

✚ We are spending, now, our fourth Sunday on the topic of Jesus on Evangelism. We have learned some important truths that stand to correct some of our modern philosophies of what it means to bring someone to Christ.

1. We don't always tell them first that God loves them and has a plan for their lives, Jesus didn't.

- ✓ This young man is arrogant and thinks he's saving himself, even though he's breaking the first and greatest commandment, "of course God loves me!" was his thought.

2. We don't always tell them first that Jesus is the Savior and "pray this prayer" Jesus didn't.

- ✓ Until they are convinced and assured of Hell as their destination, they will never turn to Jesus for salvation.

3. We do point out their sin, Jesus did.

- ✓ Jesus sent him back to the sin document, the Ten Commandments. He was not ready to hear about the Savior until he was convinced of his sin. The Old Testament is a vital part of New Testament salvation, 2nd Timothy 3:14-17. Paul was not referring to New Testament!

4. We are not interested in temporary converts, Jesus wasn't.

- ✓ This is why Jesus doesn't say "I'm the Savior" or "pray this prayer" or perform some miracle. He does not beg him or follow him as he leaves, instead, He sends him away with the facts of his sin according to the Scriptures, Romans 10:17.

5. We do not give them false reasons to come to Christ, 8of course, Jesus didn't.

- ✓ Never does Jesus or any writer in the New Testament say that a reason to come to Christ is that it will make our lives better, make us feel better, or fix our problems. Jesus never promised a better life for those who trusted Him, in fact, if anything, He promised trials and difficulties, John 16:33. There is no guarantee of peace here, so don't sell them on "you'll have peace in your life here." No guarantee of fixing our relationships or making us better accepted in our day to day lives, so, don't sell them on that, Matthew 10:21-22.
- ✓ There is no promise of getting to fulfill your dreams and goals, so don't sell them on that, Luke 9:23. "People won't feel any need to come to Christ," exactly, there will be no fake or contrived reason for a false decision. Lost people cannot feel any need to come to Christ on their own, Romans 3:10-11. If you talked them into it, they aren't saved, not even Jesus tries to talk this man into it! If they won't move toward God after they have heard what He has to say, they won't be moved toward God after they hear what you have to say! They won't hear your pleas, they won't respond to anything you show them, not even miracles, Luke 16:31 They are dead in their trespasses and sins, you might as well be Ezekiel standing over a pile of dried bones, Ezekiel 37:3 "of course not" was his answer, but he knew God could do anything.

6. "What is impossible with men."

- ✓ It is impossible for us to save anybody or to talk anybody into accepting Christ. This doesn't mean we don't talk to them and it doesn't mean we don't plead, we don't ask, we don't witness, we don't preach, we have to do those things. That is the means by which God has chosen reach people: 1st Corinthians 1:21. Ezekiel just spoke God's words over dry bones and they all came to life, which shouldn't have worked, but it's the only thing that raises the dead!

The word picture here is so incredibly descriptive and accurate, "Forcing camels through eyes of needles". That is what we have been sent to do, no confidence in ourselves or our presentations, but total confidence in Him who will do the impossible if we will obey Him.
