

Let's Be Clear
 Good News Invitations
 Dr. Larry Lamb
 March 24, 2024
 Palm Sunday

"Will you come to church with me?"

Titus 3:3-5 *3 Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. ⁴ But— When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, ⁵ he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.*

Matthew 28:19-20 *¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

1. Find people who are lost and broken and invite them to a different life.
2. Baptize them.
3. Teach them to obey the truth.
4. Be assured of My presence. You're not alone.

"The gospel is so simple that small children can understand it, and it is so profound that studies by the wisest theologians will never exhaust its riches." Charles Hodge

The gospel:

- Is good news for all people of all ages, all races, both genders, all geographies, and all strata of life. The Bible reveals global hope.
- It is about the inclusivity of Jesus' words.

John 14:6 *I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.*

“What I need first of all is not exhortation, but the gospel, not directions for saving myself but knowledge of God has saved me. Have you any good news? That is the question that I ask of you.”

J. Gresham Machen

Bad news:

Romans 3:23 *For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.*

Good News:

Romans 3:24 *Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.*

Luke 8:26-39 ²⁶ *So they arrived in the region of the Gerasenes, across the lake from Galilee. ²⁷ As Jesus was climbing out of the boat, a man who was possessed by demons came out to meet him. For a long time he had been homeless and naked, living in the tombs outside the town. ²⁸ As soon as he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down in front of him. Then he screamed, “Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please, I beg you, don’t torture me!” ²⁹ For Jesus had already commanded the evil spirit to come out of him. This spirit had often taken control of the man. Even when he was placed under guard and put in chains and shackles, he simply broke them and rushed out into the wilderness, completely under the demon’s power.*

³⁰ *Jesus demanded, “What is your name?” “Legion,” he replied, for he was filled with many demons. ³¹ The demons kept begging Jesus not to send them into the bottomless pit. ³² There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby, and the demons begged him to let them enter into the pigs. So Jesus gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned. ³⁴ When the herdsmen saw it, they fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. ³⁵ People rushed out to see what had happened. A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been freed from the demons. He was sitting at Jesus’ feet, fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. ³⁶ Then those who had seen what happened told the others how the demon-possessed man had been healed. ³⁷ And all the people in the region of the Gerasenes begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone, for a great wave of fear swept over them.*

So Jesus returned to the boat and left, crossing back to the other side of the lake. ³⁸ The man who had been freed from the demons begged to go with him. But Jesus sent him home, saying, ³⁹ “No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you.” So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him.

The biggest reason forgiven followers of Jesus go mute about the gospel is FEAR.

1. FEAR OF OBJECTIONS – John 9 - “Once I was blind, but now I see.”

- What was my life like before Jesus?
- What/Who did God use to get me to Him?
- How has my life changed?

2. FEAR OF REJECTION – Acts 17 (3 responses)

1) Laughed (2) Tell me more (3) Believed

3. FEAR OF MY IMPERFECTIONS – Was the person who shared Jesus with you perfect?

What if many in this church family prioritized inviting people to church?

- Learn to tell your story with precision (No one can take away your story). The Apostle Paul told his story. I have never argued anyone to Jesus.
- Pray this: Is this an opportunity (UA flight Houston to El Paso with Ed) minimal to no interest.
- Pray for lost people.
- Let's become proficient inviters.

One day I believe you'll hear the Lord say, “I'm so proud that you let me use you. Because of you, others are here today. Would you like to meet them?” Max Lucado

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Jesus, I thank You that You came and died on the cross for my sins so that I can be forgiven. I am a sinner and need Your grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I turn from my sins and say “No” to a life of living for myself. I turn to You and say “Yes” to Your will for my life. I ask You now to save me from my sins. I open my heart to You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving me and forgiving me. Amen.