

# Evangelism: Mandate of Every Church

by K.V. Simeon

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of evangelism as a mandate of every church and encourages believers to be committed to sharing the gospel with others.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 13:24, Acts 8:4

**Topics:** "Evangelism"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of directing every conversation towards the Gospel. They encourage believers to think about eternal things in a world obsessed with temporal matters. The speaker also highlights the need to reach out to various groups of people, such as schools, hospitals, prisons, foreigners, and the poor. They remind the audience that the church should not be exclusive but inclusive, welcoming all people. The sermon concludes with a call to share the Gospel with conviction and courage, using every means available to reach every person.

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## Transcript

You know that hymn is very very precious to me because the first time I heard that hymn was through brother Wilson Christian I don't know how many of you would ever know him He is one of our very old brother who is currently in a wheelchair in his 90s in the United States When I came as a young man to Bombay 40 plus years ago, this was a brother who really inspired me to go out into the open air and go out into the fishing etc. I want to read to you a verse that this dear brother when he parted the day before he was leaving for the United States On a Sunday we finished the open air preaching So we dropped him on the roadside of VT station and we were about a dozen of us He looked at us and said these words Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord This is what he said to us in 1 Corinthians 15 and 15 Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord That word still holds so good for every one of us Steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord That brother even now will enquire about every believer in the assembly, pray for them though he is in a wheelchair Whether we are gathered saints or scattered saints, we are seeds Whether we are gathered saints or scattered saints, we are seeds If the seed does not produce fruit and does not multiply, then there is something wrong If the seed does not multiply, then there is something wrong And the subject that has been given to me is the work of the Church, the society and the social order And here the meaning of the Church has been given And Lord Jesus Christ came in the midst of humanity Now out of this, the Lord Jesus calls out a community of

people Now we who have come out of this community have formed another community We take nothing from this world into this world But from this world we can give something to this world What is it that we can give?

What is it that this community can give to this community? What is it that we can give? What is it that this community can give to this community? This community has a lot of needs The sick want to be healed The poor need to be provided The homeless need shelter The broken need comfort Full of needs of every kind Once we too belonged to the same community Now thanks be to God that now we belong to another community But can we be insensitive to this community? Can we forget those from whom we have come out?

If the Lord Jesus came from heaven's community into the earth's community To take this out and form a community What can we give to the world that the Lord Jesus Christ came into? We do not have a monopoly on the Lord Jesus Christ He belongs to the whole world, he is the saviour of the world Without a doubt he is the Lord of the church But he is still the saviour of the world And to the world we need to give him as a saviour every day While the gatherings of the saved ones, the saints are so wonderful But the scattered seeds are so powerful And this seed must work You have a plate of food on your table There is a salt and pepper shaker there You sprinkle that salt and pepper on your food And here he said that we need to sprinkle to this community The light and the salt of the Lord Jesus If we have to do this we should ask ourselves a couple of questions And the brother Thompson mentioned about Those who were scattered preached the word They were not idle The word used there is that they gossiped the gospel I want to do a little exercise Tell me, everyone that is seated here You can individually give me the answer How is it that you came to know the Lord?

How did you really come to know the Lord? What was the method or the means Or what was the instrument that God used For you to come to the Lord? Please feel free to answer Your mother and grandmother told you the gospel Let me put parents Parents told you the gospel Who was your colleague? He was a stranger School friend Evangelist Gospel meeting Sunday school What else? Evangelist I already have got Any other means or methods? House visiting Anything else? Tract This is not the sign of a good teacher anyway By reading the scripture Excellent We will stop at that Is there any other particular instrument Or methods through which Anybody else came to know?

Verse, scripture verse That is part of the question I am sure that all of you can probably say A particular verse of the scripture Which perhaps became the foundation For your faith or coming to the Lord Is that right? I can assume that Whether it be a Sunday school teacher Whether it be a friend Whether it be an evangelist or a gospel meeting Right So in all this The word of God is paramount There are something like Nine instruments or Ways through which the Lord brought Us to get Lord Jesus Tell me If that is what brought you and me To the gospel, to the Lord Jesus Are we employing that Ourselves today?

Do I As an individual Or we as an assembly Visit homes To tell the gospel? Or we have forgotten? Do we as an assembly Encourage parents To train up a child In the way he should come And to tell them the gospel Right from an early age And leading them to the Lord Jesus Or do we still have parents Who cannot even explain the gospel properly? Do we invite an evangelist To tell the gospel to our children? Why? Do we write Print and publish And distribute Tracts and booklets? As an assembly Or as individuals Do we have a commitment To the literature evangelism?

Do you and I believe That as a stranger Walking through the road Meeting another stranger The Lord could provide an opportunity For the gospel? Are we prepared And equipped To communicate the gospel To opportunities That the Lord may bring? Do we have the arms And the ammunitions With us To employ them As in when God provides the opportunity? Do we believe That the scripture Is the word that is able to make Us unto salvation? Do we believe that the scriptures Are the words of life Eternal?

Do we have that In our hearts and lips To employ appropriately At the opportune moments? Do we tell our children In the schools and colleges And our workplaces To share the gospel? Mothers will pack the lunch For the children Why can't we pack a little gospel Or a tract into their bags? Do we have the support And the prayer And the encouragement That an evangelist needs And to be a co-worker With such people in the things of the gospel? Do we have gospel oriented Meetings? Not once a year as a convention But as a regular gospel meeting Either in the homes of believers Or in the assembly place Or in a rented premises Wherever the Lord could provide opportunities?

Do we have a Sunday school Where not only our children But the outside children Are invited Brought in, bused in, fished in And taught the scriptures To bring them to the Lord Jesus? If these nine methods Were used by God In our case What would have happened If it did not come to you? How serious it would be For us not to use the same instruments Can we shut up the light in a bush?

Only the light can dispel darkness Only the words of life Can bring to light the dead men So evangelism Is not an option, it is a mandate That which saved you and me Has to save others We often sing the chorus Everybody ought to know Who Jesus is Everybody ought to tell who Jesus is Everybody ought to know And you must have seen it in the news That all who believed They gave their consent To their faith Believing in the heart Has to be followed with Accompanied with confession with the mouth That confession is not limited To the time that you were born again Saying that I believe in the Lord Jesus And I confess with my mouth A believer's life is a life of confession Of his faith And God honors those who confess him He confesses those who confess him I do not need to tell you That the

words that are used Witness, testimony, confess Speak, preach All these words Peter and John were shut up in the prison And then they were sent out with warning Not to preach any longer In the name of the Lord Jesus Peter says how can we not speak Of the things that we have seen and heard There are many people among the believers Who say let my life speak This is a transcriptural way of trying To protect yourself If we believe we must confess And preach or speak the gospel And God honors that God brings fruits out of that Now look at this The world of need before us We cannot meet those needs But we can meet the greatest need of man In the world of marketing If you were to say that Gospel is a product This is the only product That every human being needs If I make some glasses It will

only be bought by few people Who need the glasses If I make shirts Only men will buy shirts Hopefully women won't buy shirts But think of the gospel Every human being needs that And we have that Why should we hesitate To give that to them God has promised The fruits out of what he would do God says I have put into this Earthen vessel The divine treasure The vessel is weak But the treasure is precious Like the case of Gideon Let the vessels be broken Let the treasure flow out This world is looking for something That they can hold on to This world is like a ship Without a rudder Men's souls do not know What to hang their upon But we have the gospel Peter would say silver and gold Have I none but such as I have I give to you Peter would say silver and gold Have I none but such as I have I

give to you How do we make this practical Every church The gathered company of God's people Ought to be committed to the gospel Every church The gathered company of God's people Ought to be committed to the gospel Let me tell you this The gospel is the mother of the church Without the gospel there would not be church Evangelism Is the means through which The local churches are born If you want to see the local church grow If you want to see the local church multiply If you want to see the local church strengthen itself If you want the local church to be more powerful then evangelism is a must The Lord Jesus Christ has delegated the commitment of evangelization to the Church of God One thing that God has delegated the principle of delegation is that you cannot delegate it to somebody else

If my boss has delegated a responsibility to me, a work to me I have no rights to delegate it to somebody else I am responsible and I am accountable The Church of God has been entrusted with the Gospel We are the stewards of the Gospel and we must be faithful We can make the Gospel known or evangelization provided first of all we are accessible and available Do we have the time, the energy and the willingness to go through the inconveniences of giving the Gospel Are we inviting and welcoming enough for strangers for the unwanted for the poor, the needy to come to us We are the ambassadors or representatives of the Lord Jesus How did so many people come to David in the cave of Adulam There was an attraction towards this man The Spirit of God had anointed this man Are you and I not anointed

We don't take the place of the Lord Jesus but we stand as his representatives in this world Do we go and reach out Do we care and share These are all ways and means through which the Gospel or evangelism can be done When it comes to the Gospel When it comes to the Gospel Here in the 8th chapter we see Philippos who proclaims the Gospel Here is the man who went from Jerusalem to Samaria First of all it should tell us he broke the barrier The Lord Jesus broke the barrier by confronting the Samaritan woman Most of the time when we want to do something for the Lord we begin to think of the barriers and the problems and the obstacles We come with ideas as to how things cannot be done But the Lord says I am able to break those barriers So he went into the city of Samaria Wonderful!

The Gospel was preached He preached Jesus Christ and he preached the word of God He preached Christ crucified But he also finds some counterfeit faith there But the Lord takes care of that Don't worry! When you do the work there will be some weeds here and there The Lord of the harvest knows how to deal with them But suddenly the Lord plans from the city evangelistic adventure of Philip to the desert to meet with one man That is something very important for us to learn We all like to stand at the pulpit and preach We don't want to waste time for one soul And we tend to value the soul depending upon the social standing or the intellect or the wisdom or the position or the wealth Remember in the presence of God there is no soul with any difference Gospel is a great leveler All are sinners All need the same saviour All must repent and come to the faith and the knowledge of Jesus Christ Do not try to say that I am born to communicate only to the intellectual community Do not look at the potential from outside as Samuel would see As for God, the potential of a human being is the potential the creator can do through that human being The potential of a child of God to do work for God is the potential of the Lord Jesus Christ in that life and the potential of God's child in that life who can do work is the potential of the Lord Jesus Christ I was reading a book on John Bunyan and it is said that John Bunyan was such an illiterate man when he was given the position of a pastor in a church they ridiculed the idea because he was not a learned man of that day When he was appointed as the pastor of a church, people used to mock him because he was illiterate. And think about D.L. Moody.

He was an illiterate. He was not an educated person. But through him, God manifested his potential.

Societal barriers when it comes to the gospel. It could be a lonely work on one to one basis or it could be a work with a multitude of people. The Lord has said to every child of God, go in my name.

He has said to every child of God, be my witnesses. He has given the privilege to every child of God to testify concerning him. He has given the privilege to every child of God to testify concerning him.

We will move from Philip to Saul of Tarsus. It is not only the individuals that must go, but it is also the church that must send. It is not only the individuals that must go, but it is also the church that must send.

When there is a willing child of God, there has to be a willing church to go with that brother or sister. Our interests are converging on the same gospel. Our interests are converging on the same gospel.

And the local church and the individual child of God are concerned about the souls that are being destroyed. Ask yourself and your church. When was the last time someone was sent for the work of preaching gospel? And what are the works in your church that are related to preaching gospel? And what encouragement do we give our soldiers to preach this gospel? And what efforts do we make to bring people from outside to hear the gospel or to bring the gospel to them? We have the church in Antioch.

Both are ideal. Then go to the Philippian church. Concerning the Philippian believers, the church, Paul writes in Philippians 1.5 In Philippians 1.5 he writes about the Philippians' fellowship in the gospel.

From the day one. For you gospel meant everything. And I have been blessed through your fellowship in the gospel.

What is our fellowship in the gospel? It is not just the local community. What is the level of our vision? Look at the neighborhood around us. Are there schools and colleges that we can reach out to? Are there hospitals and prisons we can reach out to? Are there foreigners and people who are strangers in the town whom we can reach out to? Are there slums and poor and downtrodden that we can reach out to? Do not leave anyone.

The church is not a gathering of a select club of people. That is a very dangerous thing. That is a very dangerous thing.

Do not make any request. And bring all the garbage of the world to hear the good news. That will be their reward.

Then we go to the Thessalonian church. 1 Thessalonians 1 verse 8 What do we read about them? From you sounded out. And we read here.

The word was sounded out and your faith was made known to everywhere around. The church is not like a Masonic club of secrets. Gospel is a public message.

At the birth of the Lord Jesus, the angels of heaven sang glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and goodwill toward men. The angels of heaven sang glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and goodwill toward men. And the poor and downtrodden were encouraged to go and see the disciples.

Whether the world in which we live today, whether they want it or whether they desire it, they need it and we must give. That is why Paul would say I am a debtor. I am not ashamed.

And I am ready. Now this should be our principle. As individuals, as the local church, I am a debtor to the world.

I am a debtor of the Gospel. I have no right to hold it to myself. I will spend and be spent for the Gospel sake.

I am not ashamed of the Gospel because it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes. I will never be ashamed of it. And I am ready and I am ready to give the Gospel.

Go back to your assembly and my assembly. How many of our young people can stand up and give a testimony of the Gospel. Articulate the message of the Gospel in all its fullness.

The Gospel must not only be preached but it must be taught to the people of God. The Gospel was there in the four Gospels. But why did the Holy Spirit of God give us the Romans episode? It is a teaching of the Gospel.

Do our children understand what they believe? Do they have the conviction and the courage to share the Gospel? Will they exchange their faith, anything in this world? Or will they hold on it as dear to their lives? So if the Gospel that came to us through these means We must make sure every means available to every man, to every woman, everywhere, every time we must give. We must be ready. How many of you have ATM cards? I would think that there are many who don't have.

There are not many who do not have. Every bank is willing to give you plenty of those. The Gospel ought to be an ATM message to everyone in our hearts.

When by word or deed the Gospel must go out. And the Lord will send His blessing. There will be great times of revival.

There is another hymn which I don't know all the lines. Must I go empty handed? Must I meet my Saviour without a soul? Let us not hand over the responsibility of evangelism to the select evangelist. Let us not hand over the ministry of the Gospel and evangelization to IEM and Missionary Prayer Fellowship Band or UESI or whatever it is.

Gospel is a sacred treasure that God has put into our lives which we must share. Every member of the body of Christ under the direction of the head of the church must give out the Gospel. Every member of the body of Christ under the direction of the head of the church must give out the Gospel.

I was going with the driver and he said Ganpati, Dussehra and Diwali have arrived. Then I told him like this. One true living God created one man.

But man has created many Gods. See God created one man and one man makes how many Gods? This man was taken aback. Most of my friends for the Gospel are auto rickshaw drivers.

Very seldom I meet an auto rickshaw driver who would not take a Gospel. There are some, very few. But I have some auto rickshaw drivers who ask me for an extra Gospel and give it to their friends.

Some ask for a Bible or a New Testament. You know we can cultivate a catchment for each one of us. Find out what is the field in which you must sow.

If you are a teacher it could be the students. If you are a factory worker it could be the colleagues. Wherever God sends you out, wherever God has placed you.

Remember you are an evangelist. The Gospel must sound forth from you and me. Our labour will not be in vain.

What a wonderful promise that is. See our God gives us the guarantee. With joy and thanksgiving let us go forward.

Sowing in the morning, sowing at noontime, sowing at the eventide. What a wonderful thing it is. May the Lord enable us to carry on.

His coming is very soon. You know everyday's newspaper is enough to start a conversation with somebody to tell the Gospel. But we must lead that conversation to Christ, the Gospel.

There are plenty of contemporary events and conditions of humanity. Which can bring the word of Christ as something meaningful to their lives. Unless we begin to think thoughts concerning the Gospel.

We will not be able to speak concerning the Gospel. Every conversation can be directed towards the Gospel. The world's idea and God's idea.

The world's problems and God's provision. This sacred book which we carry in our hand. It's full of answers for the needs of mankind.

Think of things that are eternal when man is obsessed with temporal. We have believed the Gospel. We must live the Gospel.

We must communicate the Gospel. We cannot give an excuse. Thank you.

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