

EVANGELISTIC LIVING +



Sharing the Gospel Day by Day

ROGER CARSWELL

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10Publishing, a division of 10ofthose.com
Unit C, Tomlinson Road, Leyland, PR25 2DY, England
Email: info@10ofthose.com
Website: www.10ofthose.com

Contents

Introduction: Evangelistic Living	9
1. We Need To Ensure That We Get The Right Seed	21
2. We Need To Sow And Scatter The Seed	37
3. We Need To Wait And Water The Seed	59
4. We Need To Know When It Is Time To Harvest And Hoard The Seed	71
Recommended Reading On The Theme Of Soul-Winning	85
Notes	91

Introduction: Evangelistic Living

Soul-winners are not soul-winners because of what they know, but because of the Person they know, how well they know Him, and how much they long for others to know Him.

Dawson Trotman

The greatest act of service for the Christian each day is to share the gospel with an unconverted person. The greatest use of life's occurrences is to utilise them to proclaim the gospel. Explaining the gospel to another redeems each day, crowning it with the ultimate act of kindness we can show to anyone.

Evangelistic burden comes from belief in what the Bible teaches and walking closely with the Lord. Through the

Evangelistic Living

finished work of Jesus on the cross, Christians have found forgiveness and new, eternal life. We have found that God has transformed us so that instead of living for ourselves, we want to live in a way that honours our Saviour and serves those around us. Jesus said, 'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven' (Matthew 5:16). We will want to live godly, consistent lives. It is worth remembering, though, that our message is not that we are good, but that we are sinners who have a Saviour who loved us and died for us. Our message is not about our goodness, but about Jesus' grace. I often say to people, 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and you and I qualify. If He had come into the world for good people, He would never have found any!'

Throughout history, the church has honoured scholars, and we thank God for them. But according to Daniel 12:3, God honours soul-winners: 'Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.' This is an interesting verse because it occurs just after a description of great tribulation that the saints of God are experiencing, and yet in the midst of such crisis the work of leading people to God is still going on.

Introduction: Evangelistic Living

I love a particular incident from the days of the prophet Elisha (2 Kings 5:1–10). Living in Damascus was Naaman, the commander of the king’s army. He was greatly honoured as a man of valour, but he had leprosy. Serving in his household was a young maid who had been taken captive from her home, her family, her religion. As she lived amongst a people and in a household which was worldly and idolatrous, she would have been pained with home-sickness and isolation. Nevertheless, she kept her sincerity, trust and kindness. Naaman would have known nothing of the law of God. He worshipped at the temple dedicated to the idol Rimmon – the greatest and most beautiful of the many temples in Damascus. How could he ever hear of the true and living God without ‘a preacher’? The little maid waited her moment. She had not forgotten the Lord amidst the strangers and strange gods. Neither was she too young or too insignificant to speak up. Verse 3 continues the story: “Then she said to her mistress, “If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy.”” That is the last we read of the little maid. They were simple, unassuming, affectionate words of witness which were to have such a profound effect and lead to Naaman’s healing and salvation.