

LIGHT UP YOUR WORLD

Stories for *Easier* Evangelism (Part 2) “Who Cares?”

INTRO: Jesus gave us an inescapable mandate to share His good news. Every follower of Christ is to participate in the process. Arguably, the primary reason for not being a more consistent witness for Christ could boil down to one issue—**COMPLACENCY** due to lack of compassion. This is hard to imagine if we truly understand all Christ did for us, but it is true—even if many deny it. Often, we don’t care enough to share. In the first lesson we examined some admonitions and instructions challenging us to be more responsible. In this lesson let’s examine the heart, which gets to why we go. **SO, WHO CARES FOR A LOST WORLD, INCLUDING FAMILY AND FRIENDS?**

I. GOD HIMSELF (John 3:16; 2 Pet. 3:9) - God loves all people enough to provide salvation and to postpone judgment. Jesus tells three parables in Luke 15 further show how much God cares. All lost people matter to God. As His children, what matters to God should also matter to His people.

II. CHRIST CARES (Luke 19:10, 41-42; Rom. 5:8)

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT CARES (John 16:7-11) - He is concerned enough to show someone their need for salvation because of sin, to convince them Christ is the only way to true righteousness, and then to draw them to Himself before judgment comes.

IV. THE EARLY CHURCH CARED - The entire book of Acts records the work of the radical church to reach out to a lost world. In spite of great persecution, financial difficulties, etc. those early believers went because they cared. The drive to reach a lost world continually energized that early church.

V. THE APOSTLE PAUL CARED - Paul’s three journeys recorded in the book of Acts (13:1-21:16) are referred to as “missionary journeys.” Read and feel His compassion (Rom. 1:14-16; 9:1-3; 10:1; 1 Cor. 9:20-22).

VI. THOSE PEOPLE ALREADY IN HEAVEN CARE - According to the parable Jesus told in Luke 15:3-10, every time someone who is lost comes to Christ there is rejoicing in heaven. Rev. 6:9-11.

VII. EVEN THOSE CURRENTLY IN HELL CARE - In Luke 16:19-31, Jesus tells a dramatic story. The punch line occurs in vv. 26-28: All these really care about lost people. Genuine care is hard to ignore. We need to care until people want to know why we care so much. **So, what do we need to do? Hear His words and heed His example** (Lk. 19:10; Jn. 4:23). Examine these passages:

1. His Example - He was always sharing the Good News: The woman at the well (Jn. 4:1-30), Blind Bartimaeus (Mk. 10:46-52), Zacchaeus (Lk. 19:1-10), Nicodemus (Jn. 3)
2. His Compassion (Matt. 9:35-38)

- a. **WE MUST DO WHAT JESUS DID** (v. 35 “Jesus went throughout all...” In Jesus’ day there were some 200 towns and villages and as many as three million people. Jesus didn’t just tell us to go, He modeled it. He was always available to tell the Good News. Opportunity is all around us. We don’t have to take a plane ride to tell others is as close as the next conversation.
- b. **WE MUST SEE WHAT JESUS SEES** (v. 36 “When He saw the crowds”). He was so aware and so sensitive to those around Him. People who need Him are all around us—if we would only see them. What did Jesus see when He noticed them? They were:
 - (1) *Harassed*—distressed, faint, tired, frayed, worn-out, beaten
 - (2) *Helpless*—downcast, exhausted from searching
 - (3) *Shepherdless*—directionless, unsure to whom or where to go. Everyone without Christ is in this condition. We must see lost people as Jesus did. Think of an unsaved person you know. Do you understand what’s going on beneath the surface of their life?
- c. **WE MUST FEEL WHAT JESUS FEELS** (v. 36 “He had compassion”). The word compassion means “to suffer with.” Jesus suffered with the lost. He hurt deeply in His gut for a lost humanity. He was so moved over their dilemma. Unfortunately, lesser things “move” too many of us! As noted, time and again Jesus wept over the cities and the crowds. Reaching out begins with a broken and compassionate heart. Caring people become sharing people. Someone has said that a good indication of our likeness to Christ is the degree of our compassion.
- d. **WE MUST BELIEVE WHAT JESUS SAYS** (v. 37 “... the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few”)
 - (1) “Harvest” refers to the inevitable judgment and condemnation lost people face before a holy God (2 Thess. 1:5-10; Rev. 20:11-15). Without God, people are damned and doomed! There is no way to describe the hell that awaits them.
 - (2) “The laborers are few.” Jesus needs help. Remember, we are His messengers. Without Him we can’t, without us He won’t!
- e. **WE MUST OBEY HIS COMMAND** (v. 38 “Pray...” – The first thing Jesus commands is NOT that we go, nor that we panic, but we pray. Instead of a marketing strategy, Jesus developed a prayer strategy. He doesn’t even tell us in this passage to pray for the lost, rather to pray for more laborers. Can we at least pray about being a better witness? We could be the answer to our own prayer! Promise (Psa. 126:5—6)

CONC: Who cares for the lost? Do you? Someone once wisely said, “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” You know Christ because someone else cared. Don’t break the chain. God may not call each of us to become missionaries in a foreign place. But He does call us to care for all who do not know Christ. We need to be a people who care!