

- There is virtually a “How To” guide to everything you can think of. There are very few things that you couldn't get on YouTube and not learn how to do. That's how I learned to change out wiper blades for the first time. That's how I learned different things for soccer. That's how I've tried (unsuccessfully I might add) to learn how to hit that stinkin' little white ball a little better.
- Something interesting about learning how to do things from the internet is that there are different people teaching how to do the same thing differently. One of the reasons I haven't gotten my swing down yet is because there are different types of golf swings and there just isn't one swing that fits every single person. So I've had to try multiple swings to see which one fits me best.
- While we may be able to go to YouTube to learn how to do many different things pertaining to this life, where would we go to learn about biblical things? The obvious answer would be the Bible, right? So that's what we're going to do, tonight. We're going to take a passage of Scripture and use it as a case study of evangelism done right. Evangelism is one of those things that Christians know they should be doing, but they're not because, oftentimes, they don't know how exactly to do it. Or, they get busy doing it, but something happens and they stop evangelizing. Whatever the case may be for you, I hope we can learn a good bit about how to evangelize well from studying the text of **Acts 5:42**.
- **Context of Acts 5:42.**
  - In chapters 3, 4, and 5 we see Peter and John beginning their evangelism of the Gospel
  - Peter begins to preach a second, equally convicting, sermon to the Jews in **3:11**.
  - They are arrested for a first time in the beginning of chapter 4 (**but not before an additional 5,000 men were added to their number 4:4**) and released in **4:23**. They return to their companions to glorify God.
  - The event scared the people because of the Apostle's great power and they held them in high esteem with great respect.
  - The church continued to grow rapidly (**5:14**), and as a result Peter and John are arrested again in **5:17,18**.
  - They are allowed to escape by an angel and go preach, but are quickly brought back to the Council and questioned by the high priest why they continued to preach after being instructed to stop.
  - Peter and John explain that they must obey God rather than men. (**5:29**)
  - The Jewish Leaders want to kill the Apostles, but Gamaliel talks them down from it.
  - Peter and John are flogged and sent away, and they leave rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ!
  - This brings us to our text of study, **Acts 5:42**. Let's learn how to evangelize the right way...the Apostle's way!

### **3 Important Keys to Good Evangelism**

#### **I. They were busy everyday.**

- A. They made the spreading of the Gospel a priority and took advantage of every opportunity.
  1. They saw the Gospel as being something of the utmost importance.
  2. They weren't just part time Christians, that was their identity.
  3. They could not help but speak about Christ and all the things they had seen and heard. (**4:20**)
  4. They made opportunities to teach. (**Lame man 3:1-6**)
  5. They did it every day. It was their life.
- B. What stops us from being busy every day for the Lord?
  1. We allow other things to become the priority in our lives.
  2. Instead of being a Christian that happens to be a business man, we are a business man that just happens to be a Christian. The priority is, therefore, on our business and not our faith.
  3. We pack our schedules so tightly that something has to take a backseat, and that backseat is taken up by spiritual matters.
  4. We don't seek out opportunities to teach, we expect them to just fall into our laps.
- C. How can we improve and become more busy for the Lord?
  1. We can make God the priority of our lives and realizing that our identity should be as a Christian first.
  2. We give ourselves time in our schedules to have opportunities to share the Gospel and teach. We do this because nothing of this physical is going to help us in the long run, anyways.
  3. We can seek out opportunities to teach. We can be proactive.
  4. We can pray that God will not only provide opportunities but that He will help us be more spiritually and evangelically minded to recognize opportunities.
  5. We are not going to have success everyday, but we must go into each day determined to do the Lord's Work.
  6. However, we will fail everyday that we don't give effort and work for the Lord.

## II. They kept on preaching and teacher.

- A. The Apostles kept on preaching even though they ran into difficulties.
  - 1. They were arrested and imprisoned. **(4:3, 5:18, & 5:27)**
  - 2. They were brought before Councils and leaders. **(4:5 & 5:27)**
  - 3. They were rejected, threatened, and beaten. **(4:21 & 5:40)**
  - 4. They even had to deal with problems within the Church. **(5:1-11)**
  - 5. They rejoiced when they suffered for Jesus name! **(5:41)**
- B. What stops us from keeping on preaching and teaching?
  - 1. Rejection of the Truth.
  - 2. Mocking and ridiculing.
  - 3. Loss of friendships.
  - 4. Lack of opportunities.
  - 5. We see any type of suffering as a deterrent.
- C. How can we overcome these things?
  - 1. Recognize that not everybody is going to accept the truth. **(2 roads of Matt. 7:13,14)**
  - 2. Be resolved to overcome difficulties. More than likely we won't every have to go through what the Apostles went through, but they kept on working hard even with difficulties.
  - 3. Be resolved to not be discouraged so easily. Rejoice when we suffer for Him!
  - 4. Recognize that people are going to be people, and they're going to make their own choices.
  - 5. Realize that God doesn't demand results, but He does demand diligence. We must plant seeds and pray for the increase through Him.

## III. The preached Jesus as the Christ.

- A. Their message was always about Jesus.
  - 1. Jesus was their main focus.
  - 2. Everyone they talked to heard about Jesus. (Lame man, the people of chapter 4, rulers/elders/scribes, people in the temple, & Council)
  - 3. They did this because they recognized that Jesus was the way to life.
    - a) He is The Way, The Truth, and The Life. **(John 14:6)**
    - b) He is the Bread of Life. **(John 6:47ff)**
    - c) The Apostles confessed Jesus as the only way to be saved. **(Acts 4:8-12)**
    - d) Because of this knowledge, they couldn't stop focusing on Jesus. **(Acts 4:19,20)**
  - 4. While focusing on Jesus, it was easier to overlook difficulties.
- B. What might we focus on instead of Jesus?
  - 1. We might focus on our own ideas.
  - 2. We might focus on things that will cause unnecessary arguments.
  - 3. We can't focus on Jesus because we're too worried about any difficulties.
  - 4. We can't focus on Jesus because we lack sufficient knowledge of Jesus ourselves.
  - 5. We can't focus on Jesus because we don't fully recognized or understand that Jesus is the only way to eternal life.
- C. How can we stay more focused on teaching Jesus?
  - 1. Fully understand and be convinced of who Jesus is and what he has done for us.
  - 2. Once we fully understand who Jesus is and what He has done for us then we shouldn't be able to stop talking about Him either.
  - 3. Make it a common practice to simply talk about Jesus more often. Make Him common place in your speech.
  - 4. If we are lacking knowledge, then we need to dedicate ourselves to diligent study.
  - 5. We can be continually in prayer to ask God for strength to not only speak up and take opportunities, but that we might say the right things when opportunities arise.

The Apostles had a great mind to work for the Lord. These three keys we have studied are imperative if we are wanting to share the Gospel of our Lord with others. Two things that can help us succeed are continual prayer and study. If we are not feeding and strengthening our hearts for God then we will not succeed. Remember that we are all deserving of death. We are all undeserving of God's grace and mercy. We are all beggars who are looking for the means to gain eternal life. Those of us who are Christians found the true Bread of Life in Jesus. As Warren Berkley put it concerning evangelism, "Evangelism is on beggar telling another beggar where he found Bread." May God help us all to share the Bread of Life with those other poor souls around us who are searching for that Bread.