

## **Engaging in Active Christianity**

### **How to Share Your Faith, Lesson 3**

#### **The 4X4 challenge...**

- 1. Identify four people who you will focus on.**
  - 2. Pray for 4 times a week**
  - 3. Invite, intentionally engage**
  - 4. Invest in...**
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#### **Memorize: Matthew 9:36-38**

- ✓ 4 x 4 is not just a program, no more than making disciples is just a program that we do occasionally; **Acts 1:8**. This is who we are!

#### **1. Discipleship is investment, a process of time, energy, prayer, life.**

- ✓ We invest in things like the stock market or real estate, so that we can get higher payoff.
- ✓ We invest in ourselves through education, exercise, diet.
- ✓ Jesus invested in people, 12 of them, and they changed the world.
- ✓ Barnabas invested in Paul; Paul invested in Timothy, Titus, Silas, Mark.

#### **2. Luke 5:27-32 – Perfect example of what it means to invest in someone.**

- ✓ We invest in others when we include them in our lives, and Jesus included Matthew in His life.
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#### **How do we invest?**

##### **1) We invest in others when we notice them.**

- ✓ **Verse 27**; Jesus noticed people that others chose to ignore.
  - ✓ Tax collectors were low-life's; we would call them sociopaths; criminals who cared for themselves above all else.
  - ✓ Everybody ignored them much in same way as we ignore the IRS!
  - ✓ Everybody knew Matthew, and everybody ignored him, except Jesus.
  - ✓ Jesus saw who he was on the inside, a man without God and without hope.
  - ✓ God is a notice-er of people: like Abraham, like a Moabite widow named Ruth; like each one of us.
  - ✓ Now, God wants to notice people through us.
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##### **2) We invest in others when we spend time with them.**

- ✓ Jesus took the time to go to Matthew's party.
  - ✓ Isn't it interesting that a sociopath like Matthew was quickly a witness for Jesus? Where's his training?, Where's his bible app.?
  - ✓ If Matthew couldn't blow it, We can't blow it!
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- ✓ Matthew was an outsider, as were all his friends, but Jesus didn't keep His distance, He reclined right there with them.
  - ✓ **Luke 7:33**; Jesus was sharing Himself with people, investing in the ones that nobody noticed.
  - ✓ Being with them helped them see themselves as God saw them.
  - ✓ Part of our 4 x 4 challenge is to identify, intercede, and invest ourselves in them at least 4 times in a year.
  - ✓ Invite them over, help them with a task, babysit their children...
  - ✓ Ask God for an opportunity.
  - ✓ They may invite you; Matthew gave Jesus an invitation.
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#### **1. We invest in others when we choose not to isolate ourselves.**

- ✓ Lost people's lives are messy and offensive at times.
  - ✓ When we isolate ourselves from them how will they know that they can change?
  - ✓ The Pharisees' response was to isolate themselves; Jesus' response was to share His life with them and give them an opportunity for a new life with Him.
  - ✓ **Verse 32**; it's the sick who need a doctor.
  - ✓ It's the sinners who need hope.
  - ✓ There are so many who see themselves as helpless and hopeless, our attitude is that they are beyond hope and help.
  - ✓ **Isaiah 59:1**
  - ✓ We were brought near because someone invested in us.
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