

EVANGELISM WORKSHOP

Most Christians (especially on campus) will have no problem participating in an all-night prayer meeting or attending a three-hour musical concert; but when it comes to evangelism, our enthusiasm begins to wane.

Three common fears.

- Fear of rejection
- Fear of feeling inadequate to clearly communicate the Gospel
- Fear of being asked questions we cannot answer.

Col 4:2-6

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 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. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. NIV

A. THREE VITAL PRAYERS.

I. “pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message “

We are to pray for opportunities to talk to people about Jesus.

II. “so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ “

By this prayer, we are seeking for the grace so that we will not let the opportunity pass by when God grants it.

III. We may still have the fear of God opening up a door for us to witness to a friend, we taking it up, but being bludgeoned by questions and ending up making a mess of it. So we are encouraged to pray the third prayer

“that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should”

Thus, proclaiming the gospel clearly entails being able to answer the objections- clearing the bushes to give an unobstructed view.

B. MAKING THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY

- I. **we are not asked to “make the opportunity” but to “make the most of every opportunity”**
We are not charged with manufacturing opportunities to talk to people, that is to say manipulating conversations leading to strange conversations about Jesus.

Illustrations

1. The story of the biology student who studied only about birds for a compulsory session in his final exams, but the question turned out to be about forest.
So he writes “ A forest is place with high density of trees. A lot of animals love to live on trees e.g birds. On that note, **birds** are . . .”
2. Say you are with a friend and all he wants to talk about is how interesting he finds the movie 300 Spartan. How do you work that round to Jesus?
Well, one might say “Spartan is the Greek word for austere, right? You know, a guy called Paul travelled around Greece talking to people about Jesus. Emm, now that we are on the subject of Jesus, can I humbly explain to you the Gospel?”

We are to have real and relaxed conversations with people and trust “**that God may open a door for our message** “ - which he will if we are praying the three vital prayers (above).

- II . **making the most of the opportunity does not mean making results.**

Our responsibility is to faithfully share the gospel as best as we can.
Conversion is God’s prerogative.

1 Cor 3:6 *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. (ESV)*

Acts 11:18

18 *When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”*

ESV

C. THE ETHICAL IMPERATIVE

“Let your conversation be always full of grace”

How can our conversation with people be full of grace?

1 Peter 3:15-17: *but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; 16 yet do it with **gentleness and respect**, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. (ESV)*



All human beings are made in the image of God, they possess an “intrinsic worth” and that is enough to deserve respect.

Our witnessing should flow from respect for people.