

Intro: I still remember the first time I shared Jesus with someone and they simply said “No” I had conversations with friends early on that weren’t interested, but this was one that I planned for...prayed for...had others people praying for...and I was convinced God was going to do something amazing. I was a student director, and Donnie Johns was an amazing kid in the youth group. Came with a neighbor...family didn’t come...he prayed for his dad over and over...He asked me if I would come over and tell his dad about Jesus. I did...He said “No” Donnie Cry

Today I want to finish our series on OBEДИENT by talking with you about sharing your faith with others. For the past month or so we have been talking about being Obedient: Being Stewards of Time, Talent, Treasure: GOSPEL
Turn with Me to 1 Cor 4:1-2

1. First, Notice WHAT Paul Says We Are!

1 Cor 4:1-2

- Servants of Christ: Different word “Under oarsman” Illus: “Ben Hur”
- Stewards: “Manager of another’s property: Not Owner Lk 12:42-43
“Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns”
- Approved by God God has looked at you, inspected you: Stamped Approved!
1Thess 2:4 *“On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel.”*

Applic: Here is the reality. Most of us don’t FEEL like we are capable...equipped...ready...able...God says you ARE!

2. Remember What You Have Been Entrusted With: Gospel!

Good News! 1 Cor 15:1-11

- Christ Died
- Christ Buried
- Christ Raised
- Christ Appeared
- By this you are SAVED! Rescued from spiritual danger and separation from God eternally
Forgiven, Restored, Blessed, Headed for Heaven!

Applic: That is the Gospel “good news” That we have received for ourselves...Now entrusted with for others!
Our world is SO broken...Just this week I have walked with people through more AWFUL events
Our world NEEDS JESUS! Apart from Him there is no other hope: Government? Education? Business? Rec?

3. Understand WHY You Share The Gospel With Others.

1 Cor 9:17-24

- To be Found Faithful! Mt 25:23 “Well done good and faithful” (long trip)
- Because our world NEEDS JESUS! Jn 6:68 “Where else...YOU have the words of life!”
- There is a reward (who wants heaven alone?) For us! Blessings in Heaven:
For them! And here when we see them
- There is a trust given to our care No “Plan B” You and I are IT!

Applic: You and I are God’s plan.

Mom and Dad...YOU ARE GOD’S PLAN FOR YOUR CHILDREN
You have people in your family that don’t know Jesus? YOU ARE GOD’S PLAN
People at work without Jesus...Neighbors without Jesus...YOU ARE GOD’S PLAN
The church can help...Student leader come along side, others can share...but YOU ARE GOD’S PLAN!

4. Accept The Responsibility God Places On Your Life.

2 Cor 6:1-13

I get it. There are times when we don’t want to accept the burden of sharing our faith! We don’t feel up to the task, we aren’t sure how we are going to be received. We don’t feel ready, or equipped, or adequate. God says you ARE!

- Be a “fellow worker” with God! Remember you aren’t in this alone: He will give you words!
- NOW is the day of salvation: Window will not always be open!
- Be willing to pay the price: 4-5 Not always well received NOTHING LIKE THAT WILL HAPPEN
- Be willing to open your heart 11-13 People KNOW when you REALLY CARE! Speak fm heart

APPLIC: Many of us don’t feel comfortable...but that’s OK. Just like anything else in life...more you do it...more comfortable you become!

ILLUS: I used to watch Charles Stanley on TV and marvel! Forgot...he had done it HUNDREDS OF TIMES BEFORE!

5. Be Available For God To Use Your Unique Talents And Abilities.

1 Peter 4:7-11

The day of memorizing a long "gospel" presentation and spending 45 minutes telling people that memorized material is gone. What people today need...what they crave is a real, non threatening, not judgmental conversation with someone they TRUST about spiritual matters. People need us to meet them where they are...connect with them from the heart...truly care about them...and share with them out of that love and care.

The other important thing to remember is that GRACE is better CAUGHT than TAUGHT! Help them experience God's love in a practical, REAL way that connects them with the heart of God!

Notice What Peter tells us

- **There isn't much time:** The end is near!
- **Pray!** No one comes to the Father unless the Spirit draws (Pray before you talk)
- **Love from the heart** People know when you are speaking from love
- **No judgment** Covers a multitude of sins
- **Serve God by serving others** (INVITE THEM TO SERVE WITH YOU!)
Which invitation will people in your life most likely accept?
Come to church listen to a sermon
Come feed hungry at Food Pantry, Homeless Winter Relief, Ashley's Closet?
- **Don't just TALK about GRACE...SHOW IT...and have them experience it...see what its like!**

CONCL: God can use every ability you have to bless others in His name! I spent 3 years doing steel work, Radio and TV towers. Huge winch and drawworks...to lift the steel. Was a very dark time spiritually in my life...running from God.

15 yrs later...in Cuba...Visiting to set the cornerstone of a church...winch truck...

God used my experiences...to connect me with the heart of a man different language and culture

I have prepared a card for you...Just for you....put it in your bible...fill it out...start to pray...listen to what God has to say to you...and do it!