

# Elim Fountain of Hope Church, Oldham

## The Manna

**THEME: EVANGELISM – Being Salt & Brighter Light**

### SESSION 6

**TOPIC: DISCOVERING YOUR STYLE: PART 2**

**TEXT: Luke 5 v 27-32; John 4; Acts 9**

#### **REFLECTIONS FROM SESSION 5**

1. If you took the challenge to think about the questions listed in last week's session, tell us how you would respond if a seeker asked one of the following questions:

- Does the Bible really say Jesus is the only way to heaven?
- Aren't all religions just different paths to God?
- How do you know the Bible is reliable?

How does it feel to have taken time to prepare yourself to respond to some of the questions seekers ask Christians about their faith?

2. If you took time to practice giving your testimony since your last session, would you be willing to give it to us now? How did telling your testimony to people of various ages help you develop your ability to effectively communicate your story of faith?

#### **THE BIG PICTURE**

I have discovered that large numbers of godly people who love Jesus Christ are afraid that if they were to get intentional about spreading the message of Jesus, they would have to become obnoxious. They believe that to become an effective evangelist, they will have to behave in ways that are foreign to how God created them. Therefore, many believers make a silent vow to themselves to just attend church, read their Bible, pray, enjoy fellowship, give some money, and serve in some capacity. The reason that the task of evangelism is better left in the hands of those whose personalities and temperaments are cut out for "that kind of thing." They decide to let outgoing Extroverted Ed spread the Word. To have Dynamic Dave go out and save souls. To leave it to Soapbox Sally to do her thing. "I'll be an

usher," they say. "I'll have devotions. I'll help out with the children's choir, because I'm just not cut out to be an evangelist."

This type of thinking is an all-out tragedy for the church. It's a tragedy for lost people. I believe this kind of thinking originated as a satanic scheme to defeat the expansion of the kingdom of God. Sadly, Satan's strategy has been extremely effective.

In this session, we will confront Satan's scheme and shoot holes in his strategy by discovering three more styles of evangelism.

Don't forget—there are many styles in the ministry of evangelism. There are as many effective styles in the work of evangelism as there are evangelists. God made you precisely the way He did, in part, so He would have an evangelist just like you to send out into the fields of lost people. There are some seekers who will only be reached by someone just like you.

### **A WIDE ANGLE VIEW**

**Q1.** Why do so many followers of Christ fear being an evangelist?

*How does a fear of evangelism hurt the kingdom of God and help the kingdom of Satan?*

### **A BIBLICAL PORTRAIT**

Read Luke 5 v 27- 32

**Q2.** When Matthew became a follower of Christ, one of the first things he did was hold a banquet and invite his friends and fellow tax-gatherers into his home. What do you learn from Matthew's evangelism strategy?

*How could you mirror this example in your own life?*

### **SHARPENING THE FOCUS**

Read Snapshot "Interpersonal Style"

### INTERPERSONAL STYLE

When Matthew came to faith, he realized that his tax-collecting friends still didn't know Jesus, so he came up with the idea of throwing a party. I like to call this a "party with a purpose" or a "Matthew Party." It was strategically designed to get his friends to rub shoulders with Jesus and the disciples.

Although all of us need to build relationships with those we hope to reach, those with an interpersonal style specialize in this area. They are able to go deeper relationally with a greater number of people and to become partners with their friends in their journey toward Christ.

**Q3.** What are some unique advantages of an interpersonal style of evangelism?

*What are some possible problems with this approach?*

**Q4.** How can a person with this style of evangelism develop their ability to explain the gospel to others?

Read John. 4

Read Snapshot "**Invitational Style**"

### INVITATIONAL STYLE

In John chapter 4 we find the famous story of the woman at the well. In this chapter, we see another style of evangelism. Convinced that she had been talking to the Son of God, and rather than trying to retell everything in her own words, this woman leaves her water pots and runs into the city to invite people to come to hear what Jesus has to say.

Some people are just not as articulate as others. They're not overly confident in themselves and would feel awkward explaining the Gospel to others. Still, they do feel comfortable inviting a friend to hear someone else teach or sing about Jesus. The woman at the well had a great impact simply because she invited many people to come and hear Jesus.

**Q5.** What are some benefits of using an invitational style of evangelism?

*What are some possible problems with this approach?*

**Q6.** How can a person with this style of evangelism develop their ability to explain their faith?

Read Acts 9

Read Snapshot "**Serving Style**"

### **SERVING STYLE**

In Acts 9 we read about a woman named Dorcas who had an enormous impact for Christ in her community because of her habit of doing deeds of kindness. Dorcas made garments for the poor and forgotten people in her city and then distributed them in the name of Christ. This is called "service" evangelism. Dorcas served people, and in her service to them, she pointed them to the One who could forgive and transform. She may never have preached a sermon. It's very possible she never knocked on a door.

It's quite probable she never passed out literature. But she used her love and service as a vehicle to share the Gospel.

**Q7.** What are some advantages of a serving style of evangelism?

*What are some possible problems with this approach?*

**Q8.** How can a person with this style of evangelism develop their ability to explain their faith in Jesus Christ?

**Q9.** Which of the six styles covered in sessions five and six best fits you and why?

*What can you do to develop this approach to evangelism?*

### **PUTTING YOURSELF IN THE PICTURE**

#### **PLANNING A "MATTHEW PARTY"**

As you finish this study on becoming stronger salt and brighter light, put your faith into action using what you have learned. Plan a party, BBQ, or dinner for your small group members and have everyone invite one seeker friend or couple.

Have you thought about using the Al-Massira resources on which most of you have been trained? Pray for this opportunity for your Christian friends to have an impact on those seekers.