

Jerry Root on Evangelism

Audio: www.villagebible.org/jerryroot

Some notes on this message follow.

I do not have the gift of evangelism but I have it as a high value. Jesus last command should be our greatest concern. Weather or not you have the gift of evangelism, you should be a concern for you.

Not everyone has the gift of giving, but everyone is called to give and make it a priority. The same is true for evangelism.

If you don't have the gift of evangelism, then you just have to work harder at it. You'll make lots of mistakes. That's ok.

Sharing Jesus will be awkward at first. All new challenges lead to awkwardness. If you're not awkward someplace in your life, you're just not growing.

G.K. Chesterton said, "If a job is worth doing, it's worth doing poorly". Evangelism is worth doing even if you do it poorly – as long as you're trying and learning from your mistakes. Make it a priority and learn from your mistakes and success.

The person with the gift for hospitality does evangelism differently than the person with the gift of giving.

Everyone is uniquely gifted and strategically placed.

If you're the only Christian in your place of work, praise the Lord for being strategically placed. Look at where you're at strategically. God wants you where you're at. God has a purpose for you.

Start with prayer.

If God answered every prayer you prayed this past week, would there be anyone new in the Kingdom?

Are you praying for opportunities? Opportunities to build relationships to ultimately lead people to Jesus?

People who pray see tend to see lots of "coincidences"

Who couldn't pray for people and wait for Jesus to open up opportunities?

Contact evangelism

People want to talk but you have to do it in a way that's not obtrusive.

It's the love of God that compels us to become his ambassador.

Ask people a public question - don't go too deep too soon. Their answers to your public questions are permission to take that topic deeper.

Context Evangelism

Look where you already are at for places that God is already working

If you're afraid to strike out don't play baseball but if you never play you won't know the joy of hitting a home run. Be willing to make some mistakes.

Friendship Evangelism

Ask, "Could I have a spiritual conversation with you sometime?" This establishes permission and gives you an opportunity to come back next time and say, "You said we could have a spiritual conversation sometime. How about next Saturday over breakfast?"