

Effective Evangelism

Acts 16:16-33

The Philippian Jailer

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Mark 16:15

CALIFORNIA NEEDS JESUS.

**And it will take Californians
praying fervently, giving
generously, and serving
courageously...**

**because it will take all of us to
reach our state for Christ.**

Now he who plants and he who waters are one in purpose, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

1 Corinthians 3:8 (CSB)

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does

*the will of my Father who is in heaven. **Matthew 7:21***

What does a real Christian look like?

- Has this person ever confessed Jesus as Lord?
- Has this person ever been through a discipleship relation with another believer?
- Has there been a marked beginning?
- Have they been baptized?
- Does this person's life reflect an attitude of true repentance?
- Is this person an active part of a fellowship of believers?

But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

Galatians 4:9

My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

Galatians 4:19-20

*[Jesus] By their fruit you will recognize them. **Matthew 7:16***

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:22-24

How can I be effective as an evangelist?

How can I approach people without turning them off?

What we can learn from Paul and Silas in order to be effective witnesses.

1. We need to earn the right to be heard.

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

Acts 16:16

This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." **Acts 16:17**

*She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her. **Acts 16:18***

*When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. **Acts 16:19***

*The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. **Acts 16:22***

After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such

orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. Acts 16:23-24

***When God's work progresses,
satan always mounts a
counteroffensive.***

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Acts 16:25

Evangelism is a matter of living out the Christian life so clearly that those around you are impressed and you gain credibility.

2. We need to demonstrate concern for the needs of the lost.
What we can learn from Paul and Silas in order to be effective witnesses.

Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.

Acts 16:26

The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped.

Acts 16:27

But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

Acts 16:28

*The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. **Acts 16:29***

Our best opportunity for evangelism comes when the non-Christian is in need.

***God softens hearts through
adversity.***

***We need to be alert for the
opportunities to help.***

3. Share the Gospel when interest is expressed.

*What we can learn from Paul and
Silas in order to be effective
witnesses.*

*He then brought them out and
asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be
saved?”* **Acts 16:30**

*They replied, “Believe in the Lord
Jesus, and you will be saved—you
and your household.”*

Acts 16:31

*You believe that there is one God.
Good! Even the demons believe
that—and shudder.* **James 2:19**

*Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. **Acts 16:32***

*The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family. **Acts 16:34***

To be an effective evangelist requires that we

- Develop new friendships
- Break old habits
- Take risks

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. 1 Corinthians 9:22-23

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. **Galatians 6:9**

4. The Gospel centered on Jesus and ended with baptism.

What we can learn from Paul and Silas in order to be effective witnesses.

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” **Acts 16:31**

At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

Acts 16:33

Baptism is expressing our trust in Christ.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the

*name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit,*
Matthew 28:19

*Peter replied, “Repent and be
baptized, every one of you, in the
name of Jesus Christ for the
forgiveness of your sins. And you
will receive the gift of the Holy
Spirit. Acts 2:38*

*As they traveled along the road,
they came to some water and the
eunuch said, “Look, here is water.
Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” And
he gave orders to stop the chariot.
Then both Philip and the eunuch
went down into the water and
Philip baptized him. Acts 8:36-38*

*Immediately, something like scales
fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could
see again. He got up and was
baptized, Acts 9:18*

At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

Acts 16:33