

## GETTING THE WORD OUT

### A New Identity A New Assignment

1 Peter 1:1-2 & 2:9-12

### The One Thing Only You Can Do

1 Peter 3:14-16

### Tips From The Trenches

(1) We can't have **IMPACT** without **CONTACT**.

Matthew 5:14-16

(2) Our **MUSIC** is just as important as our **WORDS**.

1 Peter 2:12 & 3:15

(3) Sometimes **SILENCE** is **GOLDEN**.

(4) You don't have to have all the **ANSWERS**.

You just have to have **YOUR ANSWERS**.

1 Peter 3:15

(5) **"I DON'T KNOW"** is a perfectly good answer.

John 9:1-25

(6) **"COME AND SEE"** is a perfectly good close.

John 1:43-51/ John 4:28-32

## Food for Thought for the week of September 9, 2018

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

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1. One of the Apostle Paul's strong motivations for sharing the Gospel with others was his understanding that people are spiritually lost without Christ. In Luke 15:1-10, Jesus tells two stories which give us some perspective on how God views people who are spiritually lost. What similarities do you see in these stories?

**Luke 15:1-10** - (NIV) Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders <sup>6</sup> and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup> I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. <sup>8</sup> "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins <sup>9</sup> and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>10</sup> And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' <sup>10</sup> In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

What lessons do these stories teach us about spiritually lost people and God's attitude towards them?

What do Luke 19:10 and 2 Peter 3:9 add to our understanding of how God wants us to view spiritually lost people?

**Luke 19:10** - (NIV) <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

**2 Peter 3:9** - (NIV) <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2. In Colossians 4:3, (**Colossians 4:3** - (NIV) <sup>3</sup> And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.) Paul asked the Colossians to pray for an open door for him to get the word out. For some of us, the thought of an open door causes fear because we're not sure we know what to do once the door is open. We fear rejection, not feeling knowledgeable enough, or not having an answer to their questions. How could the following verses help give confidence to someone who is fearful of witnessing to others?

**Luke 12:11-12** - (NIV) <sup>11</sup> "When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, <sup>12</sup> for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."

**Matthew 10:19-20** - (NIV) <sup>19</sup> But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, <sup>20</sup> for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

**2 Corinthians 5:20** - (NIV) <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

How did God address Moses' concerns in Exodus 4:1-10?

**Exodus 4:1-10** - (NIV) Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'" <sup>2</sup> Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied. <sup>3</sup> The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. <sup>5</sup> "This," said the LORD, "is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you." <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD said, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand into his

cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous<sup>[a]</sup>—it had become as white as snow.<sup>7</sup> “Now put it back into your cloak,” he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.<sup>8</sup> Then the LORD said, “If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second.<sup>9</sup> But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground.”<sup>10</sup> Moses said to the LORD, “Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”

How aware do you tend to be in recognizing a potential open door?

3. James 1:19-27 gives us guidance on how we can live so we make an impact on other people. Read the passage and write down any principles that could apply to you in terms of sharing your faith with someone else.

**James 1:19-27 - (NIV)** <sup>19</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup> because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.<sup>21</sup> Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. <sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. <sup>26</sup> Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.<sup>27</sup> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.