

Evangelism Update 08-20-06

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Note from Jim:

A new movie called [Facing the Giants](#) is coming out September 29th. Kirk Cameron thought it was so good he watched it twice with his family. It caused one of his daughters to start asking questions about baptism. It's a Christian story of faith, hope, and love and is a "must see" family movie. Click the banner below to check out the official website and watch the trailer!



Scripture of the Week:

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me." (Luke 9:23, NASB)

Quote of the Week:

"True Christian preaching must center on the cross of Jesus Christ. The cross is the central doctrine of the holy scriptures. All other revealed truths either find their fulfillment in the cross or are necessarily founded upon it. Therefore no doctrine of Scripture may faithfully be set before men unless it is displayed in its relationship to the cross. The one who is called to preach, therefore, must preach Christ because there is no other message from God." (Thomas Jones, Covenant Theological Seminary)

Evangelism Resource:

This Dynamation focuses on our Creator through a poetic story and message that we believe will encourage believers and start the gears turning in minds turned from God.

The Watchmaker

<http://www.kids4truth.com/watchmaker/watch.html>

Questions & Objections:

Q. Sometimes I'll be witnessing to someone and taking them through the Mirror of the Law when they attempt to justify themselves. They'll ask questions like - "What about someone who steals to keep their family from starving?" or "What if you're lying to protect somebody, like telling a Nazi soldier there aren't any Jews in the

attic?" How would you handle that?

A. My simple response is something like this...

"Is there a difference between discretion and lying? Maybe. But, Joe, if we're going to be honest with each other here are you telling me you've only ever been in those life-saving discretionary situations... or have you simply told a flat out lie a few times in your life?"

They usually own up to it and agree that they've lied at that point. The same goes for stealing...

"OK, Joe, perhaps there's a hypothetical man in hypothetical dire straits that steals bread to feed his family. However, if we're going to be honest here you're not that hypothetical man. I'm also not necessarily saying it has to be something like breaking into a car and stealing the stereo. Value doesn't matter, because admittedly if you had 100 \$1 bills in your pocket and I took just one, I'd still be a thief... right? Looking over you're whole life, can you say you've never taken anything that belongs to someone else?"

Weekly "Fishing" Update:

Praise God for a truly blessed time "fishing" at the Josephine County Fair! There were four of us there on Saturday for about 3 1/2 hours. We had about a dozen different witnessing encounters and gave out between 800 to 1,000 gospel tracts ([Million Dollar Bills](#), [Curved Illusion](#) cards and some [Wallets](#)). Randy and I wore "Name Ten Get \$20" shirts and once again they drew people to us. At least 50% or more of our one-2-ones were from people asking what the shirts meant. In fact, Randy says at one point he just sat on a bench with the \$20 on his clipboard and the "fish" came to him.



**The "Fishing at the Fair" Crew:
Me, Randy, Terri and Mark**

Randy says the one-2-one that stands out the most to him was a carry that asked about his shirt. The man didn't want to try the quiz because he did not know the Ten Commandments, but he said he was a Christian. He agreed to take the [Good Person Test](#) and failed that with flying colors. Randy and Terri saw in his reactions that the Holy Spirit was working conviction on him. The man accepted everything they were saying with an open heart and really appreciated what they shared with him.

I've uploaded MP3s from some of the one-2-ones to our [audios page](#). Here's the new ones to look for:

- **Mike & Charles**

This was a divine appointment. Mark and I were amazed that in the heart of all the activity and noise of the fair, two 16-year-old boys stood and talked with us for more than a half-hour on the things of God. They asked sincere and honest questions as we covered the full count of the gospel: sin, righteousness, judgment and grace. It was such an incredible blessing to see God at work.

- **Jonnie, Christine, Jeremy & Shannon**

Jonnie won the \$20. Afterwards, she told us she and her daughter regularly pick things to study out of the Bible, and they'd just gone over the Ten Commandments. Praise God for a mother like that. As we looked into the Mirror of the Law and began to reveal sin, Christine said that as long we ask for forgiveness and really mean it in our hearts we'll be OK. When I told her that's not exactly true, tears came to her eyes. I then got to share the sacrifice and amazing grace of the cross with them.

- **Cameron & Rasha**

This was a family that asked about my "Name Ten Get \$20" shirt. Rasha is a teacher at a Christian academy, but she couldn't name all ten of the commandments. I then took the opportunity to touch on the gospel and the plan of salvation. It was nice talking with them, and they encouraged us in our ministry.

- **Rose**

Rose was a carny and called herself a "Penta-Christic". She believed she was saved because her broken toe had been healed. However, she also said we can never be sure about it. Mark and I talked with her about the necessity of repentance and faith, and I pointed her to 1 John 5:13, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

- **Tiffany, Ashley & Dalton**

This was Mark's second time out street fishing with us. He used the "Name Ten Get \$20" challenge to springboard into a one-2-three with some teens at the fair.



Mark Sumpter witnesses one-2-three with some teens.

Mark and I had perhaps the most amazing encounter at the end of things. Unfortunately, it didn't get recorded so I'll try to recap it. As we were leaving, we took the wrong gate and ended heading onto the green across from the grandstand. However, you can't take a wrong turn when you're walking with Christ. There were bunches of people gathered out there in "cheap seats" for the monster truck rally. I took the opportunity to hand out a few more [Million Dollar Bills](#). As we turned to head back toward the gate, we were stopped by two teen girls. They asked what religion we were, and I said "just Christian ... Evangelical Christian." They acted a little surprised and said they'd read the back of one of the [Millions](#) and didn't like it. Basically, they objected to the part that said breaking the four listed commandments would mean standing before God as a lying, thieving, blasphemous, adulterer-at-heart. They said they couldn't picture God seeing us that way and that no one would want to become a Christian because of that message.

I explained to them how James tells us the Law is a mirror and that Paul says in Galatians that it's a

schoolmaster. I further pointed out how Paul tells us he wouldn't have known what sin was except by the Law and we further see he's talking about the Ten Commandments because the example he gives is about coveting. They nodded in agreement. I further went on to explain that most people hang onto their sin like it's some pretty, sparkling firework... when it's really a lit stick of dynamite. They're dazzled by it, but they won't cast it away unless we reveal the ugly truth of it and that it eventually means their destruction. That's what the Mirror of the Law does. It shows us in our true light contrasted to the righteous standard of God, as Christ Himself said - "you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:48)." I then took them to detailed lists of sins that will keep us from entering the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10). They were a little surprised to find this in the New Testament.

I told them Paul goes further and says the Law was a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ that we might be justified by faith (Galatians 3:24). I described the Ark of the Covenant, and explained that it held the Ten Commandments. The presence of God sat between the cherubim on the lid or Mercy Seat. The blood of sacrifices would be put on the Mercy Seat. The blood then symbolically stood between God and His holy law that we've broken. Let me add at this point that some of what I was saying or how I was saying it was even new to me, and I can only state it was the Holy Spirit guiding me at this point... discipling these girls.

We then went to John chapter 3. I pointed to verse 3 - "*Jesus answered and said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.'*" - and said this right here shows us we'd better figure out what it means to be born again. They nodded in agreement. I then dropped down to verse 16, saying it was perhaps the most familiar - "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*" I then said that unfortunately most people stop there. I slid my finger down to verse 18 and read - "*He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*" I looked them in the eyes and asked if they caught that. It's not that we're going to be judged sometime in the future for not believing in Jesus. It says that we are judged, or some translations say condemned, in our sins already. I had their attention, so we went down to verse 36. I pointed out that where most people stop at John 3:16, just 20 verses later it says this - "*He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*" Once again we see that the wrath of God isn't something that may come upon them, it's already present and without Christ it remains upon them. I again met their eyes and did my best to lay my heart before them. I told them that while they may not hear it from the pulpit much anymore or see it in Christian books or on the radio, judgment and the wrath of God are very real. Jesus spoke of Hell in terms where it's better to gouge out an eye or cut off a hand than to go there. It's a harsh reality and sometimes it takes some harsh words to convey it.

That's also where God's grace then makes sense. We looked back at John 3:16 and then Romans 5:8 - "*God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" In closing, I told them to imagine I came up to them with something in my hand and said - "Hey! Here you go. This is the cure for Gronenson's disease. It's cost me dearly. I sold my house, my car, cashed in my life insurance and my kids' college tuition. It cost me everything, but I want you to have it." I said they wouldn't understand what I'm doing and they'd look at me like I'm a nut. They agreed. However, I told them if I said - "Hey! I don't know you, but I was told someone here at the fair had Gronenson's disease. I can see it's you and at the stage you're in you'll be dead within one or two weeks. I then took the time to show you ten clear symptoms on your skin. I showed you documentation and literature to confirm it. You looked at me with obvious concern. I then say, but don't worry. I've got the cure. It cost me everything. My home, my car, all of our money is gone, but I bought the cure and I want to give it to you. You wouldn't think I was a nut. You'd be absolutely grateful. Further, you'd grab hold of that cure and no one could take it from you." They were nodding again. I explained, that's the whole point of what we're doing. It's when someone understands the full ugly truth of their sins - that they're in a hopeless and desperate situation without Christ - that is when they'll cling to the cross and never let it go.

However, I told them I wouldn't want anyone coming to Jesus just because they're afraid of Hell. I wouldn't want anyone to use my precious Lord and Savior as fire insurance. We must understand that we've broken the Law, that we've offended God and lived in open rebellion in our sin... that we deserve His judgment and Hell. However, we must then in turn recognize His love, mercy and grace in taking the wrath and punishment we deserve there on the cross. That's why we come to Him. It's that kindness that leads us to repentance. Praise God, they understood!

It was amazing! My legs were tired, so as I talked I knelt down in the grass. They sat down with me.. in the midst of everyone else milling about. Six of their friends showed up a little later, but rather than disrupting things they

just sat down in the grass around us. We talked for maybe 20 minutes, and the girls paid complete attention to what I sharing. They asked earnest and sincere questions. Afterwards, one told me "you just don't hear this in church" and that "rarely can anyone just go to the Bible like that and show me this is in there." I'm just awed at seeing God at work like this, and I praise Him for choosing to include us in it.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for the seed that was sown.
 - "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38, NASB)
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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 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.

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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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LIFE & DEATH Ministries	Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:11	
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