

Quarter Two: Growing in a Relationship with God

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Lesson 12—Share Him

Monday: Unforced but with Power

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- **Last Week:** “Setbacks”
 - The role of trials in the believer’s life to strengthen our relationship with Christ
- **This Week:** “Share Him”
 - How to witness for Jesus, both by our own experience and from the Word

Memory Text: “‘The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned’” (Isa 50:4, NKJV).

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Out of the Overflow (James)
 - Matt 28:18 – 20: Great Commission witnessing in the early church; how to witness today
- 2. **Monday:** Unforced but with Power (Jill)
 - Various Scriptures – motivation to witness; love for the lost; witnessing without force
- 3. **Tuesday:** Tips for Sharing Jesus (Ryan)
 - 1 Pet 3:8 – 15 – “how to” tips for sharing Jesus
- 4. **Wednesday:** A Wandering Child (John D)
 - Various Scriptures – Ephraim (God’s people) & Gomer & God’s love extended for all, even the wayward
- 5. **Thursday:** Bring Them Back (John L)
 - Zech 10 – how to live with & love those who have left God

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2 Cor 5:14; Jer 20:9; Gen 2:16, 17; Gen 7:1; Deut 4:29–31; Matt 4:23–25; 9:36; 23:37; Rev 12:11; 2 Pet 3:18

- **Two Concepts in Monday’s portion:**
 - 1. Motivation for witnessing
 - 2. Gentleness in witnessing (how to witness without force)
 - Both tied together in one concept: love
 - God’s love toward us
 - His love in us toward others

- **Motivation for witnessing:**

- **1. Love**

- Rom 5:8 – “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
 - He loved first: 1 John 4:19 – we love because He first loved us
 - 2 Cor 5:14 – “For the love of Christ compels us...”
 - Love is the motivating factor

- **2. Compassion**

- Matt 9:35, 36 – “Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. (36) But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with **compassion** for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”
 - Compassion = Gk, “to have compassion, have the bowels yearn, feel sympathy” - occurs 12 times in Matt, Mark & Luke
 - Highlights a Spirit-wrought emotion in which the whole inner being is stirred toward merciful action
 - Verb tied almost exclusively to ministry of Jesus
 - Compassion becomes the hinge between human need & divine intervention
 - Pattern: Jesus sees – is moved – acts
 - 3 exceptions:
 - Prodigal Son – father moved with compassion
 - Good Samaritan – felt compassion on the injured man
 - Father with demon-possessed son – asked Jesus directly: have compassion on us & help us
 - Compassion moves us from feelings (love) to action

- **3. Experience**

- Acts 4:20 – “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”
 - Peter & John – called before Sanhedrin & commanded not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus
 - Illiterate, inexperienced in the ways of the world
 - Had experienced Jesus; couldn’t help but share
 - 1 John 1:1 – 3 – “That which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes, which we have **looked** upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—... (3) that which we have seen and heard we declare to you...”
 - Heard = Gk, “to hear; to give in the audience of”
 - Seen = Gk, “to stare at, to gaze with wide open eyes”
 - Looked = Gk, “to look closely at”
 - Handled = “to verify by touch”

- **4. Compulsion**
 - Jer 20:9 – “Then I said, ‘I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name.’ But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back and I could not.”
 - Part of Jeremiah’s Sixth Confession
 - Unparalleled in any other biblical book
 - Autobiographical depictions of Jeremiah’s struggles with the burdens of ministry
 - People criticized Jeremiah’s messages & calling
 - Vs 9 - He tried to be quiet to save himself suffering, but his calling was stronger
 - Holding back God’s Word or calling will consume the messenger
 - We are constrained by the burning Word within
- Gentleness in witnessing—**how to witness without force:**
 - We can witness with—
 - Obligation
 - Force
 - Guilt / shame / condemnation
 - Nagging
 - Fear
 - Instead:
 - **1. Speak with love**
 - Eph 4:15 – “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—”
 - Speak the truth, but with love
 - Jesus = the Truth (John 14:6)
 - **2. Speak when called**
 - Eccl 3:1, 7 – “To everything there is a season, A time to every purpose under heaven. ... (7) ... A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;”
 - Matt 28:18 – 20 – called to “Go ye” – teach, baptize, disciple
 - Matt 5:16 – called to “let our light shine”
 - Acts 1:8 – called to be His **witnesses** in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria & whole world
 - Witness = *martoos*’ = “eye or ear witness”
 - Eph 6:19 – called to boldly proclaim the mystery of the gospel
 - 2 Cor 5:20 – called to be ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us
 - **3. Speak with choice + consequences**
 - Biblical examples:
 - Adam & Eve: could eat of the fruit, or not
 - Did they trust God knew better than the serpent?
 - Antediluvians: could enter the boat, or not
 - Did they trust God that there would literally be a flood & the ark would provide safety?

- Abram: could follow the call out of Ur, or not
 - Did he trust God to leave everything behind on God's call?
- Abraham: could obey God's command RE: his only son, or not
 - Did he trust God's command, when it went against his knowledge of God's character?
- Esther: could enter the king's presence uncalled for, or not
 - Did she trust God at the risk of her life?
- Elijah: could stand for God on Mt Carmel, or not
 - Did he trust God in the face of ridicule, torture or death?
- Moses: could trust God to part the Red Sea, provide food & water in the wilderness, conquer Canaan, or not?
- Mary: could accept God's call to bear the Messiah, or not
 - Did she trust this was God's voice?
- Paul: could accept Jesus as Messiah, or not (Acts 9)
 - In each case, **choice distills down to trust**: when we trust God, we're willing to choose His way
 - Witnessing involves sharing the character of God
- Josh 24:15 – "...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
- **Motivation for witnessing:**
 - 1. Love: moved by Christ
 - 2. Compassion: moved from love inside to actions / deeds
 - 3. Experience: compelled by what we have seen & heard
 - 4. Compulsion: constrained by the burning Word within
- **How to witness without force:**
 - 1. Speak with love
 - 2. Speak when called
 - 3. Speak with choice + consequences: choice involves trust
 - Share the character of God