

## **The Community Sharing the Gospel**

When you hear the word Evangelism, what images come to your mind? Do you think of TV preachers, Billy Graham crusades, street corner preaching? Maybe you think mostly about sharing the gospel with someone else. How do these images make you feel? Honestly, these images might make us feel awkward, uneasy, or even guilty. Maybe you think “I don’t know how to evangelize, or that’s not my gift, or I’m not brave enough to put myself out like that, or I need to do this more. Maybe you hope and believe that evangelizing is best left up to the professionals or at least to a committee at church!

### **Reclaiming the Good News (Evangelism)!**

Jesus proclaimed the **Good News** of the Kingdom of God. This is why He was sent. (Luke 4:43). When we read our passage in Luke 10 this morning, we will see that Jesus sends out the 72 to tell others that the Kingdom of God has come near. This is evidenced by the arrival of Jesus the King who will make it possible (through His death and resurrection) for others to enter God’s Kingdom. The Sermon on the Mount and Agape are the ethics of this Kingdom.

In Koine Greek, the word for Good News is Euangelion.

In Latin Vulgate, this word is written **Evangelium**.

In Anglo Saxon, it is translated as god-spell (good story)

In English, we say The Gospel

In the New Testament the noun form of Euangelion appears 76 times and the verb form appears another 54 times. Jesus flat out commanded his followers to share the good news throughout the Gospels and the rest of the NT makes it clear that they took that command seriously. The Apostle Peter also makes it clear that every Jesus follower should be ready to share the Good News if the occasion presents itself (1Peter:315).

## **Evangelism is a community activity!**

Let's read how Jesus sent out a group of followers to share the Good News (Luke 10:1-12, 16).

- 1) Jesus appoints 72 "others". They were not the 12. They were normal people who were following Jesus just like you and me.
- 2) He sent them out in groups of two (for help, encouragement, support, safety, fellowship, and believability).
- 3) He sent them out to every town where he was about to go. Their job was to announce the coming of the King before he got there, just like ours. We live in the end times and the clock is ticking.
- 4) Jesus says the Harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.  
    This is a promise of God that we have to believe by faith, no matter how you feel or what a situation seems like.  
    Harvest - Everything that the farmer does for the whole year or season focuses on bringing in the best harvest possible.
- 5) We are responsible for praying that God raises up more workers.
- 6) In the end, we are commanded to go. But Jesus has a plan, gives us instructions and provides the Holy Spirit.

## **Takeaways!**

The world can only know and experience God when we introduce them to Jesus. How can our community here at Pilgrim work together to carry out the work of evangelism?

- 1) Trust in God. He has the plan and He has given us the power of the Holy Spirit
- 2) Be involved in outreach. Hang out and love others who are different than you.
- 3) If you are rejected, don't worry. They aren't rejecting you personally.
- 4) If you are successful, do not become arrogant. You are God's vessel.
- 5) The mission is urgent. Travel lightly and avoid material encumbrances.
- 6) The gates of Hell will not prevail against the church (Matt 16:18).