Jesus Christ’s Model of Evangelism

Introduction

As we discuss the principles and the essential message of evangelism, I thought it wise to look at examples of evangelism. As we think of good examples, certainly we must first look to our Savior, Jesus Christ. There is no better example for us to follow in any area of our lives. 1 Peter 2:21, “For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.”

What is Jesus’ example of evangelism? Is there one specific passage we can turn to where Jesus models the “right” method of evangelism? As I scanned the gospels looking for Jesus’ evangelism conversations, I found it somewhat challenging to isolate a lot of these gospel conversations. Jesus’ entire ministry was proclaiming the gospel. I was able to find a few conversations that we can examine together on how Jesus evangelized.

I found a number of articles that looked at one evangelism event of Christ and declared that it was “the” model to follow. The problem with this statement is that Jesus did not always follow that one model. The way he interacted with the Samaritan woman was different that how he spoke with Nicodemus or the Rich Young Ruler. Although we can learn a number of valuable lessons from any one of these conversations, I think we can also learn some lessons by looking at all of them in one night and comparing and contrasting them.

I don’t have all the answers tonight – I don’t have all the answers any night. But tonight more than usual we will look together at these passages and try to draw conclusions as a group. This is a Bible Study, so let’s study the Bible together.

Nicodemus: John 3:1-21

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? 11 "Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony. 12 "If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 "No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man 14 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

1. Doctrines
   a. Did Jesus explain the doctrine of God (creator and holy)?
      Verse 2 – Nicodemus was a Pharisee and therefore had a decent understanding of God
   b. Did Jesus explain the doctrine of sin (person is guilty and deserves God’s wrath)?
      Verse 3 – He explained that Nicodemus must start over, his good works were useless
   c. Did Jesus explain the doctrine of Jesus (life, death, resurrection)?
      Verses 11-17
   d. Did Jesus explain the doctrine of faith (faith alone saves and results in works)?
      Verses 18-21

2. Which doctrine did He emphasize? Why? Jesus and faith – these were the areas Nicodemus understood the least
3. Was Jesus’ gospel conversation successful? (The answer is always yes.)

4. Was the person saved? (See John 7:50-52; John 19:38-40) probably

**The Samaritan Woman: John 4:7-26**

7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." 11 She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? 12 "You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw." 16 He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." 17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband '; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." 19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

1. **Doctrines**
   a. Did Jesus explain the doctrine of God (creator and holy)?
      Not much – She was already willing to admit her sin and probably had a good understanding.
   b. Did Jesus explain the doctrine of sin (person is guilty and deserves God’s wrath)?
      V 16-18
   c. Did Jesus explain the doctrine of Jesus (life, death, resurrection)?
      v. 10-14, v.25-26
   d. Did Jesus explain the doctrine of faith (faith alone saves and results in works)?
      v. 23

2. Which doctrine did He emphasize? Why? Jesus and faith – the woman least understood this

3. How was this gospel conversation different from the one with Nicodemus? Why?
   Jesus used more simple terms. There was more dialogue.

4. Was Jesus’ gospel conversation successful? (The answer is always yes.)

5. Was the person saved? See rest of John 4

**The Rich Young Ruler: Matthew 19:16-22**

16 And someone came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?"
17 And He said to him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." 18 Then he said to Him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER; YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY; YOU SHALL NOT STEAL; YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS; 19 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER; and YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 20 The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?" 21 Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving: for he was one who owned much property.
2. **Doctrines**
   a. **Did Jesus explain the doctrine of God (creator and holy)?**
      Verse 17 – he knew it
   b. **Did Jesus explain the doctrine of sin (person is guilty and deserves God’s wrath)?**
      Verses 18-21
   c. **Did Jesus explain the doctrine of Jesus (life, death, resurrection)?**
      Verse 21 – follow me
   d. **Did Jesus explain the doctrine of faith (faith alone saves and results in works)?**
      Never got there – the man walked away

3. **Which doctrine did He emphasize? Why?**
   Sin – this man did not understand it

4. **How was this gospel conversation different from the one with Nicodemus or the Samaritan woman? Why?**
   Jesus did not get as far with this man since he walked away

5. **Was Jesus’ gospel conversation successful? (The answer is always yes.)**

6. **Was the person saved? No.**

**The Lawyer: Luke 10:25-29**

25 And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" 27 And he answered, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 28 And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE." 29 But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

1. **Doctrines**
   a. **Did Jesus explain the doctrine of God (creator and holy)?** Verse 27 – God is deserving of obedience
   b. **Did Jesus explain the doctrine of sin (person is guilty and deserves God’s wrath)?**
      Verses 27-29
   c. **Did Jesus explain the doctrine of Jesus (life, death, resurrection)?**
      Not explained in passage
   d. **Did Jesus explain the doctrine of faith (faith alone saves and results in works)?**
      Not explained in passage

2. **Which doctrine did He emphasize? Why?**
   Sin – this man did not want to admit his sin

3. **Was Jesus’ gospel conversation successful? (The answer is always yes.)**

4. **Was the person saved? Unknown**

**Scoffers**

- Matthew 2:23-28
- Matthew 11:27-33
- Matthew 12:13-17
- Matthew 12:18-27

1. **How did Jesus answer the scoffers? Why?**