

2012 Camp Hill Evangelism Series  
Part 4 “The Magnetism of Evangelism”  
By Doug Hamilton

When contemplating evangelism, we often formulate thoughts of door-knocking and gospel meetings, but that tends to be far from functional reality. We gather that from the culture of the first-century accounts of the New Testament writings. What we tend to overlook are the more intricate workings behind those accounts. In this series on evangelism, we have looked at some of those finer details. Before a structure is built there must be a foundation laid. It is in this series of lessons that we can look at some of the foundational building blocks for a spirit of evangelism. We have covered three of them thus far.

- In the first lesson titled “The Conversion Before the Conversion”, we covered the realization that everyone has a soul. God loves each and every one of them regardless of who they are. He was willing to send His Son to die for us all.
- In the second lesson titled “The Mission of Missions”, the central theme was God’s ultimate goal of mankind: To Glorify Him Forever! That is the target that our Father places before us and for us in return to put before the lost.
- In the third lesson we defined the “Message of Salvation”. We are to communicate the Authenticity of His Word, the Predictability of the Messiah, the Fragility of Mankind, the Sincerity of Christ and the Responsibility of Ourselves. All this is to make an appeal to the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

There is a conversion of our thinking that all have a soul. There is a mission higher than all called glorifying God. There is a core message that is the path to this glory.

In this lesson we will emphasize “The Magnetism of Evangelism”. Scientifically speaking, magnetism is a property of materials that respond at an atomic or subatomic level to an applied magnetic field. Practically speaking, magnetism refers to something that sticks to a refrigerator or some other metallic surface. Evangelistically speaking, magnetism refers to the qualities in our lives which draw others to the message of hope that we have within us. We capture a glimpse of this in the life and words of Jesus in the twelfth chapter of John.

John 12:31-33 “Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.<sup>32</sup> “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.”<sup>33</sup> But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die.

- He announced to the apostles just prior to the crucifixion that something major was about to occur. He was about to meet His destiny and the action would sabotage the “ruler of this world” and his dastardly deeds of condemnation against mankind. The “ruler of this world” is the devil. From the Garden of Eden to this very day he has been subduing men with the temptation of sin and weakness. He was an angel that sought to glorify himself above God, but became the ruler of this condemned world.
  - 2 Cor 4:4 “...in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”
  - Eph 2:2 “...in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”

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- How was this going to come about? Jesus said that He would be lifted up from the earth and would draw all men to Him. The devil would be thwarted because of the crucifixion of Jesus and that act would magnetize Jesus in such a way that would draw all mankind to Him. *John 8:28 So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.*

- What is it about the gruesome death of Jesus that would cause souls to gravitate toward Him? How does His death cause magnetism toward the cross? Crucifixion is considered one of the cruelest and humiliating tortures of all time.



- The typical crucifixion was prepared through a scourge which included a severe beating that left ribbons of skin hanging from the flesh.
  - They would then strip the body naked and slam it down on the rough wood of the cross.
  - To add pain to the process by nailing nails into the wrists and ankles of the victim. It was a painful cycle of pushing up on the feet to catch His breath and retreating back to alleviate the shooting pain from His feet.
  - If insects landed on His face to bite fresh wounds, there would be no relief for Him. If He was thirsty, there would be little hydration. If He burned, there would be no salve. If He was cold, there would be no warmth.
  - All the while He would be mocked and spit upon. The sky grew dark as God turned His back on Jesus.
- The cross was the loneliest place and time in history. Why would have He come into the world to go through all this? Because He knew that without the shedding of blood there could be no remission of sins (Heb 9:22). If He did not lay down His life as the acceptable sacrifice unto God (Mt 3:17; John 1:29), we would have no hope of being save from our sins.
    - Jesus said in John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”
    - He said again in John 8:24 “...for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.”
  - Jesus came into the world with the intention of having to die for us so that we could be cleansed from our sins. He faced that difficult task knowing what He would have to go through and yet still did it. Why???
- BECAUSE HE LOVES US SO MUCH!!! The Magnetism of Evangelism is LOVE.**

### A Sacrifice of Love

On May 22, 2011, an EF-5 tornado ripped through the community of Joplin, MO shortly before evening. By the time it finished, it destroyed more than 8,000 homes over a 22 mile strip. There were 161 people killed and tens of thousands affected.

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One of these inhabitants was a 31-year old man named Don Lansaw. As the tornado shook the neighborhood, he and his wife headed for the most secure room in the house, the bathroom. With the house shaking from the wind, she dove into the bathtub for protection. Using his wife’s own words from an NBC News interview, Bethany Lansaw said the following:

‘He got on top of me to take the brunt of most of it and he’s my hero,’ Mrs Lansaw said in a tearful interview. ‘I mean the house was ripping apart, it all happened so fast. All the pillows were flying off of us, the only thing I managed to do was keep one in front of my face.’ As the winds died down, Mrs Lansaw looked up to see that her husband was turning blue. Hoping she could still save him, she flagged down a pick-up truck to get help finding an ambulance, but it was too late. After six years of marriage, her childhood sweetheart had died. ‘He just has so much love in his heart,’ she told NBC News. ‘You know people kept saying he wouldn’t have wanted it any other way, but if I could have taken twice as much damage just to have him alive, I would have.’ ‘He did what he could to protect his family and I did everything I could to get him help,’ Mrs Lansaw told Brian Williams. ‘Such a great man and loved by so many people.’



Jesus is the World’s HERO because of LOVE.

- This is why every soul on earth is drawn to Jesus, for His act on the cross was the greatest demonstration of love that was ever carried out. We were condemned to die in our sins, but Jesus took the brunt of the storm for us. We were not worthy of it, but He saw great potential in a relationship with us.
- *Romans 5:6-9 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* It is this love that draws us to Him, for He is a HERO for all that ever realized they missed the mark! He is the HERO for all those that know they struggle with weakness! He is the HERO for all those who know there is more to life than this realm!

We become heroes to others in the church because of LOVE.

- Jesus said in John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- Paul wrote in Phil 2:1-8 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; <sup>4</sup> do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>

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but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- John wrote in 1 John 3:16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

When we extend that LOVE to others outside, we become magnets for Christ.

- Matthew 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; <sup>15</sup>nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
- When we take the time to show others a sacrifice of service, they will see our good works and the result will be to glorify our Father. If we take the time to truly be a service for people outside the church family that are hurting, if we LOVE them, they will likely GLORIFY our Father!

Elderly Care Ministry

As mentioned last week, the Camp Hill church family is embarking on a meaningful ministry to show love to a group of people that are some of the most forgotten people in the world. We do not necessarily have to cross oceans to reach a mission field to demonstrate the love of Christ. Less than a mile from here is a nursing home filled with lonely people just waiting to be your friend.

The following are statistics from The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

- The total number of nursing home residents in certified nursing facilities in the US as of 2007 was 1,368,230.
- A breakdown of this number indicates that New York led in the number of residents with 108,749, followed by California (97,530), Texas (89,698), Pennsylvania (79,422), Ohio (77,751), Illinois (76,065) and Florida (69,978).
- Many of the residents have some type of dementia. Approximately 70% of persons with dementia die in nursing homes.
- According to statistics from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, nursing-home patients, on average, receive a half-hour of care per day from a registered nurse, plus 38 minutes from a licensed practical nurse and two hours and 18 minutes from a nurse's aide. (12/26/07)
- More than 50% of nursing home residents have no living close relative, which may be related to the estimate that 60% of nursing home residents have no visitors.
- It is a fact that going into a nursing home can generate a spirit of loneliness and sadness.



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What is the nursing home ministry?

Over the next three weeks we will focus on reaching out to the elderly, not only some of the shut-ins of our own congregation, but also many of the residents at Golden Living Nursing Home in Camp Hill.



February 12<sup>th</sup>

- We will meet here at the church building at 3:00 and team up for visits. The appointments will already be worked out for those who volunteer. All you have to do is be a friend to one of the shut-ins.
- We will meet back at the building at 4:45 to discuss the experience with one another. We will also plan out next week’s “Craft Hour”.
- At 5:30 we will have a short worship service at the building, inclusive to a lesson from one of our elders on honoring the elderly.

February 19<sup>th</sup>

- We will meet at the building at 3:30 for “Crafts Hour”. Depending on the persons we visited from the week before, we will make them encouraging cards, pictures and crafts. These will be for the following week’s visit.
- We will meet at 4:45 to discuss the experience and other plans on how to be a good friend to the elderly.
- At 5:30 we will have a short worship service at the building, inclusive to a lesson from one of our elders on honoring the elderly.

February 26<sup>th</sup>

- We will meet at the building at 3:00 to follow up with our crafts for our new friends.
- We will meet back at the building at 4:45 to discuss the experience with one another.
- At 5:30 we will have a short worship service at the building, inclusive to a lesson from one of our elders on honoring the elderly.

What are our goals?

- 1) To be a friend to the forgotten.
- 2) To be a people with a mission.
- 3) To have a pattern of a service-based theme for our evening worship.

Love is the magnetism of evangelism, for it draws people closer to God in the end. It is how Jesus draws us closer. It is how we draw closer together as a church family. It is how we draw others closer to the throne seat of God.