

People Matter to God. People Matter to Me.

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Sunday, July 29, 2018

Luke 19:1-10(NLT)

#1. Jewish Tax Collectors were known for cheating the people.

#2. Jewish Tax Collectors worked for Rome.

Recent surveys are revealing that spiritual interest is at an all time high in our culture. But at the same time church attendance is decreasing. Even Christians, who once viewed weekly worship as a non-negotiable in their life-are now finding other interest to occupy their time instead of faithfully going to church.

#1. The Great Commission:

Matt. 28:19-20(NLT)~ “⁹Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

“you ought to be sharing Jesus; why aren’t we doing more; if he did so much for us-why aren’t we doing more for him; how many neighbors have you witnessed too? Never leave your house without a witnessing track, you should be ashamed if you don’t tell somebody about Jesus everyday...”

A recent pastoral survey revealed that only 14% of Pastors claim their church is heavily involved in evangelism. Only one out of three churches have classes on how to witness or share the gospel.

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*Sharing our faith and witnessing to friends is very easy, when we become aware of opportunities to tell our story, in response to needs in their life.*

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John 4:6-19(NLT)

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**John 4:28-30(NLT)**

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John 4:39(NLT)

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*Witnessing, sharing our faith, is easy-it's simply looking for an opportunity to share your story in response to the need in another's life.*

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Evangelism, witnessing and sharing our faith should be a by-product of Christ-like values that are a part of our spiritual DNA.

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*#1. The Great Commission:*

Matt. 28:19(NLT)~ “<sup>9</sup>Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations...

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#2- The Great Commandment

Matt. 22:37-39(NLT)~³⁷ Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

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Luke 19:5-6(NLT)

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People come to Christ one life at a time- and usually through the influence of one or two authentic Christians who have built genuine relationships with them.

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Luke 19:5(NLT)-<sup>5</sup> When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.”

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“people don’t care how much you know; until they know you care...”

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Luke 19:6(NLT)-<sup>6</sup> Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy

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Zacchaeus knew how unholy he was, and he knew something very important about Jesus- Zacchaeus knew that Jesus was not a “finger pointing Jesus but a welcoming Jesus.”

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John 9:1-5(NKJV)

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Relationships are not developed with the unsaved when you view Jesus as a finger pointer.

