

OUT OF THE SALTSHAKER: PART II COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERIES

Dr. Ché Ahn

February 18, 2024

TEXT: Colossians 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; 3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. 5 Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time. 6 *Let* your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

INTRO: I am going to review what I shared last week and then go onto share the remainder of the message.

PURPOSE STATEMENT: I WANT TO SHARE THE THREE KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL EVANGELISM, WHICH IS FOUNDATIONAL TO ALL COMMUNITY OUTREACHES.

I. PRAYER

A. Colossians 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; 3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

1. Operation Andrew and Billy Graham Crusades—the key to his success. See John 1:40-42, Mark 11:17, Acts 16:31.
2. **“It is doubtful that any soul is saved apart from the believing prayer of some saint.” J. Oswald Sanders**

B. HRC VIP PRAYER LIST

1. Five names, primarily friends and family members, who live in LA (or wherever your campus is located), who you will be praying for daily and in your Connect Groups, for the purpose of sharing the gospel with them as well as inviting them to our Community Outreaches.
2. Our first series of outreaches will begin in March. Hope California, Palm Sunday with Todd White, Easter Sunday, and any other outreaches planned by the Pastors and Elders of our church.
3. My conversion—so many people prayed for me. Uncle Mark Kim’s story.

4. Who is to be involved? EMI: Every Member Involvement.
5. We want everyone to fill out a VIP list.

C. PRAY FOR OPEN DOORS

1. **Colossians 4:3** Meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains.
2. We talked about being led by the Holy Spirit when it comes to evangelism. Some people call this prophetic evangelism, and this is true, but the more I grow in evangelism, I am finding that all evangelism is being led by the Holy Spirit and sharing the Gospel in the power of His Spirit (see Acts 1:8).
3. We talked about looking for open doors—how the Holy Spirit will close one door and open another.
4. **Acts 16:6** Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. **7** After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. **8** So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. **9** And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” **10** Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

II. WISDOM

- A. **Colossians 4:5** Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time.
 1. **Proverbs 11:30** The fruit of the righteous *is a* tree of life, and he who wins souls *is* wise.
 2. **Matthew 5:13** “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor [the Greek word is *moraino*, which we get the word “moron” from], how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”
 3. The word means “to be foolish,” the opposite of being wise.
- B. **What does wisdom look like when it comes to winning souls?**
 1. **1 Kings 3:3** And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David... **5** At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask! What shall I give you?”
 2. **1 Kings 3:6** And Solomon said: “You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in

righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day. 7 Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I *am* a little child; I do not know *how* to go out or come in. 8 And Your servant *is* in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted.”

3. **1 Kings 3:9 “Therefore give to Your servant an understanding [*shama*: a “hearing”] heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil.”**
4. 1 Kings 3:10 The speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 Then God said to him: “Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, 12 behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. 13 And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days. 14 So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”
5. **Wisdom in evangelism is simply being led by the Holy Spirit and saying what He wants you to share in the context of the Gospel message.**
6. We see Jesus doing only what He saw the Father do in John 5:19.
7. **John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice. I know them, and they follow Me.”**
8. It takes a hearing heart to win people to Christ.
9. Prophetic evangelism is that you hear from God, and you speak that word to unbelievers, and they will hear Jesus through you, resulting ultimately in conversion.
10. E.g. Story of Ann and Lois, Herbert Perliz.

III. LOVE

A. Colossians 4:6 *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

1. Your speech has to be gracious. So, how are we to be gracious with our speech? By first loving the person you are sharing your faith with and by speaking the truth in love.

2. **Ephesians 4:15** But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.
3. **The most gracious truth you can share with the lost is the love of Jesus.**
4. Once again, we are to share with wisdom.
5. **Matthew 5:13** “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor [*moraino*: foolish], how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”
6. **Colossians 4:6b ...that you may know how you ought to answer.**
7. Speech has to be like salt. What does that look like? Being wise in your speech and not foolish.
8. The Gospel is already controversial. Don’t get into non-essential, controversial discussions, like talking about politics. If they bring it up, wisely answer their questions, and redirect the conversation to the Gospel.
9. We have to all study and show ourselves as ministers of the Gospel.
10. **2 Timothy 2:15** **Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**
11. This is for all kings and priests.
12. **1 Peter 2:9** **But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.**
13. Don’t expect an unbeliever to think or act like a believer until they become a believer. But God has chosen the foolishness of preaching to open the eyes of a believer. Disciple them into having a biblical worldview, one with biblical values.
14. **2 Corinthians 4:4** **The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**
15. **That is why the real foundational work is prayer for the unbeliever!**
16. **We have to bind the spirit that that is blinding our non-Christian friends. E.g. Sue’s mom and Mariolatry.**
- B. **THE SAMARITAN WOMAN AT THE WELL (John 4:1-37):** Here is a basic and simple way to initiate and lead a person to Christ. I use the model of Jesus witnessing to the woman at the well in the fourth chapter of John as an outline to follow. Here are seven steps you may want to take. This will work with strangers as well as people you know.
 1. **INITIATE:** “Jesus said to her, ‘Will you give me a drink?’” (John 4:7).
 - a) **Initiate. Take the initiative to meet with people.**

- b) Initiate conversation with the non-Christian. Get their attention; use the natural occasion. E.g. A friendly, “How is your day going?”
- 2. INTEREST: “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (John 4:9).**
- a) Take a genuine interest in them. Love and accept them.
- b) Be an excellent listener. Ask them questions. Don’t talk about yourself until it is time to share your testimony.
- c) “Readiness to hear or learn is the absolute precondition for change. Prior to any readiness to hear the good news... is the necessity of the outsider’s letting out those feelings that prevent a hearing of that message.”
- d) “Listening—honest, perceptive, non-judgmental, relational—which conveys trust and acceptance of the other, is the requisite element in the communication process.”
- e) **People can’t hear until they have been heard. Earn the right to be heard.**
- f) Ask them questions about their family, occupation, etc.
- 3. INTRIGUE: “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water” (John 4:10).**
- a) Arouse curiosity (e.g. “A few years ago I would have felt the same way, but since then my outlook on life has totally changed...”)
- b) Share your testimony.
- 4. INQUIRE: In addition to the conversation turners, we must know how to ask questions that will lead to the presentation of the gospel. Here are some questions to ask:**
- a) “Do you have any type of religious background?”
- b) “Have your ideas about God changed since... (coming to college, getting married, having children, being in this job, the death of your friend, etc.)?”
- c) “By the way, are you interested in spiritual things?”
- d) “What do you think a real Christian is?”
- e) “Have you come to a place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today, you know where you’d spend eternity?”
- f) “Suppose that you were to die tonight and stand before God, and He were to say to you, ‘Why should I let you into heaven?’ What would you say to Jesus?”
- g) “What do you think is the greatest need that man has?”
- h) “What would you say a person needs to do to have eternal life?”
- 5. INTRODUCE: “I who speak to you am he” (John 4:26).**

- a) Introduce the matchless Jesus: who He is, that He died for our sins and rose again, and if we believe in Him, we too will have eternal life (John 3:16).
 - b) This is the core of the Gospel.
- 6. INVITE: “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” (John 4:29).**
- a) Use the prophetic. If you have a word for your friend, give it. E.g. Hubert Pralitz.
 - b) Make sure you give an invitation (e.g. “Do you want to receive Jesus into your life?” “Is there any reason why you cannot give your life to Jesus?”)
- 7. INCORPORATE:**
- a) **John 4:34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. 35 Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! 36 And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows, and another reaps.’ 38 I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”**
 - b) **John 4:34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”**
 - c) **“To finish His work in evangelism” is discipleship.**
 - d) **John 4:37 “One sows and another reaps.” What is biblical reaping? It is evangelism, but it must lead to discipleship.**
 - e) **The most important part is to disciple the new convert. You have to take personal responsibility for them.**
 - f) **You have to proactively meet with them and not just text them.**
 - g) E.g. David Chang of HIM and “Fight K” Church. He encourages all his members to meet with those who come to their community outreach by visiting each person individually after the event.
 - h) **This includes incorporating them into the local church. E.g. Henrick and Ernie.**

CONCLUSION

