

Evangelism Update 04-30-06

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Note from Jim:

This is a reminder that our DaVinci Code Outreach is planned for the opening weekend of the movie. Click below for details.



Scripture of the Week:

Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. (Colossians 2:8-9, NLT)

Quote of the Week:

"The fifty-first Psalm is the photograph of a contrite spirit. Let us seek after the like brokenness of heart; for however excellent our words may be, if our heart is not conscious of the hell-deservingness of sin, we cannot expect to find forgiveness." (Charles H. Spurgeon)

Evangelism Resource:

Here's another good audio from the Great News Network. Click below to listen.



Questions & Objections:

With *The DaVinci Code* opening soon, I thought for the next few weeks that I'd offer responses to some of the more common questions and objections the movie may raise.

Joe: We got the Bible from the Catholic Church.

Me: Contrary to the fictional presentation in *The DaVinci Code*, Constantine had nothing to do with deciding the books of the New Testament (or the Bible in general). In fact, the early church had clearly recognized the 27 books of the New Testament nearly 175 years before Constantine held the Council of Nicea (325 AD). First century writings show many of these books were already regarded as scripture. Just one example would be the writings of Irenaeus (180 AD) which recognized as canon all four Gospels, Acts, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, 1 & 2 Peter, 1 John and Revelation. That's most of the New Testament right there ... and about 150 years prior to when the Roman Catholic church was officially recognized in the 4th century.

Joe: The Da Vinci Code says they removed 80 other gospels because they didn't agree with the deity of Christ.

Me: There's around 60 other documents and many of them aren't gospels. These can primarily be traced to the cult of Gnosticism. They were almost all written during the 2nd century and given "pen-names" after the apostles. Rather than denying Christ's deity, the earliest of these "gospels" actually over-emphasize His deity in an attempt to deny His humanity. If you read the historic literature of the 1st & 2nd century you'll find that the Christian community unanimously condemned the gnostic theology and writings.

I mentioned none of the rulings made at the Council of Nicea dealt with the contents of the New Testament. It was later, at the Synod of Hippo (393 AD) ... several years after the death of Constantine, that the church merely confirmed the 27 books of the New Testament. Again, it only confirmed what had long been recognized as canon; nothing was added or removed. Even then, this confirmation was only really addressed for two reasons: the growing challenge of missions and to protect the existing canon from arising frauds and heresies like those of the gnostics.

Joe: OK, OK ... I get what you're saying.

Me: We could go on and on about the origins and amazing accuracy of scripture. However, I want to get back to our original conversation. I'd started to tell you something the Bible says when you brought up *The DaVinci Code*. So, getting back to that ... the Bible says each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment. I just wanted you to take a look into the Mirror of the Ten Commandments and decide for yourself how you'd do on Judgment Day. Have you ever told a lie?

Note: The basis for this response comes from [The Davinci Code: Companion Guide](#) by Campus Crusade for Christ.

Weekly "Fishing" Update:

The weather is finally good enough that lines are forming again at the DMV. After what's been a while, I was finally able to preach open air to a dozen or more people waiting for the doors to open Wednesday morning.

What was really interesting is that in wrapping up the open air, I asked if they'd sell an eye for a million dollars or both eyes for \$50 million. As I was going through the analogy a young man (Jesse) stepped forward and said something I couldn't quite catch. He wasn't actually heckling me. He repeated himself, but spoke softly enough that I still didn't get it so I asked him to let me finish.

Afterwards, I went over to Jesse and asked what he was saying. He told me he'd done that. He'd lost an eye and he had got money for it, but it wasn't worth it. He said he'd give it all back if he could have his eye restored. **He**

was a living example of the point we often make in our one-2-ones and open airs! People stood around, hearing us talk as I again touched on the points Jesus made like what do we profit if we gain the whole world and yet lose our soul (Mark 8:36), or that we're better off gouging out an eye that leads us to sin rather than go to hell with both eyes (Matthew 5:29).

I have the audio posted at our website, you can find it by [clicking here](#) and going to **Open Air Preaching Audios**. Look for the one titled "Mark 8:36".

We had a team of four hitting the streets on Saturday, with Terri (Randy's wife) joining us. After praying up, we made a pass along 6th Street handing out tracts and then headed for Riverside Park. At the park we kinda split off and found ourselves in a number of witnessing encounters.

Shortly after entering the park, I spotted a man named John who was sitting on his own down along the river. I felt lead to speak to him, so broke the ice with a [Million Dollar Bill](#) tract and we had a great one-2-one. His eyes teared up a couple of times. He told me he's dating a girl that's been praying for him, and he was there that day trying to sort things out. I suggested maybe that's why we met and we're having this talk. I gave him a Gospel of John and an [Are You Good Enough To Go To Heaven?](#) tract. In the end, I told him now that he has this information he has to decide what he'll do with it.

Meanwhile, Randy & Terri had noticed a man wearing a t-shirt showing Jesus on the cross. Using the shirt as an opener they sat and talked with him for a while. His name is Ted. Going through the [Good Person Test](#) revealed Ted's sin, but he was counting on having Christ to fall back on. However, as is often so tragic, he didn't understand that it took more than just believing Jesus died on the cross (James 2:19). The door of salvation swings open on two hinges: repentance and faith. Randy shared further, explaining to Ted how the cross applies to him and then left him with a [Hell's Best Kept Secret](#) CD.

Greg had a one-2-two with a couple of teens named Mike & Matt. Matt's primary objection was that he didn't believe in God. Greg told him belief doesn't dictate what's true; if he tried to walk down the I-5 saying "I don't believe in trucks" he'd still get run over. Matt said, ya but I can see trucks. Greg gave them each one of the [Scientific Facts in the Bible](#) booklets. He also told them how Josh McDowell had set out to prove Christianity false and ended up converting himself in the process, which led to his writing *The Evidence That Demands A Verdict*.

Next, we made our way over to what looked like a homeless camp at the large pavilion. I approached a group gathered at a picnic table, breaking the ice by giving them some Millions. They agreed to do a street interview for our website, which led to a one-2-eight. It was a good chance to share the gospel, and I walked them through sin-righteousness-judgment-grace. They had been drinking beer as we got there, and towards the end of things it was cool to hear one of them (Greg) say "**Man, this is a real buzz kill. Because it's true!**" I left them each with a Gospel of John and an [Are You Good Enough To Go To Heaven?](#) tract. Greg was a false convert. He goes to church, but continues to live in sin (drugs, adultery, etc). Afterwards, I got to pray with him and gave him a [Hell's Best Kept Secret](#) CD.

I have this audio posted at our website, you can find it by [clicking here](#) and going to **One-2-One Audios**. Look for the one titled "Group at the Park". (Note: Greg calls himself "Joe" in the audio.)

While I was talking with the group at the table, Randy was in a one-2-one with a man named Tom that had been on the streets for years. At one point, Tom gave Randy a serious look and asked he if could help him out. Randy figured he was going to ask for money, but instead Tom asked if he could give him a lucky penny. Randy smiled and said, "Do I have a lucky penny for you!" He pulled out one of the [pressed pennies](#) with the Ten Commandments on it. When Tom saw what it was, tears welled up in his eyes. They spent some time talking about the law and grace. Tom realized he is a sinner that needs Christ. Randy says that's about as far as they got, since Tom had been drinking and his attention span was pretty short. Still, a seed was planted and the Holy Spirit will consider Tom a work in progress.

Terri's attention was drawn to a homeless woman named Pat that was there drinking a beer. They talked for a bit about why Pat was on the streets. Terri then offered to pray and Pat was excited that someone would actually pray with her. Terri then encouraged Pat and shared a word that she felt God would use Pat's testimony of her

life on the streets to draw others to Christ.

Gary (another homeless man) asked Terri for a [Million Dollar Bill](#) tract. Gary then preached for a while against the love of money and on the sufficiency of Christ. Terri says he actually did a good job of preaching. Randy joined them at this point. He asked Gary about salvation, and Gary said he is "saved" but that he was in rebellion right now. Randy questioned him on that and steered towards the law and grace, but Gary cut him short. He said he'd been approached on that a week or two ago and didn't want to go there. Randy respected his request. However, it was obvious that Gary was battling alcohol and other addictions. Randy and Terri have an extensive background in spiritual warfare and battling in prayer for souls in bondage like this. They asked if they could pray for him, and the three of them (Greg was also there) gathered around Gary and started to pray. However, the enemy sought to interfere. Another homeless man came to stand about 15 feet away and saying, "Gary, don't let these Christians tag team you. Don't listen to this stuff and come with me. **We** can tell you about God!" Gary stood up and said he was sorry. The other man was circling them, keeping 15 feet away and not looking them in the eyes. He kept saying, "Gary, come with me and be careful of these Christians." Randy describes it as a classic demonic manifestation. He knew the presence of Christ was there and he was trying to do all he could to pull Gary from them. Gary said not worry, he wasn't going with the man. They told him that we would be back, and that he wasn't forgotten.

It was another awesome time in the fields. We praise God that He chooses to include us in the foolishness of preaching! Pray for the seeds that were sown.

Prayer Points:

- We'll be going to Selma on May 13th to meet some new seed sowers for their first time "fishing" at the park over there. Pray that the Lord will bless our labors and open the door for a sister ministry to be planted in Selma and Cave Junction.
- *The DaVinci Code* movie opens May 19th. Life & Death Ministries plans to be outside the theater that Friday and Saturday night. [Click here](#) for more details. Pray for laborers and support in this effort.
- "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields." (Matthew 9:37-38, NLT)
- Please pray for our Lord's blessing over the Souther Oregon Seed Sowing mini-EBC we'll be holdig in July.

Calendar:

- **DaVinci Code Outreach**
Medford, OR / May 19-20
[Click here](#) for details.
- **Mini-EBC - Southern Oregon**
Grants Pass, OR / July 21-23
Registration Deadline: June 30th
[Click here](#) for details.
- **Downtown Fishing Hole** (Recurring)
Street witnessing each Saturday (3 pm to 5:30 pm) downtown along 6th Street. Meet in the Budget Internet parking lot (4th St & F St).
- **DMV O/A** (Recurring)
Open Air preaching Wednesdays at 8:40 am to the people waiting for the DMV doors to open.

If you would like to join us, [click here](#) to send us your contact info.

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May Jesus receive the glory He is due!

'til the nets are full...

Jim Jones

"Sin and hell are married unless repentance proclaims the divorce." - Charles Spurgeon

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