

# OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL

Lesson for March 27, 2008

## “EVANGELISM COMPONENTS”

-- The Sower -- The Seed -- The Soil --

Prepared and Presented

By

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**Lesson Scripture** – Mark 4:1-9, and 26-29

Introduction – The term “**Evangelism**” may not appear in the KJV of the Holy Bible, but the title “**Evangelist**” does. Eph. 4:7-11 states, that when (before) Christ ascended up on high, ... he gave gifts unto men: and Evangelists are listed as one of the gifts that were given. Phillip was recognized as an Evangelist, (Acts 21:8) and Paul instructed Timothy, a Pastor, to “**do the work of an Evangelist**”. (2 Tim. 4:5)

## WHAT IS AN EVANGELIST?

The Greek for Evangelist is, “euaggelistes” and means “**a preacher of the gospel**”. According to Young’s Analytical Concordance, an Evangelist is “**one who announces good tidings**”. Harper’s Bible Dictionary defines an Evangelist as, “**one who traveled from place to place proclaiming the gospel**”. This is God’s design for publishing the plan of salvation. Pastor’s, generally speaking, reside in one community and have the care of a local church. Pastors are responsible to “**feed the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers**”. (Acts 20:28) Pastors are not only instructed to “**reprove, rebuke and exhort with longsuffering and doctrine**”, (2 Tim. 4:2) for the benefit of the church members, they are also required to do the work of an Evangelist, proclaim the gospel, for the benefit of the unsaved who may attend the church services.

## WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

Evangelism is the practice of “**TEACHING**” (which includes preaching) the gospel of Christ, with the purpose and intent, that unbelievers might be converted to faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Only God called preachers can preach, but all believers can teach the gospel. Every believer can tell other people what the Bible says about how to be saved, and believers can compliment the word with their testimony, and by example.

Notice the Great Commission Given to the church: “**And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.**” (Mt. 28:18-20)

Paul states: “**So, as much as in me is, I am ready to PREACH THE GOSPEL to you that are at Rome also.**” (Romans 1:15) That phrase, preach the gospel, in the Greek means to announce the good news.

And, Paul says, “**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**” (Romans 1:16)

So we ask this question: how, and in what way, is the gospel the power of God unto Salvation? The Answer:

**Because it furnishes the information that every one needs to know, and must know, before they can be saved.** (my interpretation) And here is my proof text: “**...And how shall they believe in him of**

**whom they have not heard?...**” (Romans 10:14) **That’s why the commission is worded like it is: “Go Teach All Nations”.** Inform them; by announcing the good news.

It is my understanding that the gospel provides the information needed to get saved, but the information alone is not sufficient. There is a source of power needed, in addition to the information supplied by the gospel, and that is the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote, ***“For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance:...”*** (I Th. 1:5) The information presented was accompanied by the Power of the Spirit to convict, to regenerate, (give life) to give knowledge, and assurance.

## EVANGELISM COMPONENTS

Jesus illustrated the way evangelism works in the very simple and easy to understand **Parable of the Sower**.

He emphasizes three things which I have called Evangelism Components. They are; **“The Sowers”**, the ones who sow the seed, and without whom there would be no harvest. Next there is **The Good Seed**, without which, there would be no good harvest, and last there is **“The Soil”**, which determines the sum of the good harvest.

**Let’s consider the Sower**. The scripture uses at least two methods, to show how seeds are placed in the ground; Seeds can be planted as Paul said, ***“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase”***. (1 Cor. 3:6) Seed may also be scattered, or broadcast. In the parable, Jesus uses the latter method. This is a wonderful metaphor, and gives a vivid picture of spreading the Gospel. The field is the world, and as we broadcast the seed, we cannot predict or control where the seed will fall, or the out come of the harvest.

**Who can sow the seed?** Some may argue that only preachers can sow the good seed of the gospel. Others may say that a sinner can’t be saved, if they have not heard the gospel from the mouth of a God called preacher. If that is true, then preachers are the power of God unto Salvation, rather than the gospel.

**Make no mistake**, God calls men to preach, with a divine call. He enables men as Pastors, Evangelist, Missionaries, etc. ***“For God sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel”*** (announce the good news) (1 Cor. 1:17) ***“For the preaching of the cross (the Logos, including the thought as well as the spoken Word, concerning the Cross) is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it (the teaching of the cross) is the power of God.*** (1 Cor. 1:18) It’s not the preaching by a man that is the power of God, but the information in the gospel. ***“... it pleased God by the foolishness of Preaching (the sharing of the gospel it’s self) to save them that believe.”*** (1 Cor. 1:21)

**Let’s consider the Seed**: The seed is God’s Word in general, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ in particular. Jesus himself said, ***“Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God.”*** (Luke 8:11) This is **CERTIFIED SEED: PURE SEED**. (Gal. 1:11) **Sowing the good seed in faith, presupposes a harvest**. ***“For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I send it.”*** (Is. 55:10-11)

The Psalmist said, ***“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”*** (Ps. 126:5-6)

It’s sad but true: not everyone is sowing good seed. See another parable where the enemy came by night and sowed tares among the wheat. (Mt. 13:24-30)

**When is the right time to sow?** Today and every day is the right time to scatter the seeds of the gospel. *"He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap."* And *"In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."* (Ecc. 11:4, and 6)

**Where should we sow?** The world is the field. The gospel is needed everywhere. We should not pick and choose when it comes to scattering the seed. Peter said, There is no respect of persons with God, *"But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness is accepted with him."* (Acts 10:34-35)

The Prophet Isaiah said, *"Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters, that sent forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass."* (Is. 32:20) This reminds us of the words of Jeremiah, *"For this saith the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns."* (Jer. 4:3)

**Now let us consider the Soil:** In the parable taught by Jesus, the soil represented the hearts of the hearers.

By describing of the soil, into which the seed were sown, Jesus revealed the conditions of the hearer's hearts and that allows us to understand why there was success in some places and failure in others.

Notice that the seed was sown in all types of soil. But it is only the good ground, good and honest hearts, which receives the seed, and brings forth fruit to perfection. (Mark 4:8) One out of four, or 25% of the hearers became fruit bearers; and they,... do not necessarily produce alike; some 30, some 60, and some 100 fold.

**In Conclusion:** This lesson is not meant to be confrontational, and I pray that it has not been. I earnestly desire to encourage God's people. The fields are before us, and, if we desire an abundant harvest, we must work the fields. They must be ploughed; the seed must be broadcast, and then we must wait.

Jesus said, *"So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; and should sleep, and rise day and night, and the seed should spring up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of itself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come."* (Mark 4:26-29)

Some may do more sowing, while others may do more reaping; "And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labor; other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors." (Jn. 4:37-38) Jesus took all of these evangelism components into consideration and said, *"And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto eternal life: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."* (Jn. 4:36)

We must all sow the seed: and we must sow good seed; The kind of seed which are sown is by far more important than who does the sowing; and only the person into whose heart the seed are sown, will determine the outcome. It is a whosoever- will invitation! The invitation is issued through the broadcasting of the gospel, and was done Christ Himself, the Holy Spirit Himself, the church body it's self, and also, by those who have heard, although they may not be church members, they too may say come through the act of broadcasting the seed. (Rev. 22:17)

When is the gospel not the gospel? Only when it has been perverted, or altered in some way that it is no longer truth. Otherwise, the gospel is always the gospel: if you read it, quote it, sing it, or preach it.

*"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."* (Gal. 6:9)