



## SERMON NOTES & PERSONAL/GROUP STUDY

Sunday, October 25

### PASSAGE

Acts 1:8

### THEME

WITNESSING

### NOTES

- Do you realize that Christians have the ABSOLUTE BEST NEWS IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD to share?!?!
- WITNESSING is a SPIRITUAL HABIT that is ESSENTIAL TO GROWING GOD'S KINGDOM -- **spreading the great news about Jesus to others.**
- **Acts 1:8** -- *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*
  - ◆ This POWER that Jesus spoke of is NOT HUMAN POWER -- but a SUPERNATURAL POWER that only comes from God.
  - ◆ This GOD-GIVEN POWER is WHY they are assured of their ability to succeed with their assignment.
  - ◆ If you are a BORN-AGAIN BELIEVER, you have that SAME POWER inside of you because THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES INSIDE OF YOU.
  - ◆ Jesus basically told His disciples that their assignment was to GO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT HIM.
  - ◆ NOTICE THE ORDER in which God gave these things to His people -- (a) the HOLY SPIRIT -- (b) POWER from the Holy Spirit -- (c) they would witness with ASTOUNDING RESULTS -- thousands upon thousands would accept their message.
  - ◆ It is OUR ASSIGNMENT AS CHRISTIANS to PREACH THE GOSPEL to the world.

→ Jesus gave the disciples SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS as to the order of locations that He wanted them to witness --

◆ **Jerusalem** -- witness to the homebase first

- Our first responsibility is to witness to the people in our HOME & HOMETOWN -- such as WORK -- SCHOOL -- BALL FIELD -- COMMUNITY

◆ **Judea & Samaria** -- this is THE REGION OUTSIDE THEIR HOME BASE of Jerusalem -- they were to spread the news about Jesus OUTSIDE THEIR HOME BASE.

- This would be equivalent to stateside missions.

◆ **The World** -- the last group they were assigned to witness were THE GENTILES (non-Jews), which represented the rest of the world.

- We too should find ways to share the great news about Jesus to the world.

→ **Acts 1:9-11** -- *"After he had said this, he was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven.'"*

◆ JESUS WILL RETURN ONE DAY to get those who have been BORN-AGAIN (repented of their sins and placed their faith in Jesus) and TAKE THEM TO HEAVEN with Him.

◆ Our EXPECTATION AS CHRISTIANS is to BE READY FOR THAT DAY and to GET OTHERS READY FOR THAT DAY as well.

◆ **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** -- *"For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are still alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord."*

→ **Are you prepared to step into eternity?**

→ **Are you helping others know how they can be prepared to step into eternity?**

## QUESTIONS

**WHAT** is a witness?

→ A witness is a person openly professing their faith in Jesus because of what Jesus has done for them.

→ 2 TYPES OF WITNESSES -- Planter & Waterer

◆ **1 Corinthians 3:5-7** -- *"What then is Apollos? What is Paul? They are servants through whom you believed, and each has the role the Lord has given. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So, then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth."*

→ WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE for the person coming to faith in Jesus -- but we are responsible for TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS.

## **WHY should a Christian witness?**

→ JESUS COMMANDS IT

- ◆ **Acts 1:8** -- "...and YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

→ IT'S HOW PEOPLE HEAR ABOUT JESUS

- ◆ **Romans 10:14** -- "How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher?"

## **WHEN should a Christian witness?**

→ EVERY OPPORTUNITY YOU GET

- ◆ **1 Peter 3:16** -- "...be ready at ANY TIME to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you."

## **HOW should a Christian witness?**

→ GENTLY

- ◆ **1 Peter 3:16** -- "Yet do this with GENTLENESS and REVERENCE, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame."

→ BOLDLY

- ◆ **Acts 1:8** -- "But you will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit has come on you..." -- throughout the book of Acts -- Ananias to Saul -- Philip to the eunuch -- Paul & Silas to the Philippian jailer.

→ NEVER FORCE IT UPON SOMEONE -- but be OBEDIENT to have a CONVERSATION and allow the Holy Spirit TO DO THE WORK.

## **WHO should a Christian witness to?**

→ EVERYONE

- ◆ **John 3:17** -- "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save THE WORLD through him."

- ◆ **1 Timothy 2:4** -- "God wants EVERYONE to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

→ It is NOT OUR JOB to decide who we should or should not tell -- we need to tell AS MANY PEOPLE AS WE CAN and pray that they will come to faith in Jesus.

## **WHERE should a Christian witness?**

→ EVERYWHERE YOU GO -- HOME - WORK - SCHOOL -- COMMUNITY -- THE WORLD.

- ◆ **Acts 1:8** -- "...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

## **TAKEAWAY**

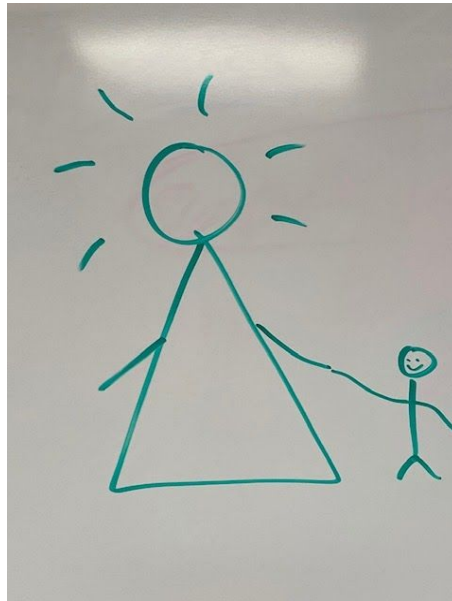
We are to gently, yet boldly, tell everyone, everywhere, whenever we get the opportunity, about Jesus.

## **APPLICATION**

**HOW** can a person witness to someone about Jesus?

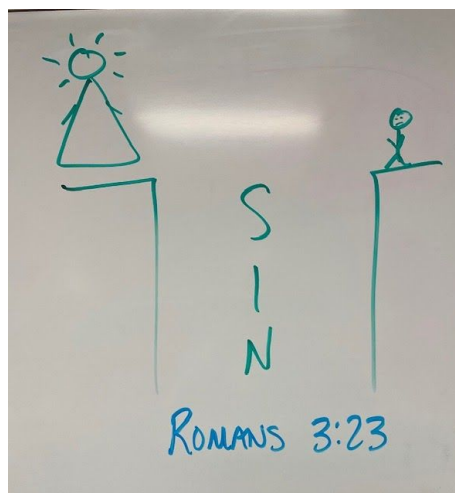
- PRAY for an opportunity
- LOOK for an opportunity
- Start a CONVERSATION -- NATURAL to SPIRITUAL

## **PICTURE METHOD**



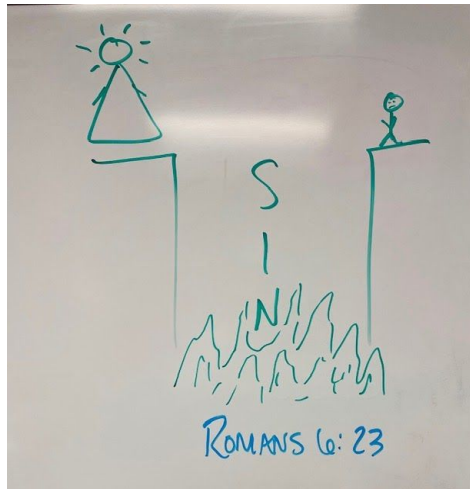
### **PERFECT RELATIONSHIP**

God created you to have a perfect relationship with Him.



### **BROKEN RELATIONSHIP**

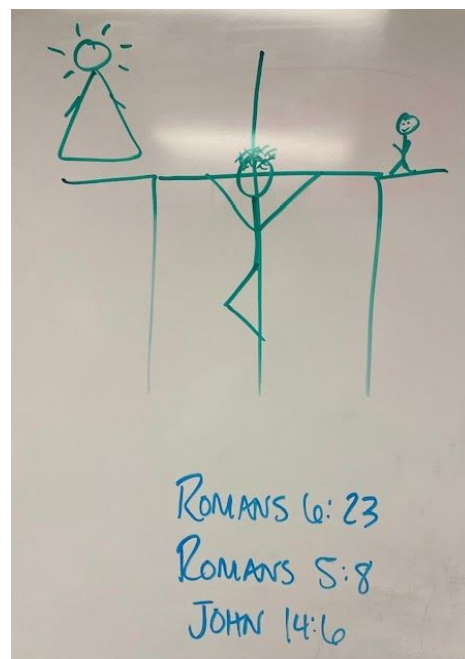
Your sin separates you from God -- **Romans 3:23** -- *"For all have sinned..."*



### CONSEQUENCE

**Romans 6:23** -- *"For the wages of sin is death..."*

If a person killed someone they are guilty of murder and must face the consequence -- if you have sinned you are a guilty sinner and must face the consequence.



### FREE GIFT

God offers us the FREE GIFT of ETERNAL LIFE through Jesus.

The gift is FREE to us -- but it COST JESUS HIS LIFE.

**Romans 6:23** -- *"...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus."*

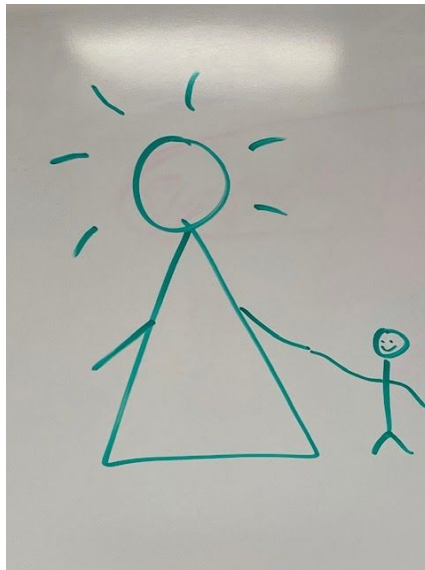
**Romans 5:8** -- *"But God demonstrated His love for us: while we were still sinners Christ died for us."*

**John 14:6** -- *"Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except thru me.'"*

YOU CAN'T EARN YOUR WAY TO HEAVEN

**You can't be good enough -- go to church enough -- give enough money**

You must CHOOSE to ACCEPT or REJECT God's offer of salvation.



### **RESTORATION**

REPENTANCE & SURRENDER brings about reconciliation.

**1 John 1:9** -- *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

God no longer sees your sin -- HE SEES JESUS IN YOUR PLACE.

**Romans 10:9, 13** -- *"If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 13 For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

**ISN'T THAT GREAT NEWS WORTH TELLING PEOPLE?!?!**