

SONG OF SONGS: THE POWER OF YOUR STORY (EVANGELISM MONTH)

Houses of Light Church • March 13-14, 2021 • Pastor Netz Gómez

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Last time we saw how the beloved responded to the daughters of Jerusalem about who her beloved was by speaking of His glorious characteristics (**Song 5:10-16**); which causes them to ask her another question **"Where has your beloved turned, that we may seek him with you?" (Song 6:1)** When the testimony of Christ is real it has an impact on the outsiders to the point that they will want to seek Jesus along with us. **If you have been impacted by the beauty of Christ, you are an instrument for the salvation of others.**

1 Ped. 2:9 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

- B. **This is precisely what we are called to do at all times and especially in this month of evangelism to tell our story with the Lord;** what He has done in our lives. **Every story is different; some are more dramatic and others are very simple but all have a power because it is the work that God has done and that no one can deny.** People can have many prejudices against the church, against the Bible and even against God but a real personal testimony breaks excuses and opens the heart for God to act.

II. CHOOSING THE STYLE THAT SUITS YOU

- A. Many have tried to evangelize by knocking on the doors, others have invited people to the congregation, others have even distributed leaflets in the street and some have been frustrated by the little result they have achieved to the point that they have come to give up concluding that this is not your calling. **What has actually happened is that they have tried in ways that do not suit their style.** It is thought that the one who evangelizes must have a certain temperament or personality, but this is not the case.
- B. **One of the great barriers to effective evangelization are misconceptions** and this is true both for those who want to share their faith and for those who are listening. On the part of the unbeliever, erroneous ideas about God, His character, and the church prevent them from receiving salvation. **But when erroneous notions are clarified by a proper understanding of His gracious and compassionate heart, they open themselves to trust Christ and even more when they discover the acceptance, joy, and purpose that come from being part of a biblically functional body of believers.**
- C. **On the part of Christians there is a very rigid idea of what an evangelist is.** We think of those who campaign and speak to thousands of people with some special eloquence. **We must understand that God knew what he was doing when he made us.** He designed us with unique features; a special combination of personality, temperament, talent, and background; and He wants to use exactly what you have in His purpose to reach the world in need.

D. **He wants to use you in a way that conforms to the person He made you be.** It is not about imitating others, that's hard. Each character in the Bible had their own unique way of communicating the truth of the gospel and when you do it in your own style, you are capable of having a great impact. Let's look at how God equipped six people in the New Testament to fulfill different forms of outreach. **Ask yourself which one can be the one that you have left?**

1. **PEDRO'S DIRECT APPROACH:** It is no secret that Pedro was an impulsive man. Whatever he did, he did it with great enthusiasm; he declared that Jesus was the Messiah (**Mt 16:15**); then we find him trying to correct Jesus; imagine trying to correct the Son of God? Peter did not hesitate to ask Jesus to let him go on the water, he even tried to cut off the soldier's head when they went to catch Jesus. In **Acts 2** God used him to give the church's first evangelistic sermon. Peter was ideal for that; He would be direct and God wanted thousands of people to know directly that they had crucified Jesus and that they needed to cry out to Him for forgiveness and mercy. Peter's kind of personality fell like a glove, along with the power of the Holy Spirit; 3,000 people were converted and baptized that same day. **If we apply it to our day we will see how there are many people who will not come to Christ unless they are confronted by someone like Peter.** Many people expect us to be direct and not beat around the bush, **are you that kind of person? God can use these kinds of people but he also uses other styles.**
2. **PAUL'S INTELLECTUAL APPROACH:** Although Paul would go so far as to confront someone when necessary, what was distinctive about his style was his reasoned and logical presentation of the gospel message. For example, in his letter to the **Romans**, Paul raises with masterful clarity the explanation of the truths of the nature of God, our sin and the solution in Christ. Paul's mental organization does not come by chance; he had been raised under the tutelage of Gamaliel, one of the most famous teachers of his day. In his letters he carries out a rhetoric in which he poses conversations with imaginary enemies that lead him to break down the truths in a lucid way. Can you imagine someone better to preach to the philosophers in Athens? (**Acts. 17**). His outreach method was so effective that some believed the gospel. **God shows his wisdom by choosing his spokesmen.** These philosophers did not need someone as sharp as Peter, they needed someone to logically prove his thesis. I assure you that there are many people in your circle who are like them; they don't want quick answers; maybe you are the type of person who enjoys working with ideas and evidence; **in our time many need to hear a gospel that is not only declared but also reasonably credible.**
3. **THE WITNESS APPROACH OF THE BLIND MAN:** In **Jn. 9** we see this simple man who refused to enter into a theological debate with the Pharisees most likely because he was not as studied. He spoke of his experience: **"one thing I know I was blind and now I see"**. It is difficult to argue or escape the implications of a testimony like this even from a recent convert. **There are many people around you who need to hear this kind of testimony of how God works in the life of a believer.** They may not hear a challenge or an argument, but they will hear a personal account of God's work in his life. **Our testimony, even if it is not very**

dramatic, can be used by God, even when we were moved from a religion to a relationship with Christ it will be of great relevance to those who listen to us. **Your common life story can tell them that they too need the grace and leadership of God that you have found.**

4. **MATTHEW'S INTERPERSONAL APPROACH:** Matthew is the case of the person who might never be an evangelist but in **Lk 5:29** we see him making a banquet and inviting all his friends in an effort to expose them to Jesus and the new life He offered; Unlike the other cases we have seen, Matthew only relied on the relationships he had built with those men over the years. **Some specialize in this area of evangelism.** They enjoy cultivating deep relationships with those they are trying to reach. Some may only be reached in this way. **Maybe you are an interpersonal evangelist**, you enjoy listening patiently to other people without rushing them so that after you have built a bridge of trust tell them about Jesus.
5. **THE INNOVATIVE APPROACH OF THE SAMARITAN: God can use ordinary people in surprising and exciting ways.** This character from Scripture had at least three things against her in the culture of her time: she was a Samaritan, she was a woman, and she had lived an immoral life. Such a woman was not going to be taken seriously by society. But do you think that stopped Jesus? Of course not. **In Jn 4 we see how He ignored conventional ideas by initiating a conversation with her.** It didn't take her long to realize that the man he was talking to was no ordinary teacher. Her prophetic glimpses and her authoritative responses convinced him of her claim that he was the Messiah. She went into town and brought a bunch of people to the well to hear Jesus for themselves. This simple invitation resulted in Jesus staying in Samaria there for two days, they said to the Samaritan woman **"We no longer believe just because of what you said... now we have heard it ourselves, and we know that truly this is the Savior of the world."** (John 4:42) Many can be the point of contact with Jesus when they are impacted by Him.
6. **DORCAS'S HELPFUL APPROACH:** In **Acts 9:36** we can see that Dorcas was a woman who helped others. She made robes and items for needy people in her town. **She was an example of evangelistic outreach by service.** It was difficult for people to watch what she made of her and not see a glimpse of the love of Christ that inspired her. What's more, her work was so important that when she died prematurely, they sent for Pedro to raise her from the dead. **People with this kind of outreach enjoy serving others. As God made them, these kinds of Christians find joy in expressing compassion through tangible forms of action.** Although this style tends to put less pressure on others, and often takes longer, it does not stop being effective.

III. GOD WANTS TO MAKE US PART OF HIS STORY IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS

Lk. 22:7-13 *'Then came the day of Unleavened Bread... 8 Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." 9 "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. 10 He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, 11 and say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the*

Passover with my disciples?' ¹² He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there. ¹³ They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover."

A. Jesus knows everything, what happens in the present and in the future and fulfills His plans with the participation of those He has called. **In this story we see the perfect combination between divine will and human participation.** Even in the context of a plot to arrest him, Jesus presents Himself as the One in control and quietly directing the events that led to the Cross.

B. It was unusual for men to carry jugs of water; Usually women did this task, however it was a prearranged signal that was part of Jesus' plan to avoid premature arrest. **The participation of the disciples was very small but it was key to what Jesus had planned.** Evidently the owner of the upper room was a disciple because they tell him: **"the Master asks"** (v.11). In v.13 we see what happened **"So they went and found everything as he had told them and prepared dinner."** Here the prophetic foresight and sovereign control of Jesus is emphasized. **God has a story with each person and wants to include us in it; He loves to partner with us for His great plans.**

Jn. 4:35-38 "Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest... ³⁷ Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

C. Finally, something we should know is that we all have part of the prophetic voice of the Holy Spirit in us that can help us communicate what God speaks about people even to those who seem harsher.

1 Cor. 14:1 "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy."

IV. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you consider that you have been struck by the beauty of Jesus? Explain
2. What do you think is your style of evangelism and why?
3. How do you plan to use that style that God gave you this week? Make it a goal to share your testimony with someone using your personal style.
4. In Friendship Group pray for the people you plan to reach this week.