

Renewed Evangelism

All Things New #14 | 1 Peter 3:13-22

April 3, 2022

Introduction

- How do you know if someone is a vegan? Don't worry, they'll tell you.
 - Also Crossfit. What if a vegan does Crossfit?
- Humans are natural evangelists, we love to share what we love

Sharing Jesus

- People who encountered Jesus wanted to tell someone, he often shut it down!
- Especially at the beginning, we *want* to tell others. And we're *commanded* to.
 - Analogy: excited little kid either met with apathy or mockery
 - There's a temptation to pull back

1 Peter written to encourage "exiles" | followers of Jesus living all over, facing soft/hard persecution

Central Command

1 Peter 3 ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. **Do not fear them or be intimidated,** ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

- Quoting from Isaiah 8
- Don't fear them, do fear the Lord, be prepared

How do I do that? Four ways to prepare: 1) Know the background, 2) know Jesus as Messiah, 3) know how to respond to Jesus, 4) know how to respond to barriers.

Know the Background

1. God created all things | supernatural world, contra materialism
2. Humans bear his image | beloved humans, contra naturalism
3. Something has gone wrong | real problems, contra buddhism
4. God promised to make it right | an involved God, contra deism

*Knowing this background may help you in conversations with non-Christians, because it's really hard to get to Jesus if the paths diverge.

Know the Messiah

1. Jesus Christ | Messiah = the story of Israel
2. Holy | Utterly unique and set apart
3. Substitute | The righteous for the unrighteous
4. Victorious | Made alive by the Spirit
5. Ruling | Ascended to heaven, authorities subjected

Response 1 | Repentance

1 Peter 3 ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God.

- In order to receive, there must be an acknowledgement that you are “the unrighteous”

Response 2 | Allegiance

1 Peter 3 ²¹ Baptism...now saves you (not as the removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- Often repent and *believe* | or *faith* or *trust*
- Peter highlights faith in a more active way (similar to the Apostle James)
- The way that you demonstrate your faith is real is by pledging loyalty and living it out

Baptism saves you? This stresses people out! “I thought it was by grace alone through faith alone”

- Here Peter is emphasizing the need to act on what has happened in the heart
- Translations: appeal to God for a good conscience, or pledge to God from a good conscience? *Both have validity, I lead toward the “pledge to” side of things.*

R. Alan Streett How then does baptism save or deliver the seeker? Surely H2O contains no salvific properties. Neither do humans have innate ability to save themselves. While the flood was a saving event, God was the savior. He saved Noah through the flood. In like fashion, baptism delivers the believers from judgment “through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” ...When Christ-followers submit to baptism they identify in a demonstrative way with Christ’s ignominious death and glorious resurrection, and pledge their loyalty to God and his kingdom. Brooks calls it “the drama of decision.” Such a public act in the first century was not taken lightly. To side with Christ was to stand opposed to Imperial Rome and its Lord Caesar. This may explain why these Christ-followers were facing trials by fire.

- Alvaro’s pledge of naturalization
- Easter / baptisms in a few weeks. Know the significance!

So, now you 1) know the backstory, 2) know the Messiah, 3) know the response

- Earlier in 1 Peter 1:25 *the gospel that was proclaimed to you*, now I GOTTA tell others!
- As we follow Jesus, we begin to notice some barriers that come up

Know the Barriers

1. Lack of preparation | vs 15
 - a. **Gospel vs. testimony**
2. Fear of man | vs 14, 16 (accuse, disparage)
 - a. This is more what we experience. And it still hurts!
3. Fear of suffering | vs 14, 17 (suffering)
 - a. This is experienced by others around the world.
 - b. I hope we never experience it, but if we do, well...*Christ suffered to bring us to God*
4. Combative attitude | vs 16
 - a. Link between gentleness and respect. Respect means “you are a valuable human”

5. Weird parts of the bible | vs 19-20
 - a. This verse gets into Nephilim, the offspring in Genesis 6
 - b. Don't ignore the weird/uncomfortable parts, they're often really important!
 - c. One of the reasons we're going to go through Leviticus is to deal with objections
6. Apathy | vs 21
 - a. Be ready. You don't get there by being apathetic!

Renewed Evangelism

1. Pray for their salvation
2. Prepare yourself
3. Present in context
 - a. Parents prison ministry vs. my suburban ministry
 - b. They don't think they *deserve* grace, we don't think we *need* grace
4. Persevere as exiles | nobody ever said this was going to be easy