Telling People About Jesus September 4, 2022

*Colossians 4:2-6 Series: Jesus: Underestimated*

Oh, if I could only pray the way this dog watches the meat! All his thoughts are concentrated on the piece of meat. Otherwise he has no thought, wish or hope. – Martin Luther

Intro: I tried it your way, but I got tired

1. We need persistent prayer to reach people with the gospel
2. The attitude of our prayer: persistent and grateful

v. 2 *Continue steadfastly in prayer …*

Luke 18:1 *they ought always to pray and not lose heart*

*v. 2 being watchful in it*

Ephesians 6:18 *keep alert with all perseverance*

*v. 2 with thanksgiving*

1. The content of our prayer: opportunity and clarity

v. 3 *that God may open to us a door for the word*

v. 3 *to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison*

Ephesians 6:20 *I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak*

v. 4 *that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak*

Ephesians 6:19 *that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel*

* Why would God need to remind us to “continue steadfastly in prayer”? When are you tempted to give up?
* How can you keep your focus on open doors for the Word rather than just open doors for your life?
* How can we share the gospel more clearly?

1. We need consistent living to reach people with the gospel
2. People don’t listen when our lives don’t display wisdom

v. 5 *Walk in wisdom toward outsiders …*

1. Speak as if every conversation could be your last

v. 5 *making the best use of the time*

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 *This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.*

* How can Christians needlessly create obstacles to the gospel by the way that they live?
* Where do you most need wisdom in the way you can act toward non-Christians?
* In business, time management is a frequent topic. What does it mean for a Christian to make “the best use of the time”?

1. We need grace-filled words to reach people with the gospel
2. Fill all your conversations with grace and you’ll whet people’s appetite for the gospel

v. 6 *Let your speech always be gracious …*

Acts 6:8 *And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.*

Acts 6:10 *they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking*

1. Don’t forget to season your words

v. 6 *seasoned with salt*

Luke 14:34 *Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?*

1. Listen well enough that people will hear you

v. 6 *so that you may know how you ought to answer each person*

* What does it mean for all of our conversations to be marked by grace (not just the ones where we want to share the gospel)? Why is that important for evangelism?
* Have you ever talked with a Christian who spoke with “no seasoning”? Why is that a problem?
* Why are grace and salt more important than deep theological learning in answering the questions non-Christians have about the gospel?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Matthew 28:16-20

Notes