

SOME KEYS TO EFFECTIVELY PREACHING THE GOSPEL

There are multitudes in the valley of decision today all around the world who do not yet know Christ. As Christians we have been given the wonderful privilege of helping to lead others to Christ. Street outreaches have the potential to impact many lives and a good street preacher has the capability of helping many to come to Christ. On the other hand a bad street preacher has the potential to push many people away from coming to Christ if they are legalistic and harsh in their preaching, or if they preach wrong doctrine. The Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of preaching the pure gospel message. (**Galatians 1:6-9**) Today I want to share some keys to being effective in preaching the word of God and in particular the gospel message in the streets

1) THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDY AND PREPARATION DURING THE WEEK

Becoming excellent in the communication of the gospel – As we do not have notes when street preaching, preparation is vitally important – A good preacher will spend much time thinking of messages to share and ways to share the gospel when they next preach – Spending much time in the Word of God (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**) helps to prepare us to preach in a powerful and life giving way (**Hebrews 4:12**) – preaching the truth in God’s Word helps to set people free (**John 8:31-32**)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom: ***Preach the word!** Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.” (**2 Timothy 4:1-2**)

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. **Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.** Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” (**1 Timothy 4:12-16**)

2) MEMORISING SCRIPTURES AND PARABLES

Memorising key gospel scriptures helps us to preach more effectively. The more scriptures we have memorised and have in our heart the more we can flow in the preaching of the Word when we are ministering in the streets – Just one scripture memorised each week is 52 per year – There are many PARABLES that are also good to learn and to share when preaching the gospel such as the Parable of the Lost Sheep (**Luke 15:3-7**), The Parable of the Lost Coin (**Luke 15:8-10**), the Parable of the Lost (Prodigal) son (**Luke 15:11-32**) and the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (**Luke 18:9-14**).

Studying and preaching about passages of Scripture such as, **Jesus coming to the house of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)** and the **Samaritan Woman meeting her Messiah at Jacob's Well (John 4:1-42)** help us to communicate the message of the gospel to others in a more effective way, as we share about the life changing encounters that others had with Jesus Christ in the Bible.

Just a few important passages of Scripture to memorise in relation to the preaching of the gospel are: John 3:3, John 3:5, John 1:12, John 3:16-21, Romans 3:10-12, Romans 3:20-25, (Particularly Romans 3:23), Romans 6:23, John 14:6, Romans 5:6-9, Acts 4:12, Hebrews 7:25, Matthew 11:28-30, Isaiah 1:18 and Revelation 3:20.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” **(2 Timothy 2:15)**

3) UNDERSTANDING HUMANITY

A key to effectively preaching to the lost is to have a clear understanding of Humanity. In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? **(Jeremiah 17:9)**

BECAUSE OF SIN AND THE FALL OF MAN AND THE CONTINUAL EFFORTS OF THE DEVIL AND HIS FALLEN ANGELS TO DESTROY PEOPLE'S LIVES, MANY PEOPLE LIVE FAR BENEATH THEIR GOD GIVEN DESIGN AND POTENTIAL AND OFTEN SUFFER IN MANY WAYS

I will now look at some of the features of humanity that we need to understand if we are to be effective in our preaching

- i) That without Christ we all have a God shaped vacuum that nothing else can fill. We were made to worship God
- ii) People suffer from many fears (Fear of man, fear of rejection, fear of failure, fear of lack, fear of death and hundreds of other fears)
- iii) Because of the breakdown of families many people carry deep hurts and suffer from rejection. Jesus will reject no person who comes to Him.
- iv) All people have a need to be loved and accepted and will even stay in dysfunctional relationships out of a fear of being alone. Hence peer group pressure can cause people to make wrong choices in life because of their fear of being rejected
- v) That without the Lord, people worry about many things and are anxious about many things. Only putting our entire trust in the Lord can give us true peace

- vi) That people need to have a purpose in life. Where there is no revelation people cast of restraint. God created us for a unique plan and purpose
- vii) That many people have a wrong concept of God,
- viii) That many people see no hope or future in life (many of the youth), and
- ix) That people cope with the emptiness of life without Christ in many dysfunctional ways:
 - Drugs, Alcohol, Gambling, Ungodly Relationships, Work holism, Buying things, Partying, Living for pleasure, etc

4) JESUS IS THE ANSWER

There are many blessing that we receive when we come to Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” (**Ephesians 1:3**)

- In Christ we have been Chosen (**Ephesians 1:4**), we are Accepted, (**Ephesians 1:6**) we have been Forgiven and we have been adopted into the family of God (**Ephesians 1:5**)
- JESUS is the lover of our soul
- He is the Prince of peace (**Isaiah 9:6**) (**Isaiah 26:3-4**)
- He is the Healer (**Isaiah 53:5**) (**Psalms 103:3**)
- He is the Deliverer
- He binds up and heals the broken hearted (**Luke 4:18**)
- He sets at liberty those oppressed by the Devil (**Luke 4:18**)
- He will never leave nor forsake us, (**Hebrews 13:5**)
- He has a plan for our life that is full of purpose, (**Ephesians 2:10**) and
- When we put Christ first in our life we can be assured that God promises to meet our ever need in life (**Matthew 6:31-33**)

All that we need is found in a relationship with Jesus Christ

5) PREPARING OUR HEART TO PREACH THE MESSAGE (Praying for the lost)

Once we have prepared the message we need to then PREPARE OUR HEART to preach the message. We need to get to know the Jesus we are preaching about. **(Ephesians 3:17-19)** Having HUMILITY is a key to being used mightily of God. Our heart needs to be soft towards God and full of His love and compassion for people. As we spend time in God's presence we gain a clearer understanding of what to preach on and to focus on. When we worship the Lord we also connect with God's heart and have a greater sense of what to share. Worship helps to prepare our heart to preach.

6) ASKING THE HOLY SPIRIT TO SPEAK THROUGH US BEFORE WE BEGIN PREACHING (That the Holy Spirit takes over our mouth and that every word that we speak would be the Holy Spirit speaking through us a word in season. The Holy Spirit knows the heart of every person that we are preaching to.)

We must learn to let go and to allow the Holy Spirit to minister through us when we are preaching.

In Luke 21:14-15 Jesus said, "Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist."

Our preparation leading up to preaching the message is crucial, BUT once we begin preaching the message we need to allow the Holy Spirit to minister through us – Only the Holy Spirit can convict people of their sin and enable them to respond to the gospel message **(John 16:7-11)**

ONE MAJOR KEY TO EFFECTIVELY PREACHING IN OUTREACHES WITHOUT NOTES IS WAITING FOR GOD TO PUT A MESSAGE OR THEME ON OUR HEART TO SHARE ABOUT. For example the Lord may put on our heart to share about the importance of putting our past failures behind us, so that we can embrace all that God has planned for our future.

When we preach what God puts on our heart to share, the messages flow easily out of our heart and mouth. (For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks – See Luke 6:45) – For this reason continually maintaining a right heart as a preacher is crucial. That we choose to maintain a heart that is forgiving, non judgmental and full of God's word. In the book of Proverbs we read,

"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."
(Proverbs 4:23)

7) PREACHING THE PURE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Having a clear understanding of the gospel message and preaching it in the power of the Holy Spirit is the key to seeing people being saved.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” **(Romans 1:16-17)**

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” **(Ephesians 2:8-9)**

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,” **(1 Corinthians 15:1-4)**

8) SEEKING THE LORD FOR A TOPIC TO PREACH ON AND SOME KEY POINTS (AROUND THREE OR FOUR) TO PREACH ON BEFORE PREACHING THE GOSPEL – When we have a street church we need to feed those who attend our meetings weekly with the Word of God to help them to GROW in their walk with the Lord

I.e. The importance of continually putting our trust in the Lord

- i) God knows what is best for us
- ii) God has a unique plan for our life which is full of purpose and meaning
- iii) God is both willing and able to help us (For with God nothing will be impossible)
- iv) When we continually trust the Lord one day at a time God promises to meet our every need in life

THEN CONCLUDE WITH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AND AN INVITATION TO RECEIVE CHRIST

9) MINISTERING IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” (1 Corinthians 2:1-2)

“I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:3-5)

“For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.” (1 Thessalonians 1:5)

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” (1 Peter 4:11)

10) THE IMPORTANCE OF WORSHIP TO OPEN UP THE HEAVENS AND TO PREPARE PEOPLE’S HEARTS TO RECEIVE THE PREACHED MESSAGE

In Psalm 22:3 we read, “But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel”

God inhabits the praises of His people. Worship changes the atmosphere and opens up the heavens to make the preaching of the gospel easier and more effective.

Worship music also helps to touch the hearts of people. Many of the Christian songs also have a gospel message within them. These Worship songs help to prepare and soften people’s hearts to be more receptive to the preaching of the gospel and in helping them to receive Christ

Worship also helps to prepare the heart of the preacher prior to preaching and helps them to connect with God’s heart of compassion. This is a great key to preaching powerful gospel messages that help to impact many lives and to lead many to Christ. When we have God’s heart of compassion we preach with great passion.

11) AFTER SHARING THE MESSAGE WE NEED TO THEN POINT PEOPLE TO JESUS CHRIST AND GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY OF OPENING UP THEIR HEARTS TO RECEIVE HIM – While people’s hearts are soft it is good to give them the opportunity of inviting Jesus Christ into their hearts. For example after sharing the message per my outline (in key eight) “The importance of continually trusting in the Lord” I could for example conclude this message in the following way:

- Today you can depend on God’s faithfulness. God has a great love for all people
- God desires to have a relationship with all people and to see all people living a life that is full of purpose and meaning. Jesus will reject no person who comes to Him
- However God has given us all a free will. We have a choice whether to put our trust in the Lord and to live for Him, or to live our life independently of Him
- God knows what is best for us and is both willing and able to help us. Only Jesus Christ can give us true peace and joy in our hearts in a world which is becoming more and more difficult to live in. For with God nothing will be impossible
- It is our sins however that separate us from a Holy and loving God. The bible makes it clear that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- However God’s desire is that none would perish and has made a way for all people to be reconciled to Him. Jesus Himself said,
“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 3:16)**
- Because of God’s great love for all people and Jesus Christ’s willingness to lay down His life as a ransom for us, dying on the cross for our sins, every person can choose to have their sins forgiven by entering into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The bible makes it clear that whoever calls on the Name of the LORD shall be saved.
- Only Jesus Christ can save people from their sins.
- Because Jesus Christ conquered the grave and arose from the dead three days later we all have a hope for the future, both in this life and the life to come which begins the moment that we come to Christ
- Today Jesus Christ is reaching out to you. He will never reject any person who comes to Him. Today Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart
- Today you can turn from your sins and open your heart to Him and receive the free gift of eternal life. Today you can call on the Name of the LORD and be saved (Say sinners prayer)

ONE EXAMPLE OF A SINNERS PRAYER

Dear Father God, today I choose to turn from my sin to live for You. I believe that Your Son Jesus died for all my sins and arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart and live to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on, Amen

- 12) **EXPECTING SIGNS AND WONDERS TO FOLLOW THE PREACHING OF THE WORD** - Signs and wonders and healings are often the means by which people come to Christ. As Christians we have great authority in the Name of Jesus. As we preach the word of God and the gospel message we will have opportunities to pray for the sick and to see miracles occurring

We must believe what the Word of God says. In the gospel of Mark we read, “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” **(Mark 16:17-18)**

“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen” **(Mark 16:20)**

In the book of Acts we read,

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY” **(Acts 8:4-8)**

- 13) **ALL THAT WE DO AND SAY NEEDS TO BE MOTIVATED BY A LOVE AND COMPASSION FOR THE LOST**

Jesus is our role model. In the gospel of Matthew we read,

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.” “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” **(Matthew 9:35-36)**

THE APOSTLE PAUL WROTE, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” **(1 Corinthians 13:1-3)**

“But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.” **(1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)**

THERE IS A SAYING THAT PEOPLE DO NOT CARE HOW MUCH WE KNOW, BUT THEY DO WANT TO KNOW HOW MUCH WE CARE

- 14) WE NEED TO CONTINUALLY ALLOW THE LORD TO DO A WORK OF CHANGE IN OUR LIVES (That we become more and more like Christ)

For some people we are the only bible that they will ever read.

We do not want to see the way that we live our life disqualify our witness for the Lord

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*” (Romans 8:28-29)

We need to continually yield to the refining work of the Holy Spirit so that we continue to grow in Christ-like character (Especially given the lawless days that we are now living in – Matthew 24:12-13)

We need to live the life that we preach, that our life and way of living attracts people to come to Christ.

Jesus Himself said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see you good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

- 15) AS A TEAM WE CAN ACHIEVE MUCH

Working together as a team we can achieve much more. We all relate better to certain people. So as a team we can more effectively reach out to more people in our community. We all have different gifts and callings that complement and work together with other believer’s gifts and callings. If we can work together in unity with other believers we will continually see God’s commanded blessing over our efforts. Jesus Himself said, by our love for one another the world would know that we are His disciples.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself IN LOVE.” (Ephesians 4:16)

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A GREAT IMPACT IN THIS WORLD FOR ETERNITY