**Week of June 23:**

**Evangelism**

Today you will be reading on the topic of Evangelism.

Really, I think I struggle a fair bit with knowing how to evangelize, which to some degree is why I have decided to try writing this devotional.

I hope to learn a thing or two myself as we dive into this topic.

Let’s start this off with the facts that we know.

**How can we define evangelism?**

Evangelism, as defined by the internet:

*is the spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness.*

Another source notes:

 *the act of preaching the gospel*

*with the intention of sharing the message*

*and teachings of Jesus Christ.*

I think the first point we need to look at is simply **having a heart posture that is selfless and focused on serving God our Father.**

Simple as that.

If we are all about doing what we want, there may be a bit of a disconnect with the people we are sharing the good news with.

Do we want that?

No.

And you may be thinking, whoa, are you perfect at this? Again, no, but if you don’t have that heart posture that is **willing to be intentional in sharing** **what Good News you have received** you are going to be stuck at the starting line.

Now, let’s dive into some scripture to back this up. Luckily this first ramble has a great verse to go with it:

**1 Peter 3:15**, says *“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”*

**Colossians 4:5-6**, says *“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”*

The second point I will focus on will be the practicality side of things.

**What can we do to evangelize in our day-to-day lives in Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada, or wherever you are reading this from?**

Maybe it will be easy, maybe it will be difficult.

That’s for you to find out.

The good news for us is that everyone has opportunities around them to evangelize. I bet that most of you reading this are either working, in school, involved in or attending a church, are a part of some kind of community, whether this be your group of friends, a sports team, or some neighborhood group.

**Bottom line:** unless you have been hiding under a rock, you have the opportunity to evangelize and reach out to those who do or don’t know Jesus.

You never know where people are at on their faith walk, so reaching out and seeking those around you is key.

Let’s pair this with an example. Back in my days working construction, I had a coworker start talking on the topic of faith, and we ended up talking for awhile and I just asked him questions, and he asked me questions back. Unfortunately, there’s no fairytale ending to this one, that I know of yet, as he suddenly left for Alberta.

But that was a time of pushing the boundaries and sharing what I believed.

This point comes with a good instruction that we know as the Great Commission, which can be found in Mark 16:15-20.

Right before Jesus goes up into Heaven, **He provides clear instruction that we must go out and make disciples**.

Literally the last thing he says is,

*He said to them,*

*“****God into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation****.*

*Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved,*

*but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”*

Mark 16:15-16 (NIV)

 **THIS COMMAND MUST BE IMPORTANT!**

**Challenges:**

- Find a way to talk about your faith in your day-to-day activities. Maybe start by asking others about their own beliefs.

- If this is too intrusive, just focus on being caring to those around you. Be intentional on having a heart posture that is focused on bringing glory to God!

- Invite someone from work or school or one of your activities over for a meal or something along those lines!

- Volunteer for something that is happening in the community (could be charity, could be a church event, could be another event, you decide!) You have to get out into the world to make disciples.

Don’t know where to begin? Pray! Ask the Lord to give you words, to fill you with courage to share, and then go, get out there.