

SHARE
“Sharing Broadly”

Introduction: One of the most fascinating Old Testament narratives and contains a great spiritual principle.

- ✓ Capital of Northern Kingdom of Israel, Samaria had been besieged by Ben-Hadad, Syrian King
- ✓ People fled city and ran to the hills to hide and famine gripped the land. (Later in Chapter 6-cannibalism)
- ✓ 4 lepers on city outskirts decide they are willing to take a risk—“why sit we here till we die?”
- ✓ Syrian army confused by the Lord (sound of army, chariots, horses, and so they fled)
- ✓ Meanwhile, the lepers find the city a ghost town and food and supplies bountiful
- ✓ Came to an awareness of their failure

Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king's household." 2 Kings 7:9 NKJV

- ✓ So they went and shared the news with the people of the city and Samaria was saved

In this series: Sharing what's Most Important

- ✓ Like, Share, Tweet—all have new meaning in our society today.
- ✓ We share so much information today via social media.
- ✓ How rarely do we share what is most important?
- ✓ Sharing what is MOST IMPORTANT is the subject/focus of this series.

Provocative Statistics

(According to Thom Rainer—The Unchurched Next Door)

- Only 21% of active churchgoers invite anyone to church in the course of a year
- Only 2% of church members invite an unchurched person to church
- Yet 82% of the unchurched are at least “somewhat likely” to attend church if they are invited
- But, suppose only 50% would come—80 million of 160 million unchurched might be in church
- How many might come to Christ?

Many aspects of sharing to discuss—Today—Sharing Broadly

— Biblical precedent

"Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. 5 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. 7 And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. 8 But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred." Mark 4:3-8 NKJV

And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. Mark 4:13-14 NKJV

— Sowing/reaping principle (finance)

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 9 As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." 10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness. 2 Corinthians 9:6-10 NKJV

— God expects us to share broadly

For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more. Luke 12:48 NKJV

Why we should share broadly?

We should share broadly because...

I. We should share broadly because we have a message that must be heard.

A. It has external consequences

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:18 NKJV

B. The heart of God compels us to share

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9 NKJV

For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. Corinthians 5:13-15 NKJV

C. The central fact is verifiable

And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 1 Corinthians 15:17 NKJV

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 NKJV

II. We should share broadly because we don't know people's hearts.

A. Parable of the soil

1. Are those who will never hear the word—antagonistic and resistant —Satan comes immediately and takes away the word
2. Those who never take root—stony ground
3. Those who are sown among the thorns—too busy
4. Good ground

B. **Rainer Scale** (The Unchurched Next Door)

1. **U-5's—Very resistant-and hostile**

- a. Will get in your face
- b. Don't want to hear
- c. Argue with you
- d. 5% of unchurched population (1 in 20)

2. **U-4's—Resistant-but not hostile**

- a. Pleasant conversation with little fierce opposition
- b. Some are religious, but resistant to Christians
- c. Pretty unmoved by anything
- d. 21% of the unchurched population
- e. About 1/2 believe in Hell

3. **U-3's—Leaners and apathetic**

- a. 36% of all unchurched
- b. Open to discussion
- c. Tend to be neutral or leaning toward U-4 or U-2
- d. Mixed regarding theology

4. **U-2's—Seekers**

- a. Looking for something in their life
- b. 27% of the unchurched-more than 1 out of 4
- c. Know something is missing
- d. Pray, wanting to find power
- e. Very close to becoming Christians

5. **U-1's—Waiting on an invite**

- a. 11% of total
- b. Under the age of 51
- c. Busy-ness is more main reason they don't attend a church
- d. 97% likely to attend church if invited
- e. 50 unchurched people a week—5 are waiting on you to tell them about Christ

6. **Summary**

- a. 74% of the unchurched are U-3 to U-1
- b. 38% (more than 1 in 3) and U2 or U-1
- c. 82% of unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Matthew 9:37, 38 NKJV

III. We should share broadly because God has placed us in unique positions.

A. Power of family and friends

1. 2/3 of unchurched are likely to respond to an invite of a family member
2. 56% unchurched are likely to respond to an invite of a friend or neighbor

B. Biblical precedent for family and friends

1. Cornelius

And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. Acts 10:24 NKJV

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days. Acts 10:44-48 NKJV

NOTE: They came to hear Peter preach the Gospel

2. Philippian jailer

So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Acts 16:31-33 NKJV

3. Instructions of Jesus

And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. 19 However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." Mark 5:18-19 NKJV

4. Andrew and Peter

One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone). John 1:40-42 NKJV

5. Parable teaching of Jesus

"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!' Luke 15:8-9 NKJV

6. Power of workplace

- a. Jesus had 132 public appearances in the New Testament and 122 were in the workplace.
- b. He told 52 parables and 47 had a workplace context.
- C. God has placed each of us in a unique position to influence people—sharing our faith, inviting them to church.
- D. Amazing impact could be made if we did.

Conclusion:

1. 77,000 unchurched in Delaware County,
2. If stats are correct—over 60,000 would come to church if asked.
3. 30,000 of these are U2 or U1 already are just waiting on an invitation and they are clearly ready to make Christ Lord of their life.
4. Have we as Christians become a little lazy and disobedient? We are called to invest our lives in the lives of others—the messy and lost lives of the unchurched.
5. Do your priorities really reflect a concern for lost people?
6. If we really believe that a person is lost outside of salvation through Christ, we must make the lost and unchurched our priority.