

Evangelism 2 - Living Spiritually Potent Lives

Jesus gives us a clear picture of what it means to be contagious Christians through the images of “salt” and “light.”

Read Matthew 5:13-16.

- What are the functions of salt? What does Jesus mean when he says we are the salt of the earth?
- As the light of the world, how do you sometimes hide under a bowl? What are some ways that God has created you to shine (see Eph. 2:10)? What gifts, talents, and passions has He given you?

The command to be salt and light is the basis for the key idea of this sermon series:

$$\mathbf{HP + CP + CC = MI}$$

High Potency + Close Proximity + Clear Communication = Maximum Impact

To have a maximum impact in the lives of those around us, we need to excel at each item on the left of the equation.

In order to be effectively salty Christians, we must have high spiritual potency. If our lives don't reflect Christ, we won't have an impact.

We must also have close proximity to non-Christians - after all, what good is salt if it never leaves the salt mill?

The final component to being the light of the world is Clear Communication. If we do good deeds, fight injustice, and work for peace in the world, but never mention Jesus, what good have we truly done?

- Does $HP + CP + CC = MI$ accurately describe your life right now? Which part of the equation do you consider yourself strong at? Weak at?

The three key components of High Potency are **authenticity, compassion, and sacrifice**. A lifestyle inconsistent with our message can hinder our witness, while a lifestyle marked by servanthood and love can make our witness more credible.

Read Luke 10:25-37

- Why do you think the Levite and the priest passed by the beaten traveler without helping?
- What do you think went through the mind of the robbed and beaten (Jewish) man when he found out that a Samaritan rescued him?
- To answer the expert of the law's question, who is your neighbour? Was this the answer he wanted to hear?
- If the beaten traveler later appeared in the synagogue of the passer-by priest, how do you think he would respond to the priest's teachings?

“Christians should be the good news before they share the good news.”

While not always the case, the fact remains that if we are going to share the message of Jesus with our friends, our lives must agree with our message. This is **authenticity**. God knows we will make mistakes, and He uses us despite our shortcomings, but we are still called to live a consistent lifestyle.

Reflection question:

- Are you open with your non-Christian friends about your struggles, or do you always put on a good face?
- How might expressing your hurts, and even your doubts regarding faith, break barriers to trust with your non-Christian friends?

As contagious Christians, we must demonstrate **compassion**, not only because it is a mandate from God (read Deut. 15:11, Jas. 1:17, Matt. 25:40), but because it opens up people’s hearts. Our witness must be marked by a deep, genuine love for people. Unfortunately, because many of us have fast-paced and self-centred lifestyles, our compassion quotient gets zapped.

- On a scale from 1 (a stone-cold heart) to 10 (Mother Teresa), how compassionate are you?
- What prevents you from being more compassionate?
- What is the link between time and the demonstration of compassion?
- To what extent does your lifestyle make you look like the Levite or priest rather than the Good Samaritan?

Sacrificial acts are rarely forgotten. To stand out as contagious Christians in our narcissistic culture, we need to live selfless, sacrificial lives (Rom 12:1-2).

- Describe a time when someone made a sacrifice for you. How did it impact you?
- What types of sacrifices may be necessary to increase your potency? What has prevented you from making these sacrifices? Be specific.
- Which area of high potency do you struggle most with?
- What is one thing you can do this week to boost your authenticity, compassion, or sacrifice factor?

Decide what that one thing is and pray for strength and conviction to do it.

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