

15. Evangelism, a will of God

January 10, 2016

Fritz Kreisler was a renowned violinist from Austria in the early 20th century. Wherever he would go, he attracted large crowds to his concerts and he made huge sums of money playing the violin. Most of the money, however, he gave away.

When the time came for him to buy the most exquisite violin he had ever seen in his life, he had no money. So he raised the money quickly. He told the person selling the precious violin, "Hold it for me. I will raise the funds to buy this violin." And he did. But when he went back to the seller, the violin was already sold to a collector.

Fritz Kreisler went to the home of the collector and told him who he was and pleaded with him, "I'd like to buy your violin." The collector didn't need the money and he wanted the violin and he said, "I'm sorry. It's now my prized possession. I'm not going to sell it to you."

Kreisler was about to turn and leave, but he had a thought. He said to the collector, "Listen, before I resign that violin to eternal quietness, may I just play it once?" The collector didn't have any objection and he allowed Kreisler to play the violin.

And he played so beautifully, filled the room with such emotional music, that the collector said, "I have no right to keep it to myself. It's yours, Mr. Kreisler. You can have it. Take it into the world and let people hear it."

I believe Jesus would be saying to us today through this message, "Take my Gospel. It's yours. Take it into the world and let people hear it. Let people hear My message through you and tell them, "How much I love them!"

A. 10 MINUTE OLD EVANGELIST

John 4:25-30 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." 27 And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" 28 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, 29 "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" 30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

In spite of her spiritual ignorance in many areas, she still had two truths down – the Messiah was coming and would reveal the secrets of hearts. However, what is the Messiah? Many of you already know this, but just in case there is someone who does not know, let me explain it. In Hebrew language, Messiah is pronounced "mashiah". It is a Hebrew version of Christ which is derived from a Greek word "Christos". They both mean "the Anointed One".

I believe that she was saved when Jesus declared that He was the Messiah. She couldn't wait to tell others about Him. Did she have enough knowledge of the Bible to tell others about the Four Spiritual Laws? No, but she met Jesus. Did this woman take a course of evangelism? No, but she met Jesus. She was not a Bible scholar, nor a skilled evangelist. But she was a ten minute old brand new Christian who was excited about sharing the Good News of Jesus with others.

Some Christians who have been with the Lord for a long time might say, "Give them time, they will tone down." They say that as if the zeal and excitement to spread the Good News to others is some sort of craziness that all the Christians go through at the beginning and as we grow older in the Lord we are supposed to lose it. Absolutely not. As we grow older in the Lord, we should be mature in Him, not just older by time length, become tactful to approach and handle each evangelistic situation with the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

Let's check out how our Lord Jesus led this Samaritan woman:

1) He drew the Samaritan's woman's curiosity to His conversation. – v7

Jesus started His conversation with her by requesting water. He didn't bring down the wrath of God for her immorality. A simple start of casual conversation.

2) Jesus patiently guided the conversation with her with the love for her eternal soul. – v10

Unbelievers are lost and they don't know about it, but they are not dumb. If we are only witnessing because we want to fulfill our monthly evangelistic quota so that we can brag how many people we've witnessed to our fellow believers, they'll know that we don't care about them except our own selfish goal.

3) Jesus didn't get pulled into religious never-ending arguments, but stayed in the course. v12-14

Don't think that everyone whom you witness to would get saved at the moment you start to talk about Jesus. Most likely they would come up with excuses why they don't need salvation with endless religious arguments, such as:

- What about the Pygmy tribes in Africa who have never heard the Gospel message? Do they go to hell?
- I go to church once in a while.
- I am a good person. God will not send me to hell, because I am not like you.
- There is more than one way to get to heaven. All gods are the same.

Don't get into that argument, you will be frustrated. Bring that person's eternal soul to the forefront of the topic, nothing else.

4) Give your testimony of what Jesus has done for you. – v29

One of the most effective tools you have in your evangelistic toolbox is telling your story – your personal testimony about how you came to believe in Jesus. It is the power of a changed life. Use your story, because it is a way to preach to a person without preaching at a person. People don't like to be preached to. Your story is a bridge. They can't argue with what God has done for you. Let your testimony be less than seven minutes. If it is longer, you will start to lose their attention.

Remember, it is not about you; it is about Jesus. So when you tell your story, don't glorify or exaggerate your sinful and carnal past. Don't boast about what you gave up for God, but about what God gave up for you. We gave up guilt, judgment, and hell. And again, remember, it is not about you. It is all about Jesus.

5) When the person is ready to receive Jesus into one's heart, go through the Scriptures to lead that person to Christ.

You can say that this is the closing of a sale. Your words and my words don't mean a whole lot in the scheme of eternity. But Scripture is a different story. Please memorize these verses and make them to be a phrase within your dialogue and let them know that why they need to be saved:

*Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life
in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you,
unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

*John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

*John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one
comes to the Father except through Me.*

*Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in
your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

6) If the person refuses, be courteous to leave him or her with kindness.

That person may not be ready to be saved at that time, but maybe later. Your job can be planting a seed of the Gospel of Jesus into one's heart. Someone might come by and water it. Then the Holy Spirit will bring it to harvest. We all work together as a team.

7) Pray for that person's soul while you are witnessing.

*Zechariah 4:6b 'Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord
of hosts.*

Remember that it is by the power of the Holy Spirit. Be sensitive to His leading. He will tell you in your heart whom you need to witness to and when and how.

B. TO DO THE WILL OF THE FATHER

*John 4:31-38 In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."
32 But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." 33
Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him any-
thing to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who
sent Me, and to finish His work. 35 Do you not say, 'There are still four
months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes
and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! 36 And he who
reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows
and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 For in this the saying is true: 'One
sows and another reaps.' 38 I sent you to reap that for which you have not
labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."*

Jesus' disciples could not possibly think of anything more than their own physical and carnal desires – not just this time, but repeatedly throughout Jesus' earthly ministry. It was a common Eastern custom that the disciples could not eat before their master, so they encouraged Him to eat so that they also could eat.

In v32 and 34, Jesus shows them a more important thing than eating meals – doing the will of God. He is absolutely correct. There is nothing more satisfying than doing the will of God. Anything people chase after selfishly other than doing His will would give them emptiness in their hearts like the water from the well the Samaritan woman got.

Our Lord Jesus did not look on the Father's will as a heavy burden or someone else's job. He viewed His work as the very nourishment of His soul. Doing the Father's will fed Him and satisfied Him inwardly.

*Psalm 40:8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my
heart.*

Many of us often wonder what the will of God is for us. Most often we don't realize that the answers to our questions for God's will for our lives is written in black and white in the Bible. These are the general wills of God for us:

1) It is a will of God for us to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ

This should be one of the highest priorities in our Christian life. The harvest is ready and only needs faithful workers to claim it. It takes faith to sow the seed, and we must do it even when the circumstances look discouraging. Unfortunately, many Christians are busy looking for excuses why they cannot evangelize than simply being obedient to the Lord and doing it.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap.

2) It is a will of God for us to be believers of Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

3) It is a will of God for us to be filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:15-19 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord

The Greek tense of the word 'filled' is present. It means that we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit constantly. "What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?" some of you might wonder. It means that you are relying on the Spirit of God and directed and empowered by Him all the time rather than you running your own life.

4) It is a will of God for us to live a pure life.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality

5) It is a will of God for us to have an attitude of gratitude.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

It is OK to ask the Lord for His will. An old Jewish proverb says, "It is better to ask for a direction ten times than taking one wrong turn."

Some still wonder, "OK, all these are fine. But what about God's will for MY situation?" We say, "Lord, what is your will? Before I am going to surrender to it, I would like to know what I am getting myself into." But God may tell you something that you don't want to hear. The question is, are you going to do what He says?

It has been said that the condition of an enlightened mind is a surrendered heart. If you want to know the will of God, then you must have a heart that is surrendered. Present yourself to Him. Then accept His will, no matter what.

The more we get to know the will of God, the more we will like it, because the will of God for us is perfect. So we shouldn't be afraid of His will.

C. THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

John 4:39-42 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of His own word. 42 Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

One woman, who got saved only 10 minutes before, went back to her town and brought the people to Jesus, so that they also could hear the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Are you ready to be that person to bring others to Christ?

The most selfish act of any Christian is going to heaven without telling anyone about Jesus Christ and His eternal life plan. I hope and pray that you are not one of them.

D. APPLICATIONS

1) Witnessing is not that difficult if you put your mind into it. It is not like you are asked to speak in front of hundreds of people. It is a one on one conversation like you would do with one of your family members or a friend.

2) Following the will of God is not burdensome to any of us, because He has a perfect will for us.

3) Please remember this: When we want to know God's will, three things must be aligned:

- The Holy Spirit gives you peace.
- It does not go against the Word of God.
- God provides His permission through the particular circumstances.