

“Dare to Share”
Abundant Grace Community Church
Sunday, November 12, 2017
Mike Gilland

1 Corinthians 1:17

INTRODUCTION:

This proclamation of the gospel is the heart and soul behind the essence of EVANGELISM...the theme for today's message.

FOCUS SENTENCE:

God's call on our lives is to be a **steward**, a **herald**, and an **ambassador** for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. CALLED AS A STEWARD OF THE GOSPEL

Paul told in the Corinthians that he had been sent to preach the Gospel...it was a serious call, and he took that call seriously.

In 1 Cor. 4:1:

*This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and **stewards** of the mysteries of God.*

The Greek for steward in this passage:

Oikonomos - the manager of household or of household affairs.

To *steward* is to manage, to properly administrate.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

This command by Jesus is to us all!

Burying the talent to protect it was NOT a good idea!

“Paul saw himself as a bondsman raised to be faithful to his trust, as a steward must be, guarding the precious truth that had been committed to him...”

~ J.I. Packer

2. CALLED AS A HERALD OF THE GOSPEL

When Paul said that he was called to “preach” the Gospel, the Greek word used is... **Euaggelizō** - to bring good news, to announce glad tidings.

This is the essence of the word HERALD. One who is a herald is he who declares...the one who announces that which he has been given to share.

Paul's role as a herald was not built on his eloquence, his vocabulary. Just the opposite. He saw himself as unqualified to do so. But...nevertheless, he was given a message. **And he was going to faithfully deliver that message!**

3. CALLED AS AN AMBASSADOR OF THE GOSPEL

Paul was called to preach the GOSPEL...

2 Cor. 5:20

*Therefore, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

What is an ambassador? One that is an **authorized** spokesperson for another.

"Paul called himself an ambassador because he knew that, when he proclaimed the gospel facts and promises, and urged sinners to receive the reconciliation effected at Calvary, it was Christ's message to the world that he was declaring.

~ J.I. Packer

Our authorization came from none other than Christ Jesus Himself.

The power to be a witness is the authorization to be an ambassador. Our charge as an ambassador is to be a witness for Jesus.

4. So...what IS evangelism?

It is proclaiming the gospel. It is just a conversation – about the news that Jesus came to save sinners.

Up to 90 percent of all conversions to Jesus in all churches around the world happen the same way...Someone **dared to share**. Someone was a steward...a herald...an ambassador...for the greatest story every told.

May God help us not live like our Christianity is a best-kept secret! Dare to share. Our job is to proclaim. The power of God takes over from there.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. How did you come to Christ? Was it through a friend or relative sharing the news of Jesus?
2. How is such relational evangelism different from your previous concept of evangelism?
3. Why is it that so many churches' efforts in evangelism end with poor results?
4. What hindrances do you commonly experience that keeps you from sharing your faith?