

Why Share the Gospel?

Toby DeHay

University of the Cumberland

Lecture on "Why Share the Gospel?"

What Is the Great Commission? Chapter Six: Seeking the Lost

I remember when I was living in the home of a friend who was back in the Netherlands finishing his doctoral dissertation. Before he left for the Netherlands, he gave me a key to his safe deposit box. He said, "If I ever have an emergency, I will contact you. I have funds set aside in this safe deposit box. If something comes up, all you have to do is take that key to the bank, get out the box, and wire me the money."

Several months passed, and I got an urgent message saying that he needed money desperately. I went right into my desk where I knew I had put the key, opened up the drawer in the center section, looked down—and the key was gone. I had no idea where it was. I searched the house frantically. I couldn't find it. I went to the bank and explained the situation. They said, "We're sorry. Without that key, we are not allowed to let you in here to open that box."

I explained the situation to my students in my class. I had my whole class come to my house, and we went over that house with a fine-toothed comb. We lifted up the rugs. We went through the winter clothes. We took out the drawers. We ruffled the curtains. We systematically went through every square inch of that house.

Eventually, after much searching, I found that key. When I found it, I went nuts. I was leaping for joy, jumping up and down—and I thought, here I am rejoicing over finding a key. I rejoiced also when I found my lost dog. What does heaven do when a lost person is found? There is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

Luke 15:4-7 NKJV

⁴ “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found *it*, he lays *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together *his* friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ ⁷ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

Luke 15:8-10 NKJV

⁸ “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds *it*? ⁹ And when she has found *it*, she calls *her* friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’ ¹⁰ Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

His Example

Luke 19:10 NKJV

¹⁰ for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

We are Commanded

Luke 24:46-48 NKJV

⁴⁶ Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things.

We Love Others as He Loved Us

All People will be Judged

“When we merely say that we are bad, the ‘wrath’ of God seems a barbarous doctrine; as soon as we perceive our badness, it appears inevitable, a mere corollary from God’s goodness.” C.S. Lewis

[Hebrews 9:27](#) (NKJV)

²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

All are Seeking Meaning-Ultimately Salvation

“I have provided in the course of my life for everything except death, and now, alas, I am to die unprepared.” Cardinal Cesare Borgia (1476-1507)

[John 3:1-4](#) (NKJV)

¹ There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²

This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

³ Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”

⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, “**How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?**”

[John 18:37-38](#) (NKJV)

³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?”

Jesus answered, “You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

³⁸ **Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?”** And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, “I find no fault in Him at all.”

Acts 26:27–29 NKJV

²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.”

²⁸ Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”

²⁹ And Paul said, “I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.”

Jesus is the Only Way

John 14:6 NKJV

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Acts 4:8–12 NKJV

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ⁹ If we this day are judged for a good deed *done* to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. ¹¹ This is the *‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’* ¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”