

COME AND SEE – GO AND TELL

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INTRODUCTION: (Scripture Reading: John 1:43-49)

- A. Hopefully every member here at this church at least occasionally stops to ask themselves and others the question, “What can we do to make this local church grow?”**
1. When we ask that question, we need to first make sure we have the right goal in mind. Are we just wanting to increase in size or do we want to grow because it means the salvation of lost souls? Sadly, I think many pushes for church growth come up empty because the focus is off.
 2. So the members at this church decide they want to grow, now what? There are several things that most local churches do when they decide they want to be more evangelistic and grow:
 - a. They'll get an “evangelism guru” to come in and do a series of lessons, they'll develop big programs aimed at this, and they'll research what the bigger churches are doing
 - b. These aren't bad, but they aren't what brings results.
 - c. Sometimes this happens: Evangelism is talked up, an expert is brought in, programs are developed, a great amount of money is spent on supplies and advertising, and the work begins, but it's not long before the zeal fizzles and interest in the programs fade
 3. Without fail, what works is so simple & mundane that it is often neglected or seen as too primitive to be effective today... People talking to people about the Lord, His gospel, and His church!
- B. How complex is evangelism supposed to be? How difficult is it to successfully reach the lost? As we look into the gospels of Jesus we see it is no more complex or difficult than three simple words!**

SUCCESSFUL EVANGELISM AND GROWTH IN THREE SIMPLE WORDS:

A. COME AND SEE

1. It is apparent that one of Jesus' favorite invitations to extend to a lost and struggling world was the simple words “Come to Me” (Mt 11:28-30; Mk 10:21; Lk 14:27; 18:16; Jn 6:37, 44; 7:37)
2. So it's no surprise that as Jesus first started calling His disciples the invitation to “Come and See” takes center stage (John 1:35-39, 43-46)
 - a. Jesus asks the disciples a very deep question: “What are you seeking?” – In other words, what are you expecting to get out of following me? What are you looking for?
 - b. It sounds like they missed the point when they ask, “Where are you staying?” But perhaps this question is their desire to be with Him and learn more about this Lamb of God
 - c. So Jesus extends a simple but warm invitation – “Come and See” – This is an invitation to spend the evening/night with the Son of God! In doing this they could discover who He was and what He had to offer. They could come and see the Lamb of God!
 - d. Philip, after spending some time with Jesus, goes and gets Nathanael and simply repeats the invitation of Jesus – “Come and See” – Find out for yourself who this Jesus is!
3. Another case of this is seen when the woman from Samaria who met Jesus at the well went to her hometown and told everyone, “Come, see... could this be the Christ” (John 4:28-30, 39-42)
4. When we say, “Come and see,” what we inviting people to come & see? (John 12:21; Acts 4:13)
 - a. In the cases above, the invitation to “come & see” was to come and see Jesus in the most literal sense. We can't do that, but our goal is still for people to come and see Jesus!

- b. Most of the time when we say “come and see” we are doing it in the form of inviting people to come to our services. Certainly people can come to see Jesus anywhere, but the assembly is a special time where the Jesus is glorified in a special way.
- c. When we say, “Come and see” we are wanting people to witness for themselves why being a Christian is the best decision to make, to experience what it is like to be part of the spiritual family of the Lord, and to learn about Jesus and what He commands of us!
- 5. If we are going to invite people to “come and see” then we have to give careful consideration to what they will see and what message what they see tells them about us **(1 Cor 14:16, 22-25)**
 - a. Our worship services are intended to glorify God & to “stir one another up to love and good works” → But they also present a unique opportunity for “outsiders” to visit
 - b. When people “come and see” what are they seeing? Are they seeing a passion for the Lord? People who know & study their Bibles? People who long to worship? Etc...
 - c. Place yourself in the shoes of a visitor. What would I see, what would I think, how would I feel? In a very real sense, they are like strangers in the land! **(Lev 19:33-34)**
- 6. There are some very practical things to do if we are going to invite people to “come and see”
 - a. When you talk about the church, talk with enthusiasm about the Bible classes, the sermons, the worship, and the people there. If people cannot see you are excited about the church why would they want to come and see? So talk it up!
 - b. Like the first point, don’t air the dirty laundry of the church or your frustrations with the people there. It makes it seem you don’t want to be there, so why should they?
 - c. Pay attention to conversions you have with people to see what they are interested in. Ask for a sermon to be on that subject and use that as a special service to invite them to.
 - d. Use the church website as a resource – There’s lots on there to read and listen to
 - e. When you think they will come, then prepare them for what to expect (Lord’s Supper, collection, singing, etc). Get to church a good bit early and have them sit with you.
 - f. Be yourself and be personal. A simple, “I’d love to have you come with us this Sunday” is a powerful invitation especially when they know you & have heard about the church

B. GO AND TELL

1. Jesus often instructed people He had taught or worked a miracle for to go and tell no one, but there were a few occasions where He told them to go and tell others and they gladly obeyed
2. After healing the demon possessed man from the land of the Gerasenes, Jesus instructed the man to go home to your friends and tell them **(Mark 5:18-20)**
 - a. Notice what mission field Jesus sends this man into – He says, “Go home and tell your people...” – He didn’t send him into the furthestmost corners of the world, but to those whom he was most familiar with... To your HOME to tell YOUR people.
 - b. Imagine how impressive this would be! Everyone knew him and his problems... now he is clothed and in his right mind! How could this be possible & who made it possible?
 - c. What’s so sad about this story is that, while the man who had been demon possessed was begging Jesus to let him go with him, many in that area were begging Jesus to leave!
3. Today, Jesus expects the same thing of those whom He has delivered from sin and from the grasp of the devil – Go home and tell your people! **(Ezekiel 33:8-10)**
 - a. This man is not far removed from the situation many find themselves in today. Too many people are “crying out” in various forms for deliverance. Too many are “possessed” by “Legion” of sins and struggles from which deliverance is only found in Jesus!

- b. We are to go home and tell our people the same thing the demon possessed man told to his people – We have come to know Jesus and He has delivered us from captivity!
- c. If we think about it, we've got a great task ahead of us with plenty of opportunity! How many family members do we have who are lost? How many friends? What percentage of people in this area are NT Christians? We have a BIG mission field!
- 4. The simplistic method of "go & tell" is really the method of the Great Commission (**Matt 28:18-20**)
- 5. As we seek to "go and tell" we must remember the vital role our example and influence plays in the creation of opportunities and the effectiveness of our words (**1 Peter 2:9-11**)
 - a. Many say, "Your example is evangelism. Your life is a sermon." There is a degree of truth to this, but not complete truth. Our example does not teach people what they must do to be saved does it? But our example "purchases" the opportunity to tell them!
 - b. When we start with a solid example, we'll have to worry less about "how to methods" or "evangelism tricks" because opportunities & conversations come more naturally!
 - c. When people are going through a difficult time or they start looking for more spirituality in their lives, who do they usually turn to? It's people they're familiar with and whom they respect as being spiritually minded and living a truly Christian life.
 - d. People begin to trust your intentions and motives, even when you challenge them or ask difficult questions, if you have "purchased" influence & credibility by your example
- 6. As we consider this approach to seeking and reaching the lost, there are some practical things we need to consider as we "go and tell" others about the Lord, His gospel, & His church (**2 Tim 4:2**)
 - a. Pay attention to what is going on in people's lives – Major changes, difficult times, fear of future problems, marriage issues, etc... Show genuine care & bring spiritual things into the discussion. Little things can open big doors for evangelism to take place.
 - b. Show patience – Remember that the gospel is likely more familiar to you, that the truth is ingrained in your thinking, but some things are probably very new to others.
 - c. Listen carefully – Don't just assume that people believe something because of where they go to church. Remember words & phrases mean different things to different people

CONCLUSION: Three words may be all it takes to put someone on the right path to salvation in the Lord. Three words may make the difference in a person's eternal destiny. Let's not overcomplicate what is so simple in the Bible.