



Week of October 27, 2019: Screens, Technology and Evangelism

Discussion Questions Set #1

In sermon, we talked about the idea that there have been but two major means of evangelism in our world; proclamation and personal evangelism. Proclamation evangelism involves a direct confrontation with the good news of Jesus, whereas personal evangelism seeks to see the good news of Jesus shared through personal relationships, using invitational or testimonial language to urge friends to become followers of Jesus.

- 1) Think of strengths and weaknesses for both proclamation and personal evangelism. Which type of evangelism are you most comfortable engaging in?
- 2) In sermon, we discussed that shifts in culture – particularly those attached to technology and social media – have deafened ears to proclamation and conflicted hearts to personal evangelism. How have you seen this at work in your experience? How have cultural shifts deafened our ears to proclamation evangelism? How have shift in relationality impacted the process of personal evangelism?
- 3) As you think of the world around you, what other cultural barriers to evangelism exist?
- 4) How do you think technology has influenced trends in evangelism? How might technology assist us with one-step closer to Jesus evangelism?

Discussion Questions Set #2

In his last public address in 2007, John Stott said *“entering into other people’s worlds with Christ-likeness is essential to the church’s walk in the 21st century. However, our evangelistic efforts often lead to failure simply because we fail to look like the Christ we are proclaiming”*. The route to effective evangelism in our technologically savvy world is to embody the message we wish to share. We must “be” the message to “share” the message. Known as incarnational evangelism, this is a distinct form of personal evangelism.

- 1) How might incarnational evangelism assist us in breaking through some of the barriers that culture and technology have presented us with?
- 2) What kinds of things might incarnational evangelism require of us? Think of spiritual, relational, and scheduling requirements.
- 3) What do you think are some barriers to engaging in incarnational evangelism? What might prevent us from engaging in this way with those yet to know Jesus?

Discussion Questions Set #3

“After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them.”
“But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Luke 5:27-29)

In this passage, we see an example of incarnational evangelism, in that Levi immediately began to live out his newfound faith in Jesus publically and invited those closest in relationship to him to take one step closer to Jesus.

- 1) Does this kind of public and highly relational evangelism excite you or frighten you? Why do you think you responded in this fashion?
- 2) What might prevent you from hosting a “Matthew/Levi party” of your own?
- 3) What advantages might this type of approach to evangelism have? What pitfalls might be inherent in such an approach?