

Evangelism Update 05-07-06

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Note from Jim:

Please check our [calendar](#). I've found and listed a number of upcoming events in and around Grants Pass that will provide some excellent "fishing" opportunities.

Scripture of the Week:

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." (John 14:21, NIV)

Quote of the Week:

"If your Gospel isn't touching others, it hasn't touched you!" (Curry R. Blake)

Evangelism Resource:

How about a simple yet straightforward website that you can send someone to when they claim they don't believe in God?

The Atheist Test

<http://www.australia4jesus.com/atheist-test.php>

Questions & Objections:

Q. Let's say you are given only one minute to speak to someone who you have been wanting to share the Gospel with for years. They have continually asked you to not bring up the things of God with them, but because of your perseverance, they give in and promise they will truly listen to what you have to say, but you only have one minute to say it. What would you tell them?

A. Thank you, Joe, for listening to me. I have a concern that's really weighing on my heart. We're not promised tomorrow. Death relentlessly stalks each of us. Have you ever stopped and thought about it? Why do we die? The Bible says the soul that sins shall die. It alleges that we've broken God's Law ... the Ten Commandments. Listening to your conscience, can you say you've never told a lie or that you've never stolen? Have you ever looked with lust or used God's name in vain? The Law screams for your blood. Yet, Jesus shed His on the cross. You must turn from your sin and turn to God in repentance. Take a hard look at Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and consider why rather than Hell, God can grant you forgiveness and eternal life.

(Note: I've been told that people speak an average of 150 words per minute, and that's 136 words.)

Weekly "Fishing" Update:

Praise God for the continued good weather. Wednesday morning I was able to preach the gospel open air at the DMV for about 15 people that were waiting for the doors to open.

Friday night, Terri performed at the Evangels Christian bookstore downtown Grants Pass. God has blessed her with a wonderful music ministry. (Click here for a [sample](#) of one of her songs. Click here for her [website](#).) Randy hung around outside the shop to pass out [Million Dollar Bill](#) tracts and witness one-2-one to people stopping or passing by. It was "First Friday" and coupled with the great weather that meant tons of people were out. I stopped by to say "hi" and for the short while I was there I went through a good number of tracts. I pray between Terri's performance and Randy's labor that some good seed was sown.

I was out of town this weekend, so the team didn't meet for our usual Saturday street fishing. However, I want to share another witnessing experience that came up. I had gone Portland to help finalize things for my mom and grandmother moving to Arizona. They're already in AZ, but my sister (Stefanie) and I were going to help the movers pack and tie up some loose ends. Larry, a gentleman my sister is dating, had come with her to help.

Saturday night, we were winding down back at the hotel. I was working on a Bible study. They had Saturday Night Live on the TV in the background. Tom Hanks was hosting and naturally the topic of *The Da Vinci Code* movie came up. They asked if I was going to see the movie and I flatly said no. However, I mentioned we would be at the theater opening weekend to talk to people who had seen the movie and take the opportunity to witness. Larry asked if I'd read the book. I said no, but I'd researched enough other material to know about it and the heresies it presents: questioning the veracity of scripture, elevating the gnostic (false) gospels, and denying the divinity of Jesus. The conversation kind of died there as they were tired and eventually drifted off.

The next morning, as we were packing, Larry brought up the topic again. He was interested and asked why I felt the gnostic gospels were false. He admitted Dan Brown took artistic license in the story, but wasn't sure about the authenticity of the gnostic texts in and of themselves. I started by explaining the textual evidence ... even secular scholars agree the dating and sheer number of New Testament manuscripts are staggering compared to other writings of antiquity. It's night and day when you compare them to the limited number of copies or partial manuscripts of the gnostics written a century or so afterwards. I also explained how the gnostic teachings attempted to blend eastern mysticism and a "secret knowledge" with Christian teachings. The gnostic core doesn't affirm or fulfill the Old Testament and it contradicts the New Testament. I also pointed out that nothing in archeology and history has disproven the biblical record. In fact, science and prophecy show it's supernatural. The conversation came and went in short spurts between things, but Larry was interested and sought to keep it going as we were able.

Next, he brought up a question over the Bible and the gnostic texts both being written by men (with their politics and agendas) ... so which could be trusted? I told him that what it really came down to was first deciding who God was. I believe God made the earth in six days and spoke creation into existence, so He is capable of working past the flaws of human authors. I gave Larry an analogy of my writing him and Stefanie a letter. I end up using three different colored pens to accent the text and flag particular sections. I write the primary portion of the letter in blue ink, but also use red and green for certain parts. I have authored the whole thing and it's my message all the way through, even though three different pens were used. It's the same thing with the Bible. God used men as I would the pens. He didn't quash their individual personalities or insights, but rather used them as I did the different colors. I also said that it next depended on what he saw as the core message in the Bible. I told him I saw it as the message of salvation: the Old Testament points forward to the cross and the New Testament looks back upon the cross ... Jesus is on every page. We broke the law and He paid our fine. With it being that important of a message (the issue of an eternity in Hell or being granted Heaven which we don't deserve), then I believe God would oversee and protect His word. However, if you merely see the Bible as a collection of guidelines, teachings, good ideas and cultural or political essays then you don't have a strong argument for God overseeing its authenticity or consistency.

I think his next big question was about translation errors in the Bible. I pointed back to the textual evidence for the New Testament. We have 5,000 copies of manuscripts in Greek alone (24,000 if you add in Latin and

Aramaic), with the earliest manuscripts dating within 20 to 100 years of the events. Compare this to 10 manuscripts showing Julius Caesar even existed, dated within 1,000 years of the Gallic Wars. Compare it to 500 manuscripts for Homer's Iliad, dated within 500 years of the actual events. Scholars will admit that the Bible is the most supported work in antiquity. Further, I told him to look at who translated his Bible. It's not a single person, but an entire team of men. These aren't average Joes, but scholars in their field with the cumulative brain power that harnessed would probably provide the electricity for a small city. When it comes to the translation, we can be confident that what we have now lines up with the book they had 2,000 years ago. I clarified that differences between versions and various translations of the Bible amount to things like "Jesus Christ" or "Christ Jesus" ... "gird up your loins" or "put on your pants". Now, could there be a typo in a given Bible we might pull off a shelf? Rare, but yes -- something like "there" being spelled "theer". However, Larry agreed that wouldn't change the meaning or message of scripture.

He had a few minor questions about the age of the earth and such, but that's the main jist. I gave him a [DaVinci Message](#) CD and a [Scientific Facts in the Bible](#) booklet. He said he'd check them both out. Earlier in the morning, I'd given my sister a [Greatest Gamble](#) DVD as we talked a little about my street ministry and the [Evangelism Boot Camps](#) I've been to. Please pray for Stefanie and Larry, that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide them to the truth.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for the seeds that were sown.
 - "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)
 - 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. We'll be outside the theater Friday and Saturday night. Pray for laborers and support in this effort.
 - Please pray for our Lord's blessing over the Southern Oregon Seed Sowing mini-EBC we'll be holding in July.
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Calendar:

- **Downtown Fishing Hole (Recurring)**
Saturdays
Street witnessing (3pm to 6pm) downtown along 6th Street. Meet in the Budget Internet parking lot (4th St & F St).
- **DMV O/A (Recurring)**
Wednesdays
Open Air preaching at 8:45am to the people waiting for the DMV doors to open.
- **Seed Sowing in Selma**
Selma, OR / May 13
We'll be joining some first time Seed Sowers to go "fishing" at Jubilee park.
- **Seed Sowing at Spring Wine Stroll**
Grants Pass, OR / May 14
Last year I had a great time handing out the pink & blue Curved Illusion tracts by offering a "free sobriety test".
- **[Davinci Code Outreach](#)**
Medford, OR / May 19-20
We'll be out there at Tinseltown opening weekend.
- **[Seed Sowing at Boatnik](#)**
Grants Pass, OR / May 27
Thousands of people attend this Memorial Day Weekend event.
- **[Seed Sowing at the Rooster Crow](#)**

Rogue River, OR / June 25

The city of Rogue River fills with people for this annual event.

- **Church in the Park**

Grants Pass, OR / July 2

- **[Mini-EBC - Southern Oregon Seed Sowing](#)**

Grants Pass, OR / July 21-23

Our first mini Evangelism Boot Camp. We'll be taking the Gospel to the Jackson County Fair, Ashland, and the streets of Grants Pass.

- **[Seed Sowing at Back to the 50's Summer Celebration](#)**

Grants Pass, OR / July 28-29

Last year there were hundreds, if not thousands, of people along 6th St for the Friday night parade. Saturday downtown and at the park should be good "fishing" too.

- **[Seed Sowing at Josephine County Fair](#)**

Grants Pass, OR / August 19

We gave out 800 tracts along with doing one-2-ones within just three or four hours last year.

- **Seed Sowing at Asian Cultural Festival**

Grants Pass, OR / September 9

We'll hit the park and "fish" amongst the people this will draw on Saturday. We may even get to witness to Buddhists.

- **[Seed Sowing at Art Along the Rogue](#)**

Grants Pass, OR / October 7

Last year I was able to open air preach to about 300-400 people. Big time fishing opportunity right there are 6th & H St.

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

We'll be out there opening weekend. Click below for details.



The poster features a dark background with a wooden box containing a scroll on the left and a close-up of Leonardo da Vinci's face on the right. The text is centered and reads: "THE DA VINCI CODE 05.19.06", "The DaVinci Code Outreach", "May 19th & 20th", "Tinseltown Theaters Medford, OR", and "www.fool4given.com".

Our first mini-EBC is coming this July. Click below for details.



The poster features a lush green landscape with a waterfall on the left. The text is centered and reads: "Southern Oregon Seed Sowing", "mini Evangelism Boot Camp", "July 21st-23rd Grants Pass, OR", and "www.fool4given.com".

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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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