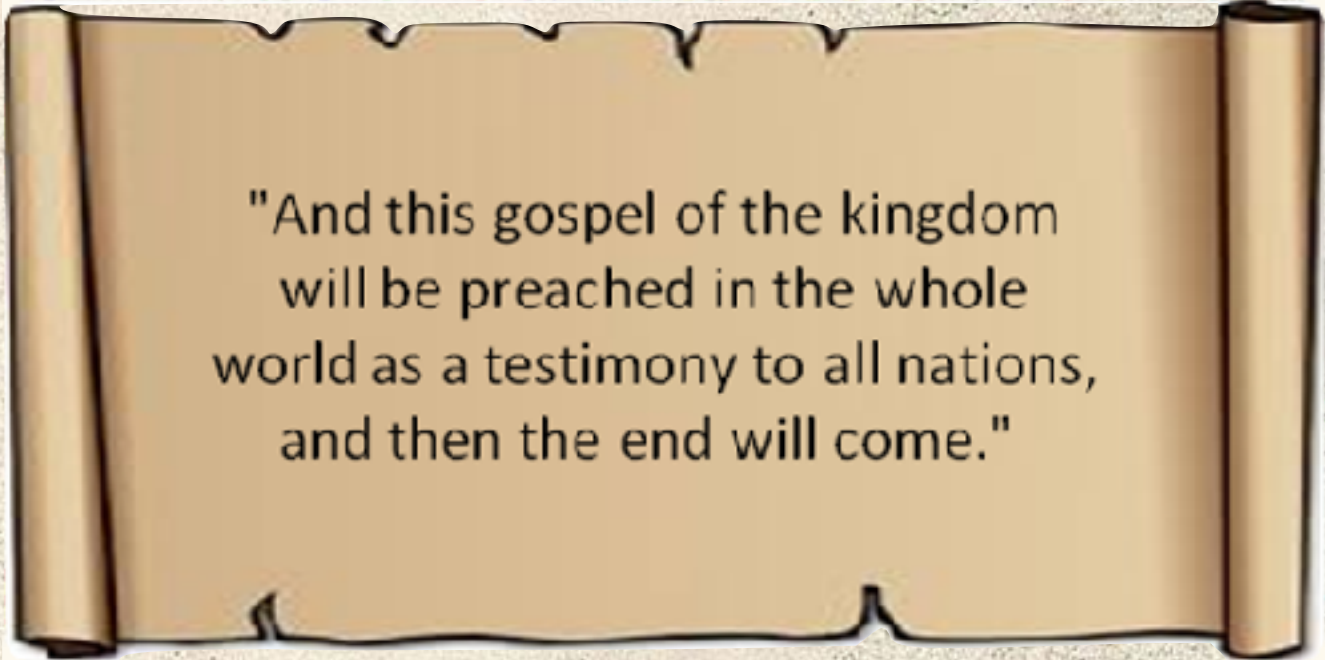
- When the Lord is "alive" in the midst of His church He sovereignly opens doors for seasons of ingathering
- Evangelism has its sovereign place in our service when balanced with spiritual growth



4. Both the gospel of the Kingdom and the Bride's perfection hasten the end

- The gospel's witness
"to the uttermost"
prepares the way for
the Lord's return

- The perfecting of
His bride bids the
Bridegroom to come



"And this gospel of the kingdom
will be preached in the whole
world as a testimony to all nations,
and then the end will come."



*And the Spirit and
the Bride say*
COME

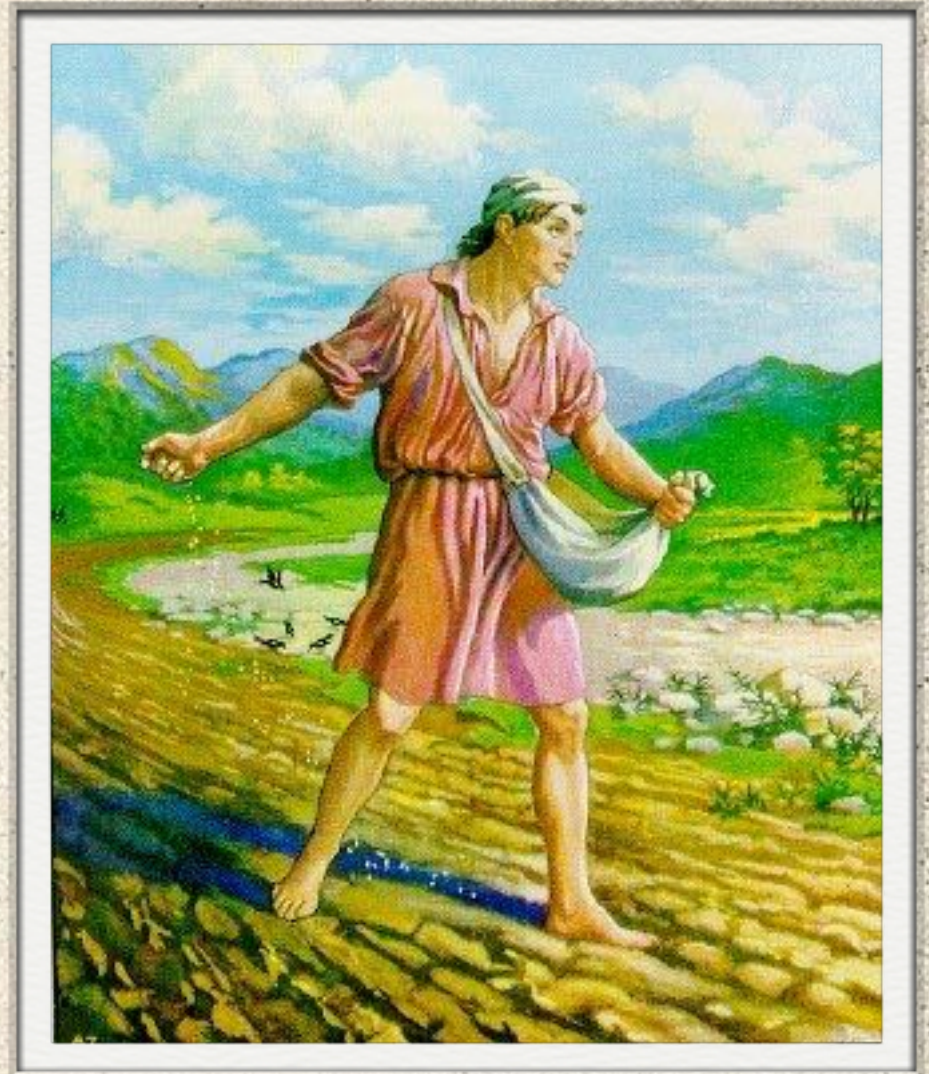
Concepts of
witnessing:

1. Parables:

the unexpected
angle of elevation

The parable catches listeners off-guard

- Wisdom of Jesus used a simple story to relate a mystery beyond the obvious
- An outward familiar picture had an 'unexpected angle of elevation'
- The outsider/ seeker often had "ears" that hear the 'twist' which the outwardly religious missed



The Kingdom drew near through Jesus' unexpected mysteries

- God's kingdom He revealed as organic and not systemic in nature
- Kingdom of God was entered through spiritual birth as a living seed not outwardly
- The kingdom of God was actually a living spiritual relationship to the King Himself



Jesus -
"And he said -
when you are
alone, compare the kingdom of
God to what a seed and
it will be illustrated and it
will be done."
It is like a grain of mustard
seed, which, when sown upon
the ground, is the smallest
of all seeds upon the earth.

"But after it is sown, it
grows up and becomes the
greatest of all garden herbs
and puts out long branches
so that birds of the air are
able to make nests and
live in its shade."

Mark 4:26

Applying wisdom in witnessing parables

1. In the world thoughts are shallow,
'under the sun', opinions without basis
2. It is a shock to discover there is a
present spiritual realm and an unknown
God ruling over us with mercy and love
4. Our unexpected angle of elevation
can pique the interest of those about
us

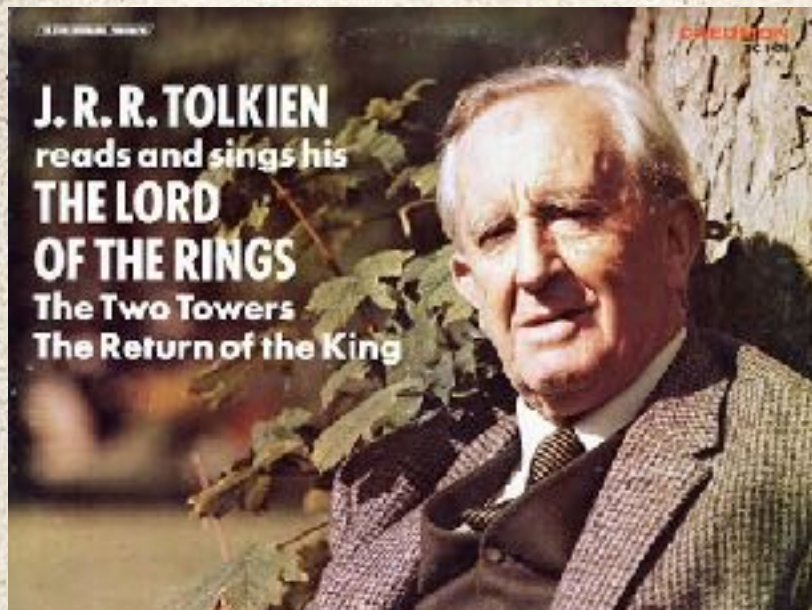


Applying wisdom in witnessing parables

1. Create contemporary parables
2. Parable's effect: there is something deeper to life
3. Parables surprise the seeker from an unexpected angle of elevation:
 - a. Nicodemus
 - b. Samaritan woman
 - c. Good Samaritan

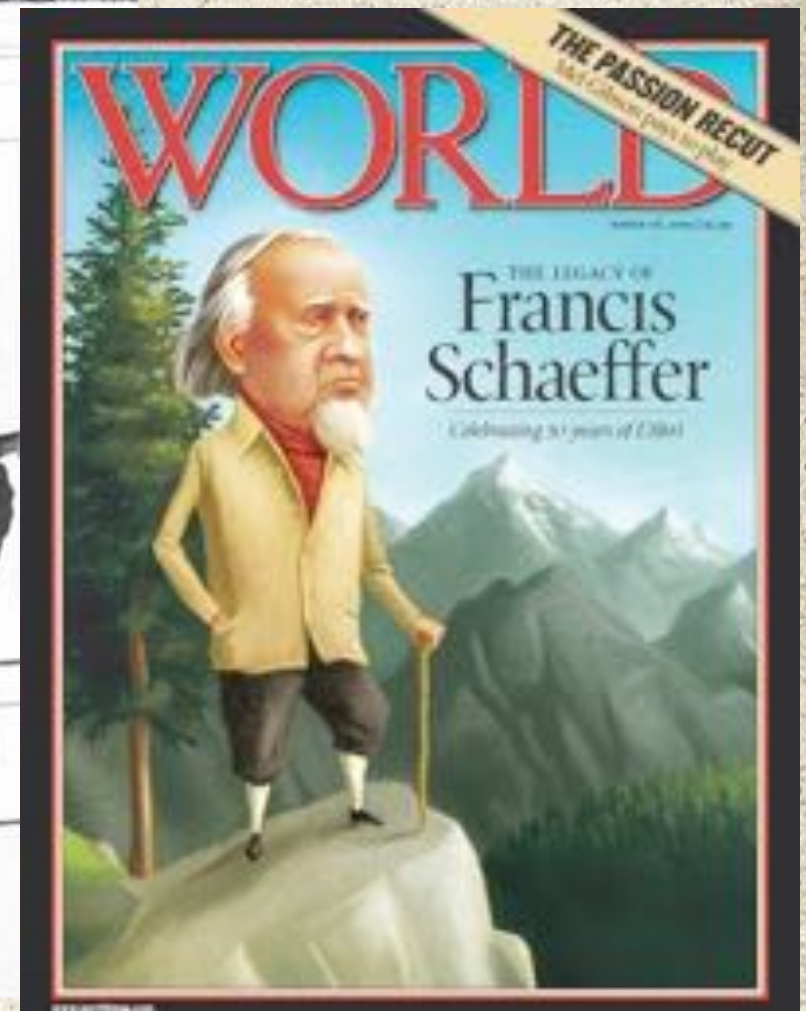


Modern day witnesses have used parables to elevate higher and deeper vision



"The other side of the coin of 'the problem of evil' is, after all, 'the *problem of good*': if there is no God, no good and wise creator, why is there an impulse to justice and mercy so deep within us? Why is there beauty, love, laughter, friendship, joy?"

~ N.T. WRIGHT



Concepts of
witnessing:

2. Witness Team:
the art of
corporate witness

Witnessing Teams

Teams of young people should venture 'beyond the walls' in order to sow into the surrounding field

1. Your Kingdom Testimony Territory

2. Corporate witness

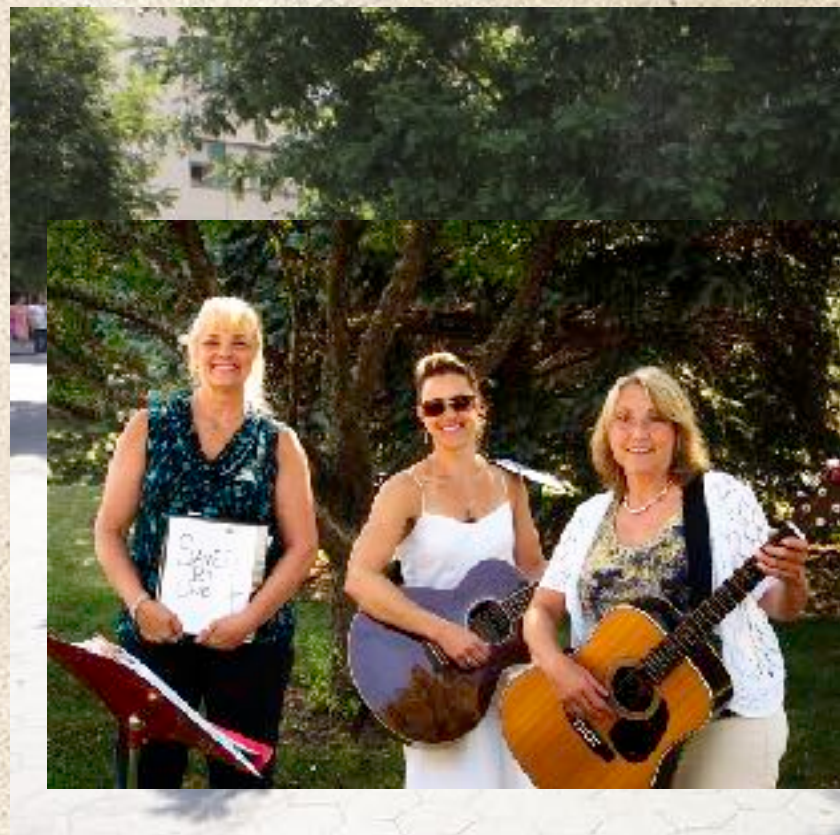
3. Divine opportunities

4. Using diverse gifts united in one goal



Witnessing Teams: Components

1. Silent prayer circle
2. Musicians: chum
3. Personal Testimony
4. Gospel Message
5. Tract counselors



Witnessing Teams: Strategy

1. Pray sanctifying ground for Kingdom use
2. Singers gain attention by singing a few good songs
3. Personal Testimony
4. Witness gives 3-5 minute gospel shot- parable
5. Tract counselors observe and talk to those who stop and listen
6. Re-cycle every 10-15 minutes



The enemy will often try to prevent efforts
Spirit filled singing not sheepishly
People have neither attention spans nor a
long time to listen
Tract counselors most important witnesses
Same songs, message ok - new people

Concepts of
witnessing:

3. One on One
redemptive
dialog



Your most effective platform of witness is your job, school, neighborhood

- God put you there for reasons which include witness
- Your light already shines in your daily life
- There is a period of time to continue planting seeds



Miracle of DIALOG

- Our hearts need to be prepared-
 - To be full of grace and truth foremost of all.
 - To be able to give a concise answer when asked about how we were saved or led or answered
 - To listen to the questions, reasons, arguments while awaiting that transcendent spiritual word of wisdom that interprets truth simply

Searching for a way into their 'witness zone'

- Discerning the heart of the one we are talking to
 - What's their religious background?
 - What are their obvious and then their real needs?
 - What do they normally talk about?
 - What do they reveal about their heart on their bad days?
 - From a spiritual perspective, what do they need to know now?
- What parable could awaken their transcendent hunger?

One door into
the Witness
Zone: 'kouklíng'

Kouklíng - Columbo tactic

- three Columbo type questions used to "put a stone in someone's shoe," and get them thinking.
 - "What do you mean by that?" [Content Q] ask them to elaborate and give more information. ("Christianity is too narrow")
 - "How did you come to that conclusion?" [Basis Q]
 - often a generality like "all religions are basically the same" or "the Bible is just stories" has not been thought through.
 - "Have you considered....?" or "Can you clear this up for me?" [Presenting Q]
 - a respectful way of "assuming" the listener is a reasonable person, open to considering all angles (even if this is not the case)

Koukl- Columbo tactic

- asks questions rather than makes assertions (Jesus asks 300 questions in the gospels)
 - you actually control the conversation in an inoffensive way
 - puts the 'burden of proof' on the person you are talking to
- helps you probe and question another's statements
 - assumptions are often not thought through
 - beliefs are often just second hand opinions
- keeps a witness from being combative.
 - taking time to listen to their answers.
 - remember: it's not winning an argument but planting a seed

Kouklíng responds to the glitter of generalities

- typical statements ripe for Columbo questions
 - "I don't want anything to do with religion."
 - "All religions are basically the same."
 - "Belief in God is irrational--there is no proof."
 - "I could never believe in a God who allows so much evil in the world"
 - "Why would a loving God create hell?"
 - "More people have been killed in the name of religion than anything"
 - "I personally don't believe in abortion, but I think it is wrong to force my view on others"

'koukling' in the 'witness zone'

- Koukling seems especially suited for those schoolmates, acquaintances and work associates we see from time to time
- What the Lord puts on our heart for each person will vary according to whom we are talking
- Out of who we are some 'grace' and 'salt' comes from our heart which might provoke further thinking
- Of long range importance is leaving a door open to further conversations re: the stone in their shoe

One last door into
the Witness Zone:

5. 'mercy' zone

Among your acquaintances someone will need help

- People tend to keep family and health problems secret but really appreciate true mercy and concern
- This is often a God-ordained perfect open door for showing God's love and help
- God can heal those broken hearted through your mercy

The Gift of Mercy

- ...he who shows mercy, [do so] with cheerfulness. (Romans 12:8).
- "A pleasing countenance in acts of mercy is a great relief and comfort to the miserable; when they see it is not done grudgingly or unwillingly, but with pleasant looks and gentle words, and all possible indications of eagerness." – Matthew Henry
- Serve the Lord with gladness... (Psalm 100:2)

gave me food."

Reminder: it's the largeness of the
'I AM' in you that enters the mercy zone

Help net

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poised in crisis

includes the 'God' of things

elevates the lives of those around them

embraces a large in all plans

filled with the Holy Spirit

"Got tired of living large."

Conclusion

- You already “are” a witness as a christian - so make it your aim to become a faithful witness
- Morning preparation make you available and will yield opportunities through the day in your life zone
- Be a part of a gospel team, gospel seasons, and be active in your assembly's gospel meeting
- Realize that you are a part of something much bigger as you do your small part in manifesting God's love for the world

Discussion Groups

- Often the Lord has already put a fish of His Choosing into your zone. Share with the group someone you are burdened for and discuss possible 'doors' into the witness zone that might be found
- Choose someone in the group to act as a fish with a glittering generality and then use the 3 question 'koukl' approach to put a stone in their Birkenstock
- Together in your group create a parable that might pique the interest of a non-christian contemporary