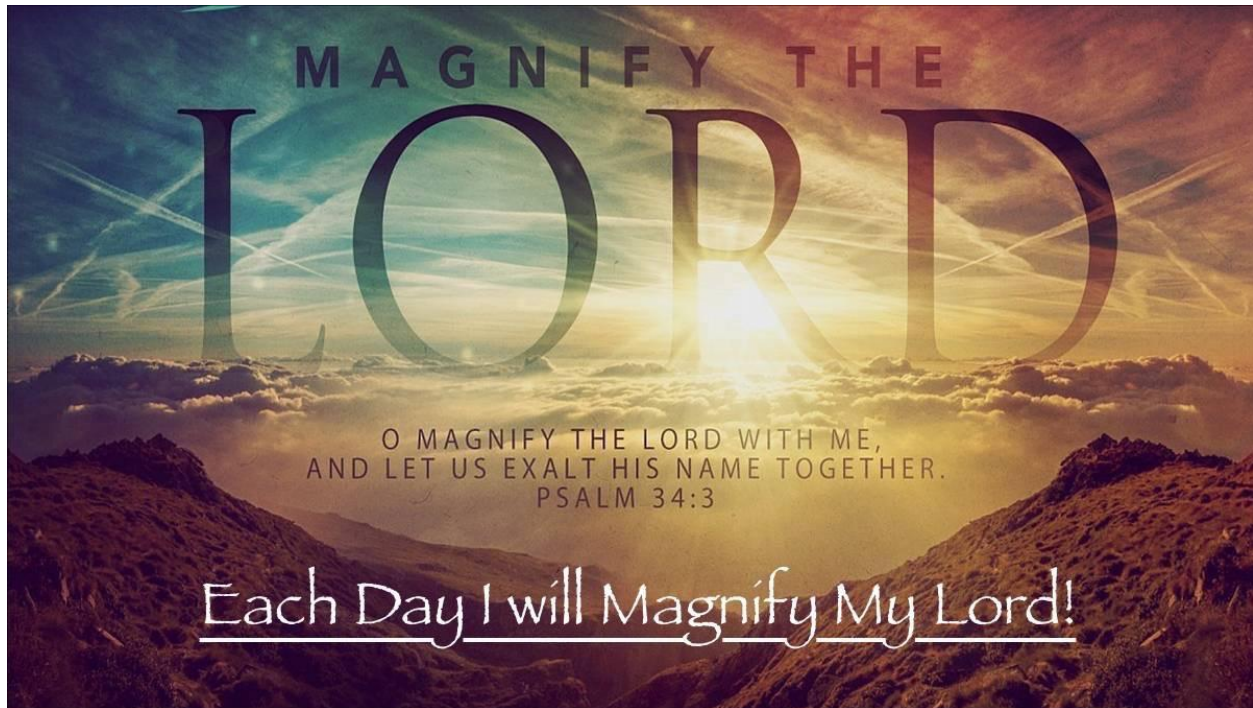

SENDING THE LIGHT

COMMUNICATING ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE

Sunday: Christlike Conversations



Prepared by Jonathan Caldwell

1st Quarter 2022

www.wearesimplychristians.com

INTRODUCTION

“Each day I’ll shine!” What a goal! Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father who is in heaven.” We are called to be light and to shine out of the darkness, just like our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is done not just with our behavior and example but with our words, our teaching, and our preaching.

This first quarter we want to work on our communication. How do we talk to others about the Lord? How do we talk to others about the gospel? How do we talk to others about doctrine and differences? There are plenty of examples of good and bad communication in scripture and we want to learn from them.

On Sundays, we will look at how Christ talked with people; specifically, we will consider different types of people. There is much to learn from these **Christlike Conversations**. Most of this material is from Ben Hall, former evangelist at Embry Hills who now works in New York. I have added/subtracted/changed things here and there, but I want to give Ben (and Ryan Poe, also Embry Hills) credit for their work! I will be teaching these classes on Sundays and the structure will be more conversational than we are used to in my classes. Come prepared, come open, and come grow to communicate more like Jesus.

On Wednesdays, we will look at various preachers through scripture and will pick one thing that was extremely beneficial in their ministry. Moses was a great leader because he loved the people. Paul knew how to appeal to and connect with everyone. These lessons are not just for me. It is my intention that we all learn these helpful traits from these **Profiles in Preaching**. Richard, Justin, Nathan, and Bennie will teach three classes each.

If we can converse more like the Lord and love more like Moses, grow more like Peter, and connect more like Paul, then we can do more in the Kingdom to save others. But this will take work and it will take practice. Are you ready?

Jonathan Caldwell

Sending the Light – Communicating According to Scripture

Sundays: Christlike Conversations

Date	Topic	Passages
Sunday, January 2	1. Jesus and the Crowd	Various
Sunday, January 9	2. Jesus and the Outsiders	Various
Sunday, January 16	3. Jesus and the Thirsty	John 4:1-26
Sunday, January 23	4. Jesus and the Messed Up	Mark 5:1-20
Sunday, January 30	5. Jesus and the Pretty Good	Matthew 19:16-25
Sunday, February 6	6. Jesus and the Determined	Mark 2:1-13
Sunday, February 13	7. Jesus and the Doubting	Mark 9:14-29; John 20:24-31
Sunday, February 20	WEEKEND WORKSHOP with JASON HARDIN	
Sunday, February 27	8. Jesus and the Curious	John 3:1-21
Sunday, March 6	9. Jesus and the Unworthy	Luke 5:1-11
Sunday, March 13	10. Jesus and the Opposition	Various
Sunday, March 20	11. Jesus and My Friends	Various
Sunday, March 27	12. Ambassadors for Christ	2 Corinthians 1-5

JESUS AND THE CROWD

- Read The Following Verses. Who is the audience?
 1. Matt 15:10-11 –
 2. Mark 5:21 and following –
 3. Luke 5:1 –
 4. Luke 6:17-18 –
 5. Luke 7:2-9 –
- Why were these great crowds following Jesus? (John 6:2)
- Read Mark 9:14-27. What role does the crowd play in Jesus interaction with the disciples and the unclean spirit?
- Why does Jesus pay specific attention to the crowd in this instance?
- What is recorded regarding Jesus Feelings towards the crowd in the Mark 6:34 and Matt 14:14?
- How did he respond?
- List some areas where you can have influence on a larger number of people?
- What do you struggle with in these atmospheres?
- What prayers should we be offering?

JESUS AND THE OUTSIDERS

- For Whom Did Jesus Come?

Luke 4:16-30 _____

Luke 7:18-23 _____

Luke 10:21-24 _____

Luke 14:12-24 _____

Luke 18:15-17 _____

- What are some examples from the Gospels that show 'insiders' (strong, rich, respected, proud, etc.) who were in some way rejected or repulsed by Jesus?
- Is being an outsider the only criteria that Jesus used(s) as the basis for entrance into his Kingdom? Explain your answer.
- Choose one passage from each category below and answer the following questions for each passage you select. (All references are from Luke's Gospel account.) 1. Why might it have been difficult to compassionately reach out to this outsider? 2. What specific actions did Jesus take / describe to treat this outsider as someone significant? 3. How did the actions of Jesus toward this outsider impact his / her life?

Diseased	Sinners	Women	Gentiles
5:12-16	5:27-32	7:11-17	7:1-10
5:17-26	7:36-50	8:1-3	9:51-56
8:26-39	15:11-32	18:1-8	17:11-19
8:40-48	18:9-14	21:1-4	23:26
13:10-17	19:1-10	23:27-31	
18:35-43	23:32, 39-43	24:1-12	

Diseased

Sinners

Women

Gentiles

JESUS AND THE THIRSTY

Text: John 4:1-26

- As you read the text, build a profile on the Samaritan woman. What do we know about her?
- What similarities might this woman share with people we know?
- What about Jesus' travel itinerary at the beginning of this chapter is interesting and potentially significant?
- How does Jesus deal with her?
- How does Jesus respond to this Woman in ways that seem strange or significant to you?
- What was his objective in the conversation?
- How did he drive toward that objective?
- Jesus turns a casual interaction into an evangelistic opportunity. What are similar opportunities that you may have?
- Why do you not always capitalize on those opportunities?
- What was the response of the Woman after her conversation with Jesus?
- What lesson(s) did Jesus want his disciples to understand at the end of this encounter?

JESUS AND THE MESSED UP

Text: Mark 5:1-20

- How does Jesus meet the demon possessed man?
- What does the scripture tell us about his life that shows us his “messed up” condition?
- Are there people today that live lives that are “messed up”? What might their lives look like (try and compare to how we see the demon possessed man)?
- What was Jesus reaction to the demon possessed man?
- How does this man identify himself? What does this tell us about the “messed up”?
- What does Jesus do for the demon possessed man? What does the man look like after Jesus is does this?
- What is the response of the people from the city who knew Legion?
- Are we afraid to evangelize to the “messed up” sometimes? Why?
- What should we be praying about to strengthen ourselves to evangelize to the “messed up” like Jesus did?

JESUS AND THE PRETTY GOOD

Text: Matthew 19:16-25

- What question does the rich young ruler approach Jesus with?
- What does that tell us from the beginning about this man?
- Jesus responds with a question and a statement outlined below. What does Jesus establish with each of these?

“Why do you call me good? No one is Good except God alone.”

“You know the commandments, ‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.’”

- Was the man perfect in keeping these laws? Was that enough?
- Why or why not?
- What did the man lack?
- Was this part of the Law of Moses (explain)?
- Why was the rich young ruler sad?
- What is the difference between the beginning of this story and the end?

JESUS AND THE DETERMINED

Text: Mark 2:1-13

- Who brings the paralytic to Jesus?
- What problem do they encounter when they reach Jesus?
- Who else is present at the house with Jesus? What are all of the people doing before the paralytic gets there?
- How do they (paralytic + friends) get to Jesus?
- What does Jesus see? How does he respond?
- Why did Jesus not begin with the miracle?
- How do their actions dictate the response of Jesus?
- What part do the Scribes play in this interaction? What do their questions of Jesus (amongst themselves) end up proving?
- Why is this critical in the interaction with the paralytic and his friends?
- What expectation can the determined have of Jesus because of this?
- How can we teach this?
- Who might we find that are determined today?

JESUS AND THE DOUBTING

Text: Mark 9:14-29; John 20:24-31

- Put yourself in the father's shoes and describe your situation.
- What does Jesus do to combat unbelief?
- What are your thoughts about the father's statement in v. 24?
- When Jesus healed the Boy did it look like it worked at first? How might this be useful for us to remember in our work of sharing the Gospel and helping others develop faith in Christ?
- What does Jesus say was the problem with the Disciples (v. 19)? What did they need in order to help people like this Boy and his father (v. 29)? How does all of this help us understand our work in the Gospel?
- What did Thomas want before he would believe that Jesus had risen from the dead?
- What had the other apostles already seen?
- What is Jesus' response to Thomas?

JESUS AND THE CURIOUS

Text: John 3:1-21

- Read John 3:1-21. As you read try to build a personality profile of Nicodemus. Pay attention to how Jesus dealt with him in unique ways. Consider people you know who are similar to Nicodemus and how you could interact with them in similar ways you see Jesus doing here.
- Based on the biographical details and conversation recorded, what do you think about Nicodemus' personality, mindset, heart? Who do you know like him?
- What did Nicodemus say to start the conversation? What does his statement imply about what he wanted to talk about? What do you think was on his mind when he came to Jesus? Why did he come to Jesus?
- What does Jesus want to talk about with Nicodemus? Why might Jesus have chosen this path to discuss the kingdom?
- What can we learn from this concerning what Jesus is trying to do with people in the world? How can we communicate that with people today?
- When Nicodemus still could not understand Jesus, how did Jesus respond? What problems does Jesus address? How important are these problems in our discussions with people today?
- Why do you think Jesus closes this conversation as he does in 3.13- 15?
- How could the lesson(s) of this last part of this conversation be helpful for us in our conversations with others?
- How does 3.16-21 orient our approach to sharing the Gospel?

JESUS AND THE UNWORTHY

Text: Luke 5:1-11

- Read Luke 5.1-11. As you read try to look into the heart and mind of Peter. Also pay attention to how Jesus dealt with him in unique ways. Consider people you know who are similar to Peter and how you could interact with them in a way that leads them to see Jesus as Peter did here.
- What does this text teach us about Peter's attitude toward and relationship with Jesus?
- How does Peter describe himself in 5.8? What are some reasons people feel that way when they come in contact with Jesus and/or his people?
- What causes feelings of unworthiness within people in their life in general? How do people often cope with feelings of unworthiness, emptiness, lack of value?
- What led Peter to feel like he did before Jesus? Was it good or bad that he felt that way? Explain your answer.
- How does Jesus handle Peter's feelings of unworthiness? What is different about how Jesus handled someone who felt unworthy as opposed to how other people often handle those who feel/are unworthy? What can we learn from Jesus' example for our interactions with the unworthy?
- Read the stories found in 5.12-32 that follow this event. What do these stories teach us about how Jesus interacted with the unworthy?
- How can we apply his example in our lives?
- Read Luke 7.36-50. What do we learn from this story about how Jesus views worthiness and unworthiness?

JESUS AND THE OPPOSITION

- **Read Mark 2:15-17 and answer the following:**

What were the scribes and Pharisees accusing Jesus of doing? Was he doing this?

What mentality did the religious leaders have that caused them to ask this question?

How does Jesus answer hit the heart of the issue with the Scribes and Pharisees?

- **Read Mark 7:1-13 and answer the following:**

What is Jesus tone with the Pharisees?

What issue does Jesus take with the accusations (and by extension, the lifestyle) of the Pharisees regarding the washing of hands?

Was the stance Jesus took with the Pharisees popular?

- **Read John 2:13-22 and answer the following:**

How did Jesus handle those who were selling in the temple? Why was He so “harsh”?

Why was what they were doing wrong?

When they asked for His authority, how did Jesus answer? Why this statement?

- **Read Mark 12:13-17 and answer the following:**

What does it say the Pharisees and Herodians were specifically trying to do to Jesus?

How could Jesus simply answering yes or no have caused an uproar?

What did Jesus do or not do that allowed him to give the best answer to their question?

- What is different about the response Jesus gives to the scribe’s question in Mark 12:28-34?

JESUS AND MY FRIENDS

This lesson is very personal and will require a lot of class discussion – be prepared!

- Think through your closest friends who are not faithful Christians. Into which of the categories that we have looked at do they fit?
- How would Jesus (and how can you) turn your regular conversations (i.e. sports, politics, hobbies) towards spiritual things?
- What are some obstacles you may have in bringing these friends to know Christ?
- What negative thoughts do you have when thinking about leading these friends to Christ?
- Is it going to shock these friends when you begin to talk about the Bible or Jesus? How you're your previous behavior and attitudes prepared them for such conversations?
- What are some ways you can easily introduce religious thought into your conversations?

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

Text: 2 Corinthians 1-5

- What are the three biggest challenges you face in evangelism?
- What three major lessons have you learned in the ministry of Jesus that you want to apply in your life?
- Read the following passages from 2 Corinthians. How does Paul describe his ministry (and the ministry we are part of)? What informed, grounded, motivated, gave perspective to Paul in his ministry?

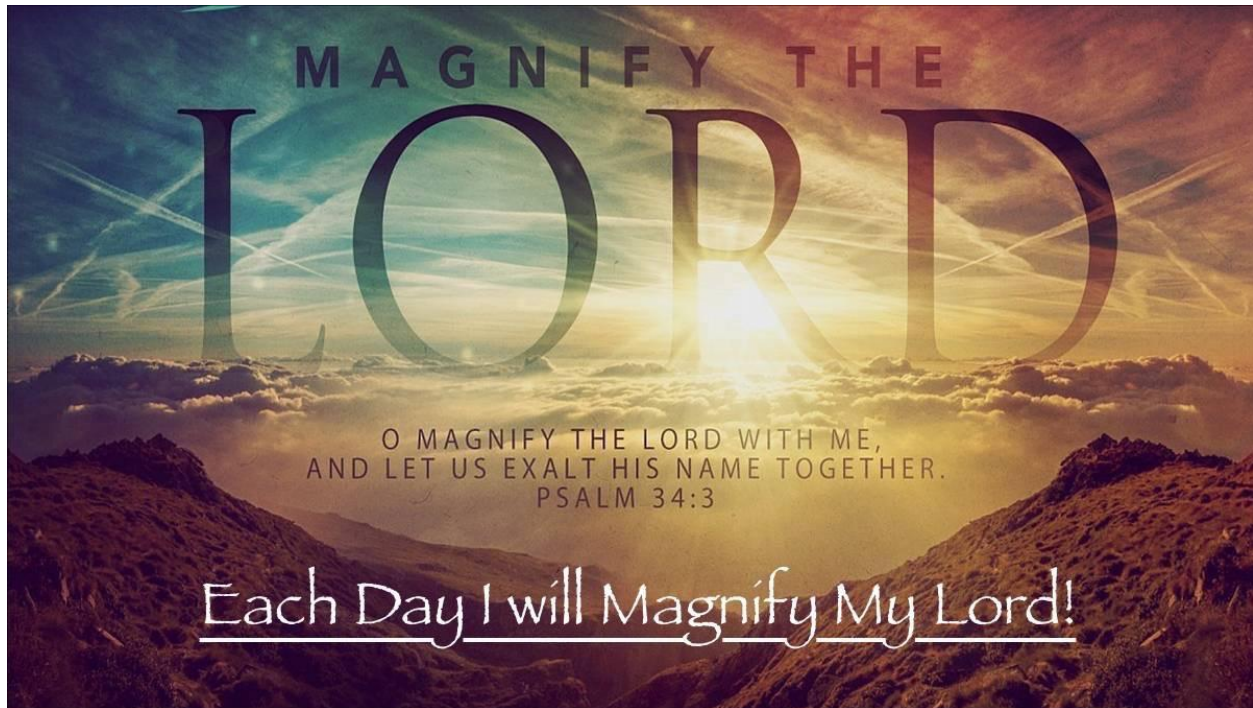
Text	Description of Ministry (What evangelism is)	Motivating Principle for Ministry (Why we evangelize)
1:3-7	<i>Comfort those who are afflicted</i>	<i>We have received comfort from God</i>
2:14-17		
3:1-6		
3:12—4:6		
4:7-18		

- Consider 2 Corinthians 5:1-21. What are some fundamental principles that result in becoming an “ambassador of Christ”?

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Wednesday: Profiles in Preaching



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Sending the Light – Communicating According to Scripture

Wednesdays: Profiles in Preaching

Date	Topic	Teacher
Wednesday, January 5	1. Moses – A Deep Concern for the People	Richard
Wednesday, January 12	2. Elijah – Courage to Challenge	Richard
Wednesday, January 19	3. Solomon – Wisdom to Instruct	Richard
Wednesday, January 26	4. Jonah – A Willingness to Go	Justin
Wednesday, February 2	5. Aquila and Priscilla – A Helpful Partner	Justin
Wednesday, February 9	6. Peter – The Ability to Grow	Justin
Wednesday, February 16	7. Paul – All Things to All Men	Nathan
Wednesday, February 23	8. Apollos – Eloquence Doesn't Hurt	Nathan
Wednesday, March 2	9. Stephen – Reprove, Rebuke, Exhort	Nathan
Wednesday, March 9	10. Ezra and Nehemiah – Set the Heart to Study	Bennie
Wednesday, March 16	11. Jesus – Selfless Love	Bennie
Wednesday, March 23	12. Jesus – Be Radical	Bennie
Wednesday, March 30	13. Christians – Go Preaching the Word	Jonathan

**The introduction to this study is on the Sunday side of the Book.*

MOSES

A CONCERN FOR PEOPLE

- Even before Moses became the leader of the Israelites he wanted to help people. What do we see in Exodus 2:11-15 and 2:16-17?
- Moses intervenes on behalf of the people four times. Describe each situation:

Numbers 11:1-3

Numbers 14:13-19

Numbers 16:20-22, 41-50

Numbers 21:4-9

- It is important to understand that Moses did not blindly defend his people. He stood for what was right. Consider these three examples:

Exodus 32

Leviticus 10

Numbers 16

- Consider Deuteronomy 30:11-20. In what way was Moses a preacher?
- What does the bible say about Moses' humility? Why is this essential for someone in his position?
- What does Hebrews 11:24-25 tell us about Moses' love for the people?

ELIJAH

COURAGE TO CHALLENGE

- Elijah meets Obadiah and Ahab in 1 Kings 18. Notice how each man addresses Elijah.
- How does Elijah respond to Ahab's title for him?
- What can we learn about courage from Elijah's contest on Mt. Carmel in 1 Kings 18:20-40?
- What can we learn about courage from Elijah's confrontation with Ahab about Naboth's vineyard (1 Kings 21:17-24)?
- Consider 1 Kings 21:25-29. What is the purpose of challenging those in sin?
- What can we learn about courage from Elijah's rebuke of Ahaziah in 2 Kings 1?
- Consider Malachi 4:5-6 and Matthew 11:14. What connections are there between Elijah and John the Baptist?
- Describe John's courage in the following passages:

Matthew 3:1-12

Luke 3:7-20

Mark 6:17-29

SOLOMON WISDOM TO INSTRUCT

- When given a “blank check” what did Solomon ask for?
- At what point in their lives does Solomon relate this information to his sons?
- How does Solomon fall into the “do as I say, not as I do” trap?
- What proverbs would help you be a better preacher or teacher?
- Solomon’s life experiment (Ecclesiastes) returned poor results. Nothing gave life under the sun any meaning. At the end of the day, what makes an impact?
- How does wisdom and experience help us to realize this truth?
- To be so wise, how could Solomon be so foolish?
- Wisdom is something that must be balanced with real life. What does this mean?
- How does wisdom help us better share the Gospel?

JONAH

A WILLINGNESS TO GO

- What was Jonah's real reason for not wanting to go to Nineveh (4:1-14)?
- What were Moses' excuses when God called him to go to Egypt (Exodus 3-4)?
- Contrast this with Isaiah's statement in Isaiah 6:8.
- Consider Jesus' disciples:
 - Luke 5:1-11
 - Luke 5:27-28
 - Matthew 28:16-20
- What did Paul say about Jesus' willingness to go (Philippians 2:5-8)?
- How did Ananias feel when God told him to go to Saul (Acts 9:10-19)?
- How does Barnabas show a willingness to go?
- We could say much about Paul's travels but consider all the men who worked with Paul and went where he sent them. Read the end of Paul's letters and note the names of those who were part of his "team" and their willingness to go.

AQUILA AND PRISCILLA

A HELPFUL PARTNER

- Do you ever find these two separated?
- The first time we meet this couple, what are they doing?
- What does this couple do with Apollos?
- How does Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 apply to Aquila and Priscilla?
- From the beginning, how were a husband and wife designed to operate (Genesis 2:24)?
- What are the benefits of a godly, loving, and helpful spouse?
- What can you do to be a better partner in spiritual things?
- What can you do to be a better partner in evangelism?
- What couples do you know that make a great team in the work of God?

PETER

THE ABILITY TO GROW

- How does scripture introduce Peter? Who introduces Peter to Jesus?
- How would you characterize Peter?
- List Peter's "blunders".
- What does Peter do on the night Jesus was betrayed?
- What does Peter do on the Day of Pentecost?
- What does this show us?
- Why does Paul rebuke Peter in Galatians 2? What should we learn from this?
- We want to be Paul, but we are often Peter. How are we like Peter?
- What happens if we lose the ability to be corrected and grow?

PAUL

ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN

- What does Paul claim in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23?
- What is Paul's goal?
- Is Paul being deceptive?
- What does this look like for us today?
- Why does Paul have Timothy circumcised (Acts 16:3) but he refuses to have Titus circumcised?
- Paul was a Jew. Paul was a Pharisee. Paul was a Roman citizen. Paul was educated. How did Paul use (or not use) these things to lead more souls to Christ?
- What other traits did Paul have that enabled him to reach more people?
- We don't have to have a seminary degree, a pulpit, a room full of commentaries, or eloquence of speech to share the good news. What do we need?

APOLLOS

ELOQUENCE DOESN'T HURT

- What is said about Apollos in Acts 18:24-28?
- Who might Paul be talking about in 2 Corinthians 8:18?
- Why is Paul not concerned with eloquence or style in 1 Corinthians 1:17 and 2:1-5?
- Does this mean Paul never concerned himself with his style of speaking?
- Consider these proverbs about speech and the tongue:

10:20

12:18

15:1, 2, 4

16:21, 23

18:21

22:11

25:15

- What warning does James give to preachers and teachers (James 3:1-12)?
- In what ways does eloquence and style help a preacher or teacher?
- What is more important the content or the presentation?

STEPHEN

REPROVE, REBUKE, EXHORT

- Stephen's sermon focuses on two facts: 1. God is not confined to the temple and can, therefore, be worshipped anywhere. 2. The Jews have a history of rejecting God's messengers. Why did Stephen choose to preach this message at this time?
- How are Stephen's strong words rooted in scripture?
- It does not appear that Stephen made any headway with the Jews. But who was in the audience that day?
- What did Paul tell Timothy the word of God was good for (2 Timothy 3:16-17)?
- What did Paul tell Timothy about the need to preach the word (2 Timothy 4:2-4)?
- The word of God should be used to encourage and rebuke, to strengthen and to correct, but with what attitudes?
- Consider Galatians 1:10 and 1 Thessalonians 2:4. How did Stephen match this principle? How are we to match this principle?

EZRA AND NEHEMIAH

SET YOUR HEART TO STUDY

- Before we can talk to anyone about the gospel, what must we know?
- What three things does Ezra purpose to do in Ezra 7:10?
- How do these three things show a natural progression?
- If we are going to be preachers and teachers of God's word, we must first know it! Can this be accomplished by going to church and Bible study twice a week? What does it require?
- What is the difference between reading and studying?
- What does James 3 warn about teachers and teaching?
- But what is expected of Christians in Hebrews 5:12?
- If we are going to be better evangelists, what should we be studying?
- What can you personally do to set your heart to study the word?

JESUS SELFLESS LOVE

- Use a concordance or the internet to find all the passages which mention Jesus' compassion.
- Aside from His crucifixion, in what other ways does Jesus show selfless love?
- What does Jesus long for when He laments over Jerusalem?
- Read the words to the song "The Ninety and Nine". What parable is this about? What did it cost Jesus to come and save us?
- Though God and King, worthy of all praise, honor, and service. What does Jesus say about His role on earth?
- Consider Paul's statements in 2 Corinthians. What does a selfish preacher do?
- How does Jesus' selflessness attract people today?
- What does Philippians 2 teach about Jesus' attitude in coming to save mankind?
- What is the most you would suffer for someone else?

JESUS BE RADICAL

- Consider some of Jesus' radical statements:

Matthew 5:21-48, but especially vv. 27-30 (cf. 18:7-9)

Matthew 8:18-22

Matthew 10:34-39

Matthew 12:33-37

- Consider Jesus' admonition to take up your cross. How is this radical?
- Read Luke 14:26. Does Jesus really expect us to hate our parents? Does He really expect us to cut off our hands and pluck out our eyes?
- But what happens when we soften or explain away these radical statements?
- In Matthew 19:16-22, a rich young man came to Jesus. What was he told to do? What had the disciples already done?
- We think of Jesus as a man of peace, calm, and serenity. But in Matthew 21:12-13 and John 2 we see a righteous, radical indignation. What happened?
- Consider Jesus' teaching in Matthew 23. We would be horrified to hear this from a preach today.
- What does such radical teaching do? How is it beneficial? What happens when it is fake or forced?

CHRISTIANS GO PREACHING THE WORD

- When Paul began to persecute the church in Acts 8:1-4, what did the Christians do?
- Notice, these aren't the apostles and preachers. Whose job is it to preach the word?
- When Philip went to Samaria, what three things did he preach (Acts 8:12)?
- What did Philip preach to the Ethiopian Eunuch?
- What did Paul preach to Felix?
- Where did these people preach? When did these people preach?
- Why did these people preach?
- What can you do?