

May 30, 2021
Willerup United Methodist Church
Sermon Notes
Pastor Marvin Singh

Sharing Our Faith:
Our Ministry of Evangelism
2 Kings 5:1-3

John 3:16

God's love: For God so loved
God's gift: That He gave his only begotten Son
God's offer: That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life

Jesus has commissioned every disciple to be his witness Acts 1:8

The mission of the Willerup Church is

1. To Seek the Lost - Connecting people with the community of faith
2. To Strengthen the Lord's Disciples - Developing people to Christ-like maturity
3. To Serve in the Lord's Kingdom - Equipping & sending disciples in ministry and mission

Today I would like to dwell on the second purpose of our church.

The mandate is not optional but to be followed by all who belong to the church. Matthew 28:18-20; and Isaiah 12:4 & 45:22; Malachi 1:11

2 Kings 5 (esp vs 1-3)

There was a slave girl in the household of the chief commander of the Assyrian army, named Naaman.

He was well-respected by his king.

He was a great and valiant soldier. The Lord was favorable to this man. BUT he was a leper. This young slave girl:

- Saw the need
- Spoke to the right person
- Showed the way: She knew the resource; a prophet of God who lives in Samaria and could cure this sickness.

I was recently blessed to read an article on Evangelism which talks about the Theology of Work (TOW). It includes some thoughts which can help us all. And the slave girl in Naaman's household showed the same characteristics encouraged in the article.

A. Competence at work: This slave girl was competent and worked very faithfully in all that she did. She had a good reputation. People are watching how we work. Are we faithful and loyal? What do our colleagues see in us?

Proverbs 22:29- Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; and he will not serve before obscure men.

Ecclesiastes 3:15- Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.

Colossians 3:23- Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.

B. Character is watched too: Barna Groups has researched in 2013 that Christians are found to be like the Pharisees: hypocrites, self-righteous and judgmental.

When we Christians behave badly, we are making Christianity unbelievable to the outside world. Our careless lives set the outer world talking; and we give them grounds for talking in a way that throws doubt on the truths of Christianity.

When others look at us, they should see what is found in Galatians 5:22-23:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

C. Showing Concern: When competence and character combine, they create a trust that lends credibility to our word. How do we show our concern with kind words and gracious actions?

Kind Words-

Ephesians 4:15- Instead speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Ephesians 4:29 – Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

James 1:19- My dear brothers, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.

Proverbs 15:1- A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 25:13-Like the coolness of snow at harvest time, is a trustworthy messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the spirit of his masters.

Gracious Actions - How do we face difficult situations? What are our reactions in distress?

Mark 10:42-45 – Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.’

Philippians 2:4, 14-15- Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others ... Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure,

children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.

D. Conversation – People have to trust the messengers before they trust the message.

Recently I met a great Christian who is going through cancer, full of testimony and witness thorough her teaching. The staff and students alike are watching very carefully how she is taking this cancer, trusting in the Lord and prayers. She is a living message. ‘In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and praise your Father in heaven.’ Matthew 5:16

1 Peter 3:15- But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Relationship is the key in evangelism. Dr. D. L. Moody gave an illustration. He was having an evangelistic crusade at one particular village. There was one old lady sitting at the front row. After hearing the words, she got up in the midst of the message and went out. She went to the horseman who was taking the preacher from one place to other. She inquired from him whether this preacher practices what he is preaching. She came back in, and when the altar call was given, she raised her hand and came forward to receive Jesus as the Lord and Savior of her life. The preacher inquired of her, why did you go in the midst of the message? She told the reason for her action.

People do not want our preaching, but want to watch how we live, talk, act and do things. This little Hebrew girl shared the message and her listener believed her. We know the rest of the story from 2 Kings, how this Naaman not only was healed but also received the living God as his God.