

## **“Committed to Sharing the Good News”**

The Marks of Jesus’ Disciples, Part 5

Small Group Study

Week of Oct. 18, 2009

Last week we looked at the importance of living our lives in such a way that God is honored through them. Today we are reminded that while living this way is important, our call as God’s people goes much deeper than this – that we are also called to share the message of the gospel with people.

### ***To Begin ...***

1. What reasons do people give for not wanting to talk to other people about God? How are these reasons valid? How are they not valid?
2. On a scale of 1-10 (with 10 being the most difficult) how easy or hard is it for you to talk to people about Jesus? Why do you answer the way you do?

### ***Review the Sermon and Go Deeper (see outline on back)***

1. In the sermon, Mark said he doesn’t really care for the quote attributed to St. Francis of Assisi (wrongly), “Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words.”<sup>1</sup>
  - a. What were the reasons he gave as to why he didn’t like this quote?
  - b. How might you rewrite the quote to have it accurately reflect a biblical understanding of the gospel?
2. Read Romans 10:14-17.
  - a. What does this verse say about the relationship between the good news, our words, and how people come to faith?
  - b. Why is it important for Christians to begin to share the gospel with others?
3. What did Mark mean when he said that the gospel is not “good advice” but that it is “good news”?
4. How would you summarize the message of the gospel? Do you recall what Mark said about the four things that John 3:16 announces to us about the gospel?
5. Read Romans 9:2-3 and describe Paul’s feelings for his own countrymen. Why is such a heart so important in our sharing with others? What would our sharing be like if we didn’t really care for people being shared with?

---

<sup>1</sup> First, historians are sure that the quote didn’t originate with St. Francis. Second, it doesn’t accurately portray who St. Francis was, as he had a very active preaching ministry (see <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2009/mayweb-only/120-42.0.html>). Third, and more important, it distorts the way the word “gospel” is used in the Scripture, where it always refers to the *message* of the gospel.

6. Read Romans 1:16. How is it that the gospel is “the power of God”? Why does believing this encourage us to share the gospel with others?
7. Read 1 Tim. 1:15-16. How would you describe Paul’s attitude as revealed in this self-description? Why is having such an attitude important as we share the gospel with people?

### ***Making it Personal and Practical ...***

1. Which of the ways from the second part of the outline below might help you become more motivated to share the gospel with others (understanding the gospel is good news, knowing the message of the gospel, caring about people, etc).

### ***Praying Together ...***

1. Pray for one another, that God might open the doors for each of you to authentically share your faith with someone this coming week.
2. Pray that God would help our congregation be one where the people naturally and authentically share the good news with others.
3. Share concerns with one another, and pray for those concerns.

## **Sermon Outline**

### **Our Call: To Share the Good News of the Gospel**

*How can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ... Consequently, faith comes from the hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. (Rom. 10:14-15, 17)*

### **We become motivated to live out this call ...**

#### **... by understanding the gospel is good news**

*“Do not be afraid! I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people ... “ (Lk. 2:10)*

#### **... by knowing the message of the gospel**

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (Jn. 3:16)*

#### **... by caring about people**

*I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers ... (Rom. 9:2-3)*

#### **... by believing in the power of the gospel**

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes ... (Rom. 1:16)*

#### **... by seeing ourselves as a fellow sinners**

*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. (1 Tim. 1:15-16)*