

JESUS ONE-ON-ONE

Although Jesus did spend much of his time addressing crowds there were occasions when he took time-out to speak to individuals, addressing their personal needs, meeting them where they are, and bringing the Gospel into their life situations. Jesus did not wait for people to come to him - he put himself into their path, making his opportunities. This is the goal of scriptures such as Luke 14:23 (“...go into the highways and hedges”) and Acts 1:8 (“...be witnesses...unto the uttermost part”). Those who need Jesus are everywhere, you won't have far to go!! Consider these examples of Jesus ministering “one-on-one” from the Gospel of John and see how you can apply their lessons to your witnessing efforts:



“A Guy In A Garden” [John 3]



- Go to **where** they are (sometimes risky...this garden was a place thieves frequented)
- Know **who** they are (Nicodemus was a member of the Sanhedrin, a rabbi and a scholar)
- Sow **what** they need (this time straight to the Gospel, John 3:16, but with others use wisdom and always the leading of the Holy Spirit. [Your testimony will not change lives but it will encourage them. Tell them that they need to be and can be changed.]

‘Beating around the bush will only knock off the leaves’ - Get to the heart, speak with enthusiasm & conviction

“The Woman At The Well” [John 4]



Though hungry and weary, Jesus was still ready to minister to this woman of a different race, culture, and social standing. He began with a circumstance they both shared in common (needing a drink of water). But he guided her to look inward at the more important need in her life. People want someone with whom they can bear their soul, who is willing to help them to ‘bear their burdens’. Condemnation of their past will not win their trust in the present nor help to change their future. Love like Christ - forgive and forget!

Give respect to their ‘religious questions’ even if it is just a guise or ruse - they may have read but not understood!

“People By The Pool” [John 5]

This man's greatest need was that he was lost [didn't know the Messiah] but Jesus allowed him to tell his story first. Then he met the man's physical need so that it would open the door to his spiritual one. Also, don't get too busy at the “feast” to take time to help the “least”!!



“A Lady Who Was Lost” [John 8]

This was a good example of “think before you speak”! (Jesus wrote in the sand - maybe to clear his own thoughts, maybe to let them clear theirs) Saying to ourselves, “If not for God's grace there go I” will help keep us from being judgmental.



Biblical repentance means “go and sin no more” (Jn 8:11) Just being ‘sorry’ isn't enough - change your lifestyle!

“The Man Blind From Birth” [John 9]

Once again, first things first: Jesus met the man's physical need before he could “see” his spiritual one. The Lord later showed compassion by finding him after he was ‘cast out’. Empathy for other people's troubles will win their trust and open their hearts (see Rom 12:15) Avoid the ‘blame game’ as well as “useless excuses” v.1-3. What matters is how to fix what's broken (v.6,7) and to save a lost soul (v.35-38)



“Soothing The Sorrowful Sisters” [John 11]

Jesus went on to Judea even though it would be taking a ‘risk’ (v.7-11). Some times it takes a ‘risk’ to win the lost!! It was the Lord's open display of emotion that said more than his words (v.32-36) Sometimes just a look of concern, a gentle touch, a shared tear, will do the most good until a ‘better time’ comes. Ours is a gospel of compassion about a loving Father in heaven.



“Having Patience With The Pilates” [John 18]



Everyone deserves a chance (even our “worst enemies” ...see Mat 5:44 and Rom 12:20,21) Often the treatment we receive is really their attempt to get at the ‘Jesus’ in us! (Read John 15:18 with Mat 5:11,12) Darkness hates light - to them we're just “too bright”! Even though Pilate was sarcastic and confrontational Jesus calmly explained who he was and why he was here (v.33-37). Read 19:8-16. Pilate came under conviction until the crowd changed his mind. Do not let the opinion of others or a concern about other things disrupt or distract. Keep the focus on Jesus and stay on course! Most of all, remember that the best way to deal with an “enemy” is to make him a “brother” in Christ.