

Four motivations for evangelism - Mark 2: 1-12

*“Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, **carried by four of them.** ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” ⁶Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷“Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? ⁹Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? ¹⁰But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, ¹¹“I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” ¹²He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”*

THE COMMANDMENTS OF JESUS

“You are my friends if you do what I command you ” (Jn. 15 : 14)

I. Comply with the two great commandments

- That we loved God above all
- That we love one another (John 13 : 34 , 15 : 12-17)

II . Carryout the Great Commission

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

The narrative tells us of a paralytic brought to Jesus

Who are the Paralytics of your city?

They are laying in their beds, unmoving - Thousands around the world.

May be in your family, in your street, in your city

- Problems, sorrows, struggles, needs, diseases.

- Paralyzed by drugs (millions killed by drug's overdose), venereal disease, alcohol, gambling
- Paralyzed by guilt, revenge, self-pity by, fear
- Paralyzed by governments lie - Prostitutes of formal, want labor, clinics abortion rights, laws against home education. We have been called to govern.

Paralyzed by cults – Romanism, Mormonism, Jehovahism, Islamism, Hinduism, Occultism,...

The chemical poisons produced by hatred, resentment, bitterness, unforgiveness, that ultimately will destroy body and soul.

The narrative tells us of four individuals that carry the man to Jesus What do they represent?

FOUR MEN, FOUR VIRTUES

What did encourage the four men to carry his friend to Jesus?

1 . LOVE

And seeing the multitudes, he had compassion on them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Matthew 9:36

When there is no evangelism in a church, when believers stop telling people about Jesus, lack love in that church

Ephesian church "Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. (Rev. 2: 4)

The Brazilian churches – Outreach evangelism (Pentecostals, Baptists in the market), Years later none were there.

Is it worth to preach in the Nursing home? Why would preach there?

Love for souls –

2. FAITH

a) FAITH IN JESUS NAME

The four heard and believed in the name of the Lord.

THE SAMARITAN EVANGELIST

- *Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him. John 4:28-30*
- *They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world." John 4: 42*

i . It is the only way to salvation

And there is salvation in no one else, because also under heaven no other name given among men, whereby we must be saved. Acts 4:12

- A friend that enter an evangelical denomination and later he discovered they no longer believe that Jesus is the only way. They denied the Scriptures

ii . It is the most powerful name in the universe

And these signs shall follow them that believe : In my name shall they cast out devils; Mark 16:17
Therefore also God highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name; At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and on earth and under the earth, Philippians 2:9-10

The doctor who went mad . He was taken back to the village, stuck with chains, in a hut . The food was thrown to him, for he bite and attacking anyone who approached. One day someone kicked him in the mouth and broke his teeth. Four men brought to him in the crusade. During the ministry of the word demons went out one by one, and he returned to his normal state, they stripped him of the chains, and the gag mouth. He returned to school and became a living witness of Jesus. (T.L. Osborn –The great plan of love)

b) TRUST IN THE WORD, MESSAGE, GOSPEL

Rob, was telling me that he was trying to found a way to communicate the gospel without using the gospel.

SEEDS FOR THE SOWER – *Psalm 126: 6 Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.*

HAMMER - *Jeremiah 23: 29 “Is not my word like fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”*

TRUSTFULL - *Luke 21: 33 ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*

The greatest apostle and evangelist of all time said:

POWER FOR SALVATION – Rm. 1: 16 ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

POWER OF THE MESSAGE – I Co. 1: 18, 21-23 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

The good news

- To every sinner. Jesus bore our sins. We no longer carry them.
- For those who live with a guilt conscience. He bore our guilt, so that we may receive forgiveness
- To anyone who is convicted for the penalty of sin. Jesus bore our condemnation and offers redemption.

- To anyone who had failed. Jesus endured our failures in order to give us your success.
- To anyone who is sick with incurable illnesses. Jesus bore our infirmities

The problem of skepticism among believers to deliver the message. Many Christian's excuses: "It is not worth to invite. They are idolatrous, they Buddhists, they are atheist (The atheist that went to church to stop the fire)

The four saw the need of the Cripple. They did not just say: "Poor guy, we feel sorry for you", but they acted, they moved, they got together as a team and brought the man to Jesus.

3 . OBEDIENCE

The Lord commanded to preach the gospel. The good news.

¹⁵ *He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.. Mark 16:15*

Believers are hiding in fear, not because they are cast into the lions in the arenas of Rome or to be fried in pans of boiling oil or for being crucified on stakes, but they are afraid simply for the fact of being despised or criticized by non-Christians.

4 . ZEAL (dedication, diligence, priority)

Maybe among the crowd that day in Capernaum, many might had said:

"It is not worth! There are many people in front of us! The people of Nazareth said he did not heal anyone there!"

The four men acted with zeal and move on with the paralytic, though many pessimism and obstacle had to overcome.

The gospel shall be preached in the entire world. There still hope:

i . There is forgiveness for the greatest sinner.

For: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.". Romans 10:13

Testimonials:

- A young man that I shared the gospel. He asked a question: "Is Jesus wants anything to a bastard like me?"

ii . There is still time for the sinner - The door is open (Noah and Lot).

Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35

iii . There is still room

²¹ *"The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'* ²² *"Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'* ²³ *"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full - Luke 14:21-23*

In 1968 the surgeon , Dr. Kenethe Swan , the newcomer to Vietnam , operated a soldier victim of a grenade without both legs , with torn and blind face . After seven hours of surgery, other doctors when they heard what he had done, came furious against him saying let patients in his condition die, why spend precious time with someone in this situation . There are many people in better condition that needs you. He deeply sorrow, those words carried for several years . After the war, 20 years later, he went to see if he could find out had happened to his patient . Discovered that it had become a Christian, and still blind and in a wheelchair helps thousands of U.S. crippled by telling his testimony and that was worth living.

LOVE – FAITH – OBEDIENCE – ZEAL

- Are you proclaiming the gospel?
- Are you have obeying Jesus's command - TO LOVE OTHERS AND TO PREACHING THE GOOD NEWS ?
- Have you any real zeal for souls?
- When was the last time you spoke of Jesus to someone?
- When was the last time you took a Bible or a brochure to someone?
- Jesus is waiting for the cripples. Can he count on you?