

REACHING THE LOST - STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS ~ Prospects: Defer Don't Debate

This is the first principle I learned from Jesus when trying to become more like Him. Clearly, Jesus was the greatest evangelist who has ever lived. While reading through the Bible studies of Christ, I noticed that Jesus did not answer questions. This stood out as a flashing red light to me as an evangelist. I had always thought my ability to answer questions was my greatest strength. I could not have been more wrong. Jesus was asked 307 questions during His ministry. If I were standing in an audience where Jesus was teaching, my hand would have quickly risen to ask the Son of God more about His teachings. I was always the student who asked questions in class. The good teachers did not answer. They forced me to go back to my seat and find the answer. When we examine the 307 questions Jesus was asked, we find that He only answered three! (John 18:37; Luke 11:1; Matthew 22:36-37). Jesus' evangelism strategy was to defer questions. Jesus was not there to prove He knew more or to win the day with His wit. He was there to teach. Teaching should facilitate learning. Therefore, Jesus asked 183 questions in His recorded ministry. When Jesus was asked a question, He often replied with a question of His own. Matthew 21:23-27 is a good example: When he came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, neither tell I you by what authority I do these things. Did you notice that not only did Jesus not answer their questions, but He actually said, "I also will ask you one thing . . ." It is hard to miss that Jesus did not answer questions. The purpose of this approach was not to belittle the inquirer but to encourage learning. Moreover, did you notice what his approach facilitated? "They reasoned with themselves." Reasoning is the key to evangelism. We want everyone to read the Scripture and reason. Good and honest hearts will find the truth (Isaiah 1:18; John 8:31-32). You can win the argument and lose the soul. Therefore, defer all questions and do not try to convert a sinner by winning a debate. Using the skill of an evangelist, ask your own questions to help a person reason and come to a knowledge of the Truth. Be like Jesus, and you can bring the lost to the Father.

Brushy church of Christ
774 Hwy 48 South
Centerville TN 37033



The Brushy Beacon "Staying Humble in Thee in 2023"

October 8, 2023

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:00
Sunday Morning Service	10:00
Sunday Evening Service	6:00
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00

The church of Christ at Brushy

Elders	Deacons
Ricky Atkinson	Paul Johnston Terry Banks
James Atkinson	Kevin Johnston Justin Atkinson
Tony Duncan	Caleb Truett

Preacher: Kevin Johnston

Save and Teach the Lost? By Dan Jenkins

As a younger preacher, I overstated truth in an attempt to get the church to be more involved in saving the lost. I would say things like, "You cannot go to heaven alone, so go teach the lost." I am sure that I wanted Christians to evangelize the world and chose words I would not use today. Is it true that you cannot go to heaven alone? Think about what that would say about the preaching of Noah. I realize he saved his family, but his preaching never changed anyone except his family. What about the proclamation of truth by Ezekiel? When God called him, He said, "I am sending you to a...rebellious nation...for they are impudent and stubborn children...they are a rebellious house...they are a rebellious house...for they are rebellious" ([Ezek. 2:3-7](#)). This prophet is simply one of many of God's messengers who may enter into heaven alone. Is it true that every Christian has the ability to teach another? As a younger preacher, I probably overstated this. Read the closing verses in First Corinthians 12. Paul lists many leaders in the church and asks a series of questions about them. "God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers...Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all works of miracles...Earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way" ([1 Cor. 12:28-31](#)). Obviously, the apostle is talking about spiritual gifts, but when God gave those gifts, He did not give the gift of teaching to every Christian.

Do not overlook this truth. While not every Christian has the ability to teach another, every Christian does have the ability to lead others to Jesus. As I have matured as a Christian, I understand with greater appreciation the Bible words, "Come and see." It is found several times in the New Testament, and these words were used to bring others to the Teacher. These same words can be used by any Christian to bring others to those Christians who do have the ability to teach the lost. Not every person has the ability to teach, but every Christian has the words to invite! What about the Great Commission given to every Christian in regard to every lost soul? Read it carefully. It does not say we are to baptize every person, but to teach them to do what Jesus said. Our work is to sow seed (even on the "wayside" soil), to water that seed and then let God give the increase. All are not teachers, but all of us have the ability to lead others to our Lord, simply by saying, "Come and see." The words of an old song perhaps say it best. "Are you sowing the seed of the kingdom, brother, all along life's fertile way? You must reap at the last great day." "Come and See!"



Family News and Notes

Our Women of Faith The Wednesday Night Ladies Bible class is having various speakers. Cathy Duncan will be speaking on Wednesday, October 4. We hope you will plan to attend!

Wednesday Night Meal We will have our Monthly Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal on Wednesday, October 11, at 6 P.M. There is a menu on the table in the back! We hope you will make plans to attend!

Secret Sister Reveal It's almost time to find out who your Secret Sister is! All Ladies are invited to the Luncheon on October 15, following the mornig worhsip service. Whether you are a secret sister or not please bring a dish and join the fellowship. If you would like to be a Secret Sister, let Cindy know!

Men's Meal... The men will share a meal following the worship service on Sunday, October 15. All men and young men are invited to attend. There is a menu on the table in the back.

10 Years of Shooting Skeets We are looking forward to our Skeet Shoot on Saturday, October 21. The day will begin at the Annex at 8 a.m. for breakfast. Then we will travel to the home of Rodney & Tessa Tucker for the skeet shoot. We will have a devotion by Jim Brooks, shoot skeets, and enjoy lunch together. A menu for breakfast and lunch is on the table in the back. There will be activities for all ages. All you need to bring is your gun and ammo. All the skeets will be provided. Be sure to come and bring a friend!

Skeet Shoot Shirts If you would like to receive a shirt this year, please sign the sheet on the table in the back of the auditorium. We need all shirt sizes TODAY, Sunday, October 8.

A Happy Birthday to... David Fitzgerald...October 9 Jacinda Porter...October 12
CJ Hinson...October 13

Evangelism Reports These reports are from Christians and congregations enrolled in the House to House/Heart to Heart School of Evangelism. These reports are shared to teach and provoke one another to remain focused on the mission of Christ. Each week, we will highlight a congregation. We hope you enjoy reading them.

Blanchard church of Christ, Louisiana: Pat Cella (elder) reports, "We completed our congregation training on the BTTB workbooks this week. We sent out 40 compassion cards. We want to share something we learned about contacting new movers. If we cannot catch anyone home after several attempts, some of us have placed written notes with our name and phone number in the basket and left the basket at the door. For every basket we have left like that, we have received a call from the prospect thanking us for the basket. Any congregation not using the new movers is missing out. I believe that this is our best source for prospects."

Psalm 106:1-3

*"Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!
Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD, or declare all his praise?
Blessed are they who observe justice, Who do righteousness at all times!*



Pray for Those Sick Among Us...

Helen Bryant continues to recover and deal with health issues.
Paul neighbor of Jim and Pamela is dealing cancer and would appreciate prayers.
Wayne Donaldson Anita Quillen's brother is feeling better and recovering at home.
Joe VanDyke is recovering at home.
Heather Whitlow friend/coworker of Nancy Bryant, has breast cancer/treatments & surgery soon.
Doug Totty husband of Kim, was taken to the hospital yesterday with a blockage in his small intestine.

Continuing Prayer Requests

Dealing with Cancer - Aaron Bell, Roger Pace, Lynn Pigue, Megan Inman, Debbie Pierce, Ricky Chandler, Michael McCann, Ron Pafford, Robbie Pinkerton, Michael McCann, Ruth Sanders
Special Requests - Scottie Simmons, Fred Bowman, William Kirby, Deborah Brazil, Ryan Horton, Claud & Glenda Teet, Jeff Lynn, Ronnie Howell, Carl Bryant, Leona White, Rachel Watts, Angelica Essary

Pray for Those in Nursing Homes

Dickson Nursing Home... Larry Donaldson Life Care Centerville... Frances Qualls

Ongoing Prayer Reminders

- All in the military and civil workers overseas and their families right.
- All those Preaching and teaching the Good News all over the world.
- Our Government Leaders – Local, State, and National (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
- Our Elders and Deacons who oversee, care for, serve, and feed us spiritually. (Hebrews 13:7)

Upcoming Events

- *Wednesday, October 11 ~ Cathy Duncan will speak in the Wed. Ladies Bible Class/Part 2
- *Sunday, October 15 ~ Secret Sister Reveal after Morning Worship at the Annex
- *Sunday, October 15 ~ Men's Meal following the Morning Worship Service
- *Saturday, October 21 ~ Skeet Shoot Breakfast at Annex @ 8 am & then to the Tucker's

For the Record

Sunday Morning Bible Class	52	Sunday Morning Worship	73
Sunday Evening Worship	XX	Wednesday Evening Bible Study	40
Contribution		\$2502	

A One Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Oct. 8	John 5	Oct. 11	Matt 8:1-13; Luke 7	Oct. 14	Matt. 13 Luke 8
Oct. 9	Matt12:1-21;Mark 3;Luke 6	Oct. 12	Matt. 11		
Oct. 10	Matt. 5-7	Oct. 13	Matt 12:22-50; Luke 11		