

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE Reach the Lost

SERIES

DATE 7/23/2023

KEY SCRIPTURE Matthew 9; 1 John 3: Matthew 28

SYNOPSIS People are lost, needing the light of Jesus. How can we shine the light?

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ Reach the Lost

The unchurched population of the United States is the largest English-speaking mission field in the world.

Within the next 24 hours several thousand people in the United States will die without knowing Jesus Christ and will spend eternity separate from him as a result.

It's helpful to start with this simple thought: people are lost and need the light to find their way home.

☞ Pray for the Lost

Matthew 9:36-38

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 **Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.**"

☞ Ephesians 6:19-20

Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, **words may be given** me... Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

☞ Colossians 4:3-4

3 And **pray** for us, too, that God may **open a door** for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ... 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Tips from Lost in America – Tom Clegg and Warren Bird

1. *Pray that your life will be characterized by good deeds that are a blessing to others and that will point people to God.*
2. *Pray for your relatives and friends to come into relationship with Jesus.*
3. *Pray that God will open doors of divine opportunity for you to share the good news of life change through Jesus Christ.*
4. *Pray that God will grant much fruitfulness as you invite others to follow Jesus Christ.*
5. *Pray for the restraint and defeat of Satan.*
6. *Pray for additional workers to help people who are spiritually receptive.*

Pray as if your friends' lives depended on it.

James 5:16

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results. NLT



☞ Love the Lost

1 John 3:16-18

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18 Dear children, **let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.**

–Tom Clegg... We're losing the game not because we've forgotten what to say, but because we've forgotten how to love.

1 Corinthians 14:1 says, "Follow the way of love"

☞ The way of love is Sacrificing

1 John 3:16 - Jesus laid down his life

--Win Arn... Love is intentionally doing something caring or helpful for another person in Jesus' name, regardless of the cost or consequences to oneself.

1 John 3:17 - sharing material possessions

Hebrews 13:16

do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

☞ The way of love is Seen

–Chief of police on the east coast... It seems to me that if this Jesus you believe in was really true, it would affect how you behave.

John 13:34-35

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 **By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**"

Lyrics from "You're the Only Jesus"

If not in you, I wonder where will they ever see the One who really cares? If not from you, how will they find there's One who heals the broken heart, and gives sight to the blind?

You're the only Jesus some will ever see. And you're the only words of life, some will ever read. So let them see in you the One in whom is all they'll ever need. 'Cause you're the only Jesus, some will ever see.

And if not you, I wonder who, will show them love, & love alone can make things new? If not from you, how will they learn there's one who'll trade their hopelessness and give joy in return?

So let Him shine, let Him show. Let them see Him in you, you've gotta let them know



--C.S. Lewis... *Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him.*

☞ **Go to the Lost**

--Dr. D. James Kennedy... *One of the saddest statistics of our day is that 95% of all church members have never led anyone to Christ.*

At the end of every gospel, Jesus commissions his followers to spread the good news...

☞ **Matthew 28:19-20**

go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

--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 go witnessing, you are a witness.*

--Donald Grey Barnhouse... *A generation ago there was a wealthy man in the Midwest who was an outstanding Christian layman. People used to ask him what he did. He would reply, "I am a witness for Jesus Christ, but I pack pork to pay expenses."*

John 20:21

As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.

God did not call you to hide from the world. He called you to go into the world.

--Bill Fay... *Often I hear my brothers and sisters say they want revival in which God moves and changes the hearts of individuals, families, communities, and nations. But I wonder: do we expect God to make the first move? If a farmer has broken no ground or sown no seeds, would he be justified in blaming God because he has no harvest? Revival will not come unless we sow the seeds of the good news of Jesus Christ.*

Some practical suggestions:

☞ Realize that **unsaved people are not the enemy**. They are prisoners of the enemy.

Meet unchurched people where they are, speak a language they can hear, tell them what Jesus has done for you, and invite them to make a similar decision.

Bill Fay suggests: Never ignore the coincidence of the people God has placed before you.

☞ Instead, **look for ways to build relationships**.



- *Introduce yourself to your neighbors.*
- *Let them know you pray often. Ask if they have anything you could pray about on their behalf. Then, follow up later.*
- *Host a video party on something like “how to improve your marriage.”*
- *Use your hobby, sports activity, health center, or club to build relationships.*
- *Organize a block party and have a barbeque.*
- *Do kind deeds such as clear your neighbor’s driveway in the winter.*
- *When someone you know is suffering, listen, send a card of encouragement, take them a meal, etc.*

Don't expect God to use you as a lighthouse somewhere if God cannot use you as a candle where you are.

Go where you’ve never gone before... next door.

☞ **Think of yourself as a missionary to Boone.**

Aren’t you glad somebody told you the good news?

A Sunday School teacher, Mr. Kimball, in 1858, led a Boston shoe clerk to give his life to Christ. The clerk, Dwight L. Moody, became an evangelist. In England in 1879, he awakened evangelistic zeal in the heart of Fredrick B. Meyer, pastor of a small church.

F. B. Meyer, preaching to an American college campus, brought to Christ a student named J. Wilbur Chapman. Chapman, engaged in YMCA work, employed a former baseball player, Billy Sunday, to do evangelistic work.

Billy Sunday held a revival in Charlotte, N.C. A group of local men were so enthusiastic afterward that they planned another evangelistic campaign, bringing Mordecai Hamm to town to preach.

During Hamm's revival, a young man named Billy Graham heard the gospel and yielded his life to Christ. Only eternity will reveal the tremendous impact of that one Sunday School teacher, Mr. Kimball, who invested his life in the lives of others.

Every one counts!

There are several dozen “pre-Christians” right in your neighborhood.

Begin now to strengthen some relationship you already have. Be intentional. Share your faith. Shine the light and reach the lost.

This little light of mine... Let it shine in my home town... Hide it under a bushel...