

"You Can Change the World!"

Who led you to Christ? I asked this question via e-mail and here are the results: _____ .

A. Evangelism requires obedience.

John 4:31, Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."

³³ Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?"

³⁴ "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

-- Survey, what is your favorite food? Results: _____ .

-- Jesus' favorite "food" was obedience ... finishing the work God had sent Him here for: "to seek and save those who are lost."

-- No matter our vocation, we each have a calling: to harvest souls. Your job is 8:30 to 5, 7 to 3, or third shift ... your calling is 24/7/365, and so is mine.

Evangelism: "Evangel" = "Good News" and "-ism" = the act, practice, or process of doing something. So, Evangelism is doing the Good News ... living out the principles and practices of Jesus Christ.

B. Evangelism requires another look.

John 4:35, Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

-- Fields of grain contain millions of individuals. Each and every grain has a name, family, and unique story ... and each needs to see and hear the "good news."

-- The evangelist sees people differently. She sees the hurts and weaknesses that Jesus can heal. She looks past the false exteriors people prop up to the deep needs within. An evangelist is stubbornly focused on a person's soul and eternal destiny.

-- The Holy Spirit determines a person's readiness to respond to Christ. "Ripeness" is a spiritual dynamic that is not discernable by human measurement.

C. Evangelism is a team effort.

John 4:36, Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.

³⁷ Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true.

³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

-- Some people are very shy about speaking to people about their faith. Why?

-- They don't want to be "pushy."

-- They don't know what to say.

-- They are worried about being rejected.

Suggestions:

1) Pray about it, ask God for wisdom, opportunity, and guidance.

2) Be yourself. Talk about Jesus the same way you'd talk about sports.

3) Get prepared. Learn some basic Bible stuff about faith. Our church website has information and links that can help you with learning the basics of the Christian faith.

4) Expect the best. God blesses obedience, give it a try.

Remember: you are sometimes (usually) the sower, sometimes you are the harvester. People come to Christ over time with many people involved:

-- Pray-ers.

-- Show-ers.

-- Tell-ers.

-- Harvest-ers.

Anyone can lead someone else to Christ anywhere, anytime.

-- Anyone is a good person to tell

-- Anywhere is a good place to say it.

-- Any time is a good time to love another person with God's love.

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, Your story is too good to keep to ourselves, help us show and tell others about Your love. In Jesus' name, amen."