

# OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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<b>SERMON TITLE</b>	Evangelism, Jesus-Style
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<b>SERIES</b>	
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<b>DATE</b>	8/13/2023
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<b>KEY SCRIPTURE</b>	John 1:35-43
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<b>SYNOPSIS</b>	We can follow Jesus' example by inviting people to Come and See, Come and Be, and Come with Me.
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<b>HIGHLIGHTS</b>	
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## ☞ Evangelism, Jesus-Style

**Luke 19:10** shares the heart of Jesus: **“the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”** Jesus loves the lost; he wants everyone to be saved. The sad truth is that there are still a lot of lost people in our world today.

--Lost in America...

- *For the first time in North American history, people in a large segment of the population are growing up without being influenced by Christianity in any way.*
- *Roughly half of all churches in America did not add one new person through conversion growth last year.*
- *Here in America every other religion is gaining converts while Christianity is losing them.*
- *Even if our words affirm that lost people really do matter to God, our behavior too often denies that life-changing truth.*

-- Corrie ten Boom... *If I straighten the pictures on the walls of your home, I am committing no sin, am I? But suppose that your house was afire, and I still went calmly about straightening pictures, what would you say? Would you think me merely stupid or very wicked? The world today is on fire. What are you doing to extinguish the fire?*

We've been talking about shining the light and reaching the lost. People need to know the truth that Jesus is the only way to heaven. We are called to pray for the lost, love them, and go to them with the Good News. There are a variety of ways to share your faith, from the Romans Road, to the ABC's, to your personal testimony. Today, we will see one way Jesus reached out to people.

### ☞ John 1:35-43

<sup>35</sup> The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup> When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup> **“Come,”** he replied, “and you will **see.**” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup> Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. <sup>41</sup> The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). <sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, **“You are** Simon son of John. **You will be** called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter). <sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, **“Follow me.”**

### ☞ Come and See v. 39

Upon hearing John's declaration, his disciples started following Jesus. Jesus noticed and asked them a question – “what do you want?” Jesus was always asking questions, not because he didn't



know the answer, but to make people think. "What do you really want?" When they replied, "where are you staying," they were saying they wanted to learn more about him. They called him Rabbi, which means teacher, and suggests they wanted to become his disciples. Then, Jesus invited them to "come and see."

People need to see that God is real; God is good; God is powerful; God is involved in the world today. They want to know if your faith in God is the real deal or not.

☞ **People need to see a life affected by faith, rather than just words.**

Use your own personal testimony of how God has changed your life. Let people see him in you. If Jesus has worked in your life, you can invite people to "Come and See" by telling and showing them how he changed you.

Paul said that his message was not just wise words, but a demonstration of the Spirit's power. We see a similar approach in the book of Acts:

Acts 3 – Peter healed a crippled beggar, then talked to the onlookers.

Acts 5 – Apostles performed signs and wonders, and many believed.

Acts 8 – Philip did miraculous signs, and people listened.

People have a desire for the supernatural. They need a sense of something greater than themselves. Jesus meets that need. He can do supernatural things, whether it be an answered prayer, a healing, or a transformed life.

*---Henry Ward Beecher... If you want your neighbor to know what Christ will do for him, let the neighbor see what Christ has done for you.*

*---Dan Greene... Witnessing is not a spare-time occupation or a once-a-week activity. It must be a quality of life. **You don't just go witnessing, you are a witness.***

*Cecil Northcott tells of a discussion in a camp of young people where representatives of many nations were living together. "One wet night the campers were discussing various ways of telling people about Christ. They turned to the girl from Africa. 'Maria,' they asked, 'what do you do in your country?' 'Oh,' said Maria, 'we don't have missions or give pamphlets away. We just send one or two Christian families to live and work in a village, and when people see what Christians are like, then they want to be Christians too.'"*

Come and see. What can people see in you?

☞ **Come and Be** v. 42 You are Simon... you will be Peter

When Jesus recruited Peter and Andrew, he said he would make them fishers of men. They were fishermen, but Jesus invited them to come and become something more. When Jesus confronted Saul on the Damascus road, he called him to become his envoy to the Gentiles. He was a persecutor of Christians, but he would become a preacher for Christ.



People have a longing for significance. They need a sense of importance; that they matter. One of the worst things in life is to feel like you just don't matter; like your contributions are irrelevant and unappreciated. **People need to know that they matter.** And, they do; they matter to Jesus.

☞ Most **people want a sense of purpose in life.** They don't want to wander through life without any direction, just trying to make do. Jesus gives people purpose and meaning to life. He invites us all to become more than we are and to make a difference in this world.

God really does have a plan for each person's life. You're not here by accident, but by God's perfect timing and plan. In fact, he's been working behind the scenes long before you even arrived...

Ephesians 2:10

we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

☞ This is an important part of the gospel – God has a plan for each person. **You matter to God.**

*Christianity tells people that, even if they do not matter to other people, they still matter intensely to God. It tells people who, in the eyes of the world are worthless, that, in the eyes of God they are worth the death of his only Son. That is significant!*

When it comes to purpose in life, Jesus set the ultimate example. He knew his purpose and walked it out fully. He invites us to find our purpose in him and to live life to the fullest.

Come and Be. If people followed your example, what would they become?

☞ **Come with Me** v. 43 follow me

Jesus' most common call was "follow me" – used 20 times. He still invites people to come follow him and be part of something greater than themselves. He invites people to belong to the family of God. It's not just to see what he has done, and it's not just to make you a better person. It's also about belonging in the family of God.

☞ **People want something to belong to.** Nobody really wants to do life all alone. They need **a sense of community**; a place to call home.

*Cheers Theme Song Lyrics:*

*Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name, & they're always glad you came.*

*You wanna be where you can see our troubles are all the same,*

*You wanna be where everybody knows your name.*

*You wanna go where people know, people are all the same,*

*You wanna go where everybody knows your name.*





☞ **We are in this together.** As followers of Christ, we are all part of the family of God and we belong together. The earliest disciples had a great sense of community. They shared life together.

Acts 2:42-47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... All the believers were together and had everything in common... every day they continued to meet together... They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts...

Acts 4:32

All the believers were one in heart and mind.

Come with me. Are you welcoming people into the kingdom? Are you helping them find a sense of community? When's the last time you reached out and simply asked someone to join you for dinner or a cup of coffee or whatever?

☞ We must invite people to **"Come and See;" "Come and Be;"** and **"Come with Me."**

☞ **Let people see Jesus in you;** tell them the difference he made in your life.

☞ Invite people to be what God created them to be. **Let them know they are important** and have a true purpose in life.

☞ Invite people to join you as you follow Jesus. **Let them know they are not alone;** that they can belong to the family of God.

Come and see, come and be, come with me.

*Ready or not? Millions of Americans are conversions waiting to happen. Your unsaved neighbor or co-worker or family member should be thought of as a "pre-Christian."*

Jesus satisfies all the greatest needs that people have. He supernaturally changes people's lives because they are so important to the Lord. He gives meaning to life and a sense of purpose to people. Jesus invites people to belong to something greater than themselves. He will never leave them; they are never alone. And, we get to be a part of what Jesus can do by following his example. Invite people to come and see, come and be, and come with me.