

**Prestonwood Connection 2005**

**#1 Everyday Evangelism**

**Choosing to Witness Some Way Every Day!**

**Mark 10:45**

Wednesday, January 26, 2005 • Dr. David McKinley

[Dr. McKinley, message #1 *Everyday Evangelism* ] <206>

*(After a long pause...he comes walking in from the choir loft.)*

Well, good evening, [slight congregation laughter] you know it's amazing what a..., a minute of waiting can do to create a..., a sense of uncertainty about what's supposed to happen next, isn't it? A..., you guys did good. I'm glad you didn't leave. I was afraid you might all just disappear. But a..., you've heard that a pause can be a pregnant pause as writing or speaking, but sometimes a pause can begin to create a sense of uncertainty and even anxiety. A..., Rick were you wondering where I was? Tryin to figure out what was supposed to happen next? I didn't tell him I was going to do this so I knew that he was panicked thinkin am I supposed to get more music, what's supposed to happen next? [congregation laughter] Everybody's just waiting. But I did that because a..., I really wanted to demonstrate tonight that it seems like when it comes to the subject of witnessing it's sort of an awkward thing for us, a..., we...we kinda know the moments coming when something's about to happen or supposed to happen, but the reality is that a..., we just kinda struggle with it. It creates a lot of uncertainty and it creates a lot of fear and a lot of anxiety and so one thing that I think we know very clearly is that both believers and unbelievers have their own apprehensions about the subject of witnessing. A..., we really a..., don't like to feel the awkwardness of a..., starting something or...or...or engaging someone in a conversation and because of that a..., there's a sense in which we really are not sure what to do or how to do it, a..., not sure what's going to happen and so there a...just a tension there when in your heart and life you know that you probably could take a step and share Christ with someone, but the reality is that a..., you're not sure you wanna go acrossed that threshold with that person and the awkward and the uncomfortable feelings that you have in that discussion often cause you to just decide maybe it's easier to back away. It's certainly true of other people as we begin to speak with them, especially if we just give them a line, it's not long until they're trying to figure out how to get out of there.

A..., I also did what I did just a moment ago because I wanted to prove another point and that is that if we were to be really honest, for many of us witnessing evangelism is kinda a no-show experience for us. What I mean by that is...is you come to church, we have great music and you expect that when it's time for the message that the pastor's gonna step up and speak. That's his responsibility, but if I say to you that witnessing is your

responsibility it's easy for each of us to just say I'm not gonna show. Heh! I'm not gonna do that and yet we really can't, because just as there was an absence on this platform tonight when it was time for the pastor to stand and to speak there's an absence in life when we do not engage ourselves in the work to which Jesus Christ has called us. I don't know how many guests we have here tonight. I know we have some, because it's ~~rare for us to ever have people come to Prestonwood and a...~~ rare for us to have a...a gathering at Prestonwood and not have guests who come. But one thing that would have been very awkward would have been if nothing had continued to happen. Heh! And eventually Rick tried to get out here and started calling and tryin to figure out where I was and what was going on and if I never showed up at all then some people would have left here tonight and gone out and said, you know the weirdest thing, I went and visited at Prestonwood and the pastor never came. [congregation laughter] I don't know what they do over there, but that was really weird. And you know that's what people say about some of us. What they say about us is...is you know I know he or she goes to Prestonwood but that's really all I know. I don't really know that it really matters. Heh! Because they've never heard a witness of Jesus Christ. They've never heard the message. They may know something about your association, but they've never heard the witness, the message and so I simply have tried to take a few minutes at the beginning of this service tonight to change and disrupt things a little bit, to create a little bit of discomfort, to point out something that I think is a living illustration of...of something that's important to you and to me and yet something that is easy for us to shy away from, back away from and excuse ourselves from in the Christian life and it that all important subject of evangelism, of witnessing, of sharing our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. And yet I believe that most of us in this room tonight who have come into a relationship with Christ where by we would call ourselves followers of Jesus Christ know and understand that one of the things that Jesus has called us to do is that we are to be witnesses. Wherever we go and what ever we do we are to be His witnesses. And so starting tonight and for the next few weeks I want to begin to talk about this subject, a subject that I wanna call *everyday EVANGELISM, everyday EVANGELLISM*, because as I read the Scripture I read and I see that this is something that is very clear, it's not hidden, it's not subtle, it's specific, it's something that is restated over and over in the Scripture and that is that God intends for you and to me to be about His business in the course of life day in and day out and so because I believe that to be evident in the Scripture, I believe it's something that we need to face off with in life and face up to in life so that we can begin to a..., know and to discover something of the joy and of the blessing that God intends for us to know as the result of being living witnesses for Christ living every day and knowing and focusing on the subject of evangelism. In fact the way I'm going to refer to it is that we are to be about every day evangelism and here's really what I want you to capture that we want to all develop a mindset, to choose to witness some way every day, *everyday EVANGELISM* is choosing to witness some way every day. When you see that big "e" does it remind you of an eye chart? Well, I want you to know that's exactly what I want to do with you and with me. I want us to get a fresh focus in life. I want us to take time to check our eyes and to ask

ourselves some very important questions about how we see life and how we see what God has called and commanded us to do as His followers and what I really want us to do is to come to a time in life where we begin to refocus who we are and what we do in light of what God desires and that God would use the next few weeks in this study in our lives to begin to reshape our vision for how we see and how we live life every single day. I want you to get a new vision, a fresh vision, a fresh passion for what God wants to do in and through your life in this area of evangelism. Now maybe you're sitting here tonight and you're immediately thinking, why should I think about evangelism everyday? I mean every day? I mean I go to church on the weekends and our church preaches the gospel and people get saved and come down the aisles and you know, so I kinda participate at least weekly. God, doesn't that count, it's weekly? That's pretty regular. Or some of us may tend to think well you know I've been a part of special events and...and I wanna be a part of those things and you know I...I've attended the Billy Graham Crusade when...when Billy was here at Texas Stadium and...and I'll always try to do something like that but every day, that's a little demanding isn't it? And some of us tonight are thinking, isn't that what preachers are supposed to do? Aren't they supposed to be the ones who preach the gospel? Yes, but according to the Bible it's what every Christian is supposed to do and therefore I have just had a fresh stirring in my own heart that I need to always personally, not in the pulpit, not in preaching, not in the things that you see me do, but in my daily life, every day I need to be choosing to be a witness for Jesus Christ and I need to find ways to be specific and intentional about that witness and so what I want us to do is tonight I want us to take the Gospel of Mark, it is the second book of the New Testament, it is the smallest of the gospels and I want us to look tonight, beginning tonight at the Gospel of Mark and I want us to begin to see something and to develop something of a mindset in the arena of this subject of *everyday EVANGELISM*. Now as you're turning to the Gospel of Mark, I mentioned to you that it's the shortest of the gospels a..., but it's a gospel that is very simple and very easy to see and to know the theme of this gospel. Mark presents Jesus Christ as the Servant of the Lord, the servant of the Lord. We know that a..., He has presented is the King in Matthew. He is the true King, the spiritual King, establishing the spiritual kingdom and over and over in the gospel of Matthew, Matthew would write something and he would say,...

*...these things happened that it might be fulfilled.*

And he was demonstrating that Jesus was the fulfillment of the prophets a..., who had gone before and that Jesus was the fulfillment of what God had promised as a Messiah and a King to rule over His people. We read in the Gospel of John about the Son of God, the Son of God; that Jesus is not just a man, that He is God in the flesh and the Deity of Christ is emphasized in the Gospel of John. But in the Gospel of Mark we read about the Servant of the Lord and if there is a key verse, a verse that summarizes the overarching theme of the Gospel of Mark, it's Mark chapter 10 in verse 45 where it says:

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life a ransom for many."*

He didn't come to be served, but to serve and give His life a ransom for many. Here we see the Servant of the Lord. Here we see that Jesus came to be on active duty and that what we see of Christ presented in the Gospel of Mark is certainly intended to be seen in my life and in your life as we are servants of the Lord serving and living here in 2005.

There's something else though, very important about the Gospel of Mark and that is the pace of this book. A..., the most frequently used work in the Gospel of Mark is the word immediately. It's used 42 times, just like immediately...immediately...immediately. There's a sense of being in a hurry, a pace of a rush of something that's happening in this book. In fact a..., even more that that it's almost like you can hear the shutter of a...of a camera as it's snapping, sort of ki...chs..., ki...chs..., ki...chs..., snapshots of the life of Jesus and what we see in Mark are these snapshots, these moments, these movements from one place to another, from one person to another, from one miracle to another event, to a sermon, to an experience. All these things are just happening in the Gospel of Mark and it moves very rapidly. A..., just to...to demonstrate my point, let me just mention to you the...the breakdown of the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark. It begins with introducing John the Baptist, then we go to the baptism of Jesus. We go to the a..., wilderness of temptation. We go to the call of the first disciples, casting out of a demon, healing Peter's mother-in-law, another series of healings, preaching in Galilee and the cleansing of a leper. That's all in the first chapter. Heh! I mean Mark doesn't waste any time. I mean we're talkin about, you know Luke's talkin to us about the angels and announcing it in the shepherd's fields and Matthew's talking to us about genealogy and I'm telling you Mark basically opens the door and says look at what Jesus did! And click...click...click, we get these pictures, we get these snapshots, we see and feel this motion and movement of something that is happening in the life of the Servant of the Lord because He's active and He's engaged and He's doing what He came to do. But right here in the heart of Mark chapter 1 we read the event and the unfolding of what happened when Jesus called His first disciples and so here we begin to read in Mark chapter 1 in verse 16 and I would invite you to look there with me, Mark chapter 1 in verse 16 because what we see and what we hear is something of great significance to every one of us about the subject that I am addressing with you, *everyday EVANGELISM*. It says in verse 16:

<sup>16</sup>*And as He...*

That is Jesus!

*...walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus said to them...*

Read it out loud with me!

*... "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."*

I think a few of you did, how bout we all try that again, okay? Verse 17:

... *"Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."* <sup>18</sup>And they immediately left their nets and followed Him. <sup>19</sup>And when He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, John his brother, who were in the boat mending their nets. <sup>20</sup>And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and they went after Him.

Now it's very important to notice that when Jesus called His first disciples He commissioned them. He called them and commissioned them and He said I want you to follow Me because what you have done you are now going to do for Me, you are going to be fishers of men. And what I love about this passage of Scripture is that Jesus came and met them in the course of their every day life, doing what they knew, doing what they did best, doing what was most familiar to...to them, but in the midst of that common everyday occupation, Jesus said, what you've been doing you're gonna do but you're gonna do it with a whole new perspective. You're gonna follow Me and then you're gonna be fishers of men. And Jesus began to change everything about life as they lived it and life as they knew it and life as they had experienced it and yet that same Jesus is calling you. If I were to ask tonight how many of you would call yourselves followers of Jesus Christ how many of us would respond to that in a positive affirming fashion? Would you identify yourself, would you claim to be a follower of Christ? I mean is that what you are? Well, then you are a disciple of Jesus Christ. In fact many of us are here because we're interested in the subject of discipleship, we want to become more like those who followed Christ and while, yes, there were specific distinctives of those who were truly the...the 12 disciples, the apostles of the early church, there is still a very real sense in which we see the unfolding of what Christ did with them, He was in-folding us into His plan, into His purpose and if you don't believe that just read John 17, because when Jesus prayed for them He prayed for you and He prayed for me and what He prayed for is that what He had called them to do and commanded them to do and commissioned them to do that we would do and we would do it even in the midst of an evil and perverted generation and so that's the call that is upon our lives, it is the call to answer, to respond, to be about the business of Christ every day. So I come back to the question that I have presented to you tonight. Why should I think about evangelism every day? Well that is the 1<sup>st</sup> of 7 questions that I want to address with you over these next 7 weeks and I want us to look and to think together about why we should be, tonight, **WHY WE SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT EVANGELISM EVERYDAY** and I wanna give you 3 reasons from this passage of Scripture that you and I need to think about evangelism everyday and the first is found there right in the heart of that text in Mark chapter 1 in verse 17 when Jesus said:

... *"Follow Me..."*

I am to be about evangelism everyday because **I HAVE BEEN COMMANDED TO WALK IN A NEW DIRECTION.** If you're taking notes that's point one. I have been

commanded to walk in a new direction. The way that I walked before I do not walk any longer. I live to walk on a new path of life that is according to the plan and the purpose of God for my life and as I was mentioning a moment ago, when any man or any woman answers the call of God to salvation and surrenders their heart and life to Christ you answer the call to begin to live a life that is becoming of a follower of Christ. That's the very essence of repentance. When we tell someone that to be saved they must repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ, to repent is to turn from going one direction and go in another direction. Repentance means I've been going this way, my own way. Do you remember what the prophet Isaiah said? He said: (Isaiah 53:6)

*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one, to his own way; And the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

Even while we were going away from God, even while we were rebelling against God, God loved us and God sought us and God provided salvation for us in the person of Christ and so all of us have this sense of living for ourselves, going our own way, but one day when I see and understand that I'm in sin, that I'm separated from God, that I need what only God can give me in life to complete my life, to save me from my sin, then I understand the...the wrong and the rebellion of my sin and I turn from sin and I turn to Jesus Christ and it's that pivotal moment when by faith I turn from sin and to Christ, not in my strength, but in the strength of God, in the faith that He pro...provides I turn from me, I turn to Christ and I begin to walk in newness of life. It's all new at that point and I have been called to walk in a new direction in my life. Jesus clearly said:

... *"Follow Me..."*

He didn't say follow Me if you feel like it, if you think it's a good idea, you got any other ideas, give Me some suggestions. Heh! He didn't do that! Jesus clearly and authoritively walked by these men and said:

... *"Follow Me..."*

And it is in that sense of answering the call to follow that I am now to live my life every day, called to walk in a new direction. Let me just take this one step further. How many of you here tonight have been baptized in these waters of baptism? How many of you have been baptized? Okay, many of you have done that, not all of us, but many if not most of us have. Do you remember that when you were in that baptism water that you went up there and you know, you got to church and they helped you to change into some robes and you came out and got in the water, I mean that's kind of a weird thing to do, gettin out in the water, your know, in a big public building like this. You know? And then goin down under the water and getting wet, I mean, that's kind of an unusual thing. But why do we do that? We do it because Jesus commanded us to do it. He said:

(John 14:15)

*"If you love me keep My commandments."*

And the reason that someone is baptized is because it is something that Jesus specifically commanded, it's also something that Jesus did. The very first thing that He did in His ministry, was He was baptized by John. In fact Mark makes mention of that here in the first chapter, Jesus was baptized of John. Now was Jesus baptized to have His sins removed? Certainly not! Baptism doesn't take away your sins. There's nothin magic about that water. That's not holy water up there. I tell people that all the time. When you go down in the water your sins aren't gonna be floatin around for everybody else to look at. I always...I always tell em that, so I don't want you to worry about that, this is...this is water just like the bath water in your house. It's not holy water, it doesn't take your sins away. There...there's nothing about baptism in and of itself that washes us from sin. Jesus takes my sin away, but baptism pictures what Christ has done and baptism is a way that a person preaches a sermon without ever saying a word. What a person says when they're baptized is, the person I was before Christ I am no more, my old life is put away in Christ and I am now a new person and I'm living a new life in Christ. Actually, when a person is baptized they preach a sermon, the death, the burial, the resurrection of Christ, that's the gospel and so I identify with Christ, what He came to do for me and what He has accomplished for me when I follow Him in baptism. So baptism is done to identify me with Christ and with His body the church. Baptism is done as an act of obedience, but one of the most significant things that baptism does is that baptism makes a statement of faith and that statement of faith, not only that I have believed, but something about a statement of faith, about how I'm going to live from this point forward and it's something that we say every time someone is baptized. You have a verse of Scripture memorized and you don't even know it. But I bet you can complete it. (Romans 6:4)

*Buried with Christ in baptism unto death...*

Say the rest of it with me.

*...raised to walk in newness of life.*

Hey! Did you hear what you just said? Let's say it one more time.

*Buried with Christ in baptism unto death, raised to walk in newness of life.*

I am raised to do what?

*...to walk...*

And how am I gonna walk?

*...in newness of life.*

I'm not gonna walk the way I walked any more. I didn't say I'm gonna be

sinless, baptism doesn't make you sinless, none of us are sinless. But it means there's a new direction in my life. Why? Because I have heard the voice of Christ, I have answered His call, I have responded in faith, I have been saved, my sins are washed away and I now live my life to be a follower of Jesus Christ and every day when I look in the mirror I need to remind myself today I am going to go out and walk in newness of life, because that's how I've been called to live my life. I live my life in a new direction. I am buried with Christ in baptism to death, I'm buried at the likeness of His death. I am saying that my life is surrendered. One of the things I love about baptism is the only way you can baptize somebody is that they've gotta surrender. Now there is a trick, if they don't you just kick em here and flip em there and it works, I'm tellin you, you just do that and they go right down, they don't even know what happened to em. [slight congregation laughter] You just gotta be real skilled in balance so you don't go over with em. [more laughter] But I say that to say that the only way somebody can be baptized, they have to surrender, they have to be willing to give up control. What a beautiful picture that is. When I'm baptized I'm saying I've given up the control of my life, who I was I am no more, my old life is put away, I'm raised to walk in newness of life and so what Jesus said to the disciples that day, these first disciples when He met them there, was He said to them, you have been called to live a new direction and who you are and what you are I want you to be for My plan, for My purpose and for My pleasure. I don't live for my plans, my purpose and my pleasure, I now live my life for God's purpose and frankly every day we all have two choices we can follow or we can wander and so I just believe that's the starting point. When we talk about *everyday EVANGELISM* we're talking about an every day walk with God and really what God is requiring of you and of me is that we would just walk with Him every day, that we would just follow Him. He didn't say lead the way, He said follow. So I am called to walk in a new direction. That's reason number one as to why I should think about *everyday EVANGELISM*.

Reason number two that I need to think about *everyday EVANGELISM*; ~~I have been called...I'm sorry I should have said~~, I'm commanded to walk in a new direction and then **I AM CALLED TO WORK IN A NEW OCCUPATION**. What did Jesus say?

... *"Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men."*

Now I want you to remember these were fishermen and what they did was a good legitimate and noble thing. There wasn't anything wrong with it. Jesus didn't come to them and say you got it all wrong, you guys are all messed up, what are you doin down here fishin? He said, no I want you to:

... *"Follow Me..."*

And as you do what you've done every day of your life I now want to change the way that you do it. You see the every day dynamic here? There was nothing more every day in the life of Andrew and Peter than the fact that they fished. They fished every day, that's what they were, that's what



they did, they were fishermen and so Jesus simply said I'm gonna take your daily occupation and I'm gonna call you to do it, but to do it in a new and a different way... **< turn tape >** ...instead of just fishing for fish you're gonna fish for something more important, you are now going to be fishing for men, and so what Jesus was doing here, He wasn't knocking fishing He was lifting the role of the fisherman and He could have done exactly the same thing if He was saying to someone else; follow Me if you do Real Estate and I'm going to do that for My purpose. It could have been Real Estate, it could have been medicine, it could have been finance, it could have been education, it could have been travel service, food service, whatever it was, Jesus just wanted to transform it and that's what God's wanting to do in you and in me. God uses common ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Could I remind you that these men to whom Jesus spoke on that day probably smelled like fishermen. I mean I'm not sure there's anything more basic that I could tell you about them then the fact that they were out there, they had just come in and they probably smelled like fishermen. I mean that's pretty mundane, that's pretty or...ordinary and here they are with the smell of fish all over them and Jesus is tellin them they're gonna go change the world. Heh! You know? But I'm here to tell you tonight, whatever smell you brought in on you today, whatever you smell like; now don't smell your neighbor, but if you just...whatever you come from today God wants to use you in your daily occupation and He wants to take that occupation to a level that you've never considered it before. It's not so much that He wants to pull you out of it, He wants to take you away from it, He wants to take it and elevate it and to transform it so that what happens to you in life is that you live for something more than drawing your breath and drawing your salary and drawing your pay check, that you begin to live for something that matters. I love the way that in the book *Contagious Christianity*, Bill Hybels and Mark Mittleberg write this...these words.

*Those who choose to follow Christ will eventually come to the conclusion that there's nothing more important than reaching people and when they do their values will change forever. They'll be seized by the realization that every other earthly activity pales in comparison with helping an individual man, woman, boy or girl come into a saving, liberating, life changing relationship with the God of the universe and once they understand the most important business in the world is the people business, watch out, they're going to live differently, pray differently, love differently, work differently, give differently, serve differently; because they'll be preoccupied with people and their needs. They'll become consumed with how they can be more effective fishers of men.*

That's really what I wanna have happen in your life and mine. My real desire over the next few weeks is for us to step into an arena of faith and to step into an arena of new obedience with God, such that we will begin to see and experience things that we just haven't before; not weird things, great things and that we'll begin to see life in our life and what God has called us to do in a new and in a...in a fresh way. And so in order to try to help to make that happen I'm going to do something over the next 7 weeks that I think could be of great encouragement to you.

In your worship guide tonight you've got a little card, it's a..., looks about like the size of a business card and it simply says *everyday EVANGELISM*, but if you'll look at it you'll notice that it says [everydayevangelism.com](http://everydayevangelism.com). We actually have both [everydayevangelism.com](http://everydayevangelism.com) and [everydayevangelism.org](http://everydayevangelism.org) and I'm simply going to ask that if you would be willing starting next Monday the January 31<sup>st</sup> to begin to receive a daily word of encouragement and some daily resources to help you to think about evangelism everyday, that you'd simply put your e-mail address here and when you leave tonight you detach that card and put it in one of those boxes. Now those boxes are a great place to put an offering too. Heh! Just thought I'd mention that while I was at it. That's what we use them for, we don't pass the plate here, but we give you the opportunity to give and some of you of course wanna catch up from the weekend and others of you may just wanna give because we continue to use the gifts that are here to extend the work and the ministry that God has given us through the life and the ministry of the church. It's also a place where you can return prayer cards, decision cards, those things are in your worship guide. But if you have and would like to receive a...a daily...a...a daily reminder, what we're gonna start doing next Monday is we're gonna have a daily fish report. Heh! You know if you look on the back of the newspaper, fishermen know where to go to find out what's bitten, where it's bitten, what color, how and the all that. But why don't we have a daily fish report and just let it be something that is used in our life? A fishing web-log if you will that's gonna be daily and going to help you to be reminded in this area of *everyday EVANGELISM*. And so I simply want you to know and be aware that that's something that's about to happen, something that's to unfold and I want you to let that be a part of something that begins to happen in your life that can make a difference starting next week and in the 7 weeks that are ahead.

One more thing I want you to see tonight and that is not only that I am commanded to walk in a new direction and that I am called to a new occupation but this is so important, **I AM CONFIDENT IN MY WITNESS BECAUSE OF CHRIST'S AFFIRMATION**. Please don't miss this!

... *"Follow Me..."*

Clear command! I am to walk and follow Christ.

*"...I will make you fishers of men."*

That's the new occupation. God's gonna take who you are, where you are and He's gonna elevate it, but here's the affirmation.

*"...I will make you..."*

Not...

*"...I WILL MAKE YOU..."*

No! I will do for you what you can't do. What God is doing is inviting us into an experience of life where we can begin to experience His promise that He will use us for something significant and something that matters. We just have to be willing to follow. The whole issue here is when Jesus says:

... *"Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men."*

The question is can I trust Him? Can I trust Him to do what He said He would do with me? He said He would make me a fisher of men. Can I really trust God to take me and to make me that kind of a person? Will He do something in and through my life? And that's really the crux of it all, because you see witnessing breeds a lot of fear factors. You know the show *Fear Factor* right? It's one of those reality TV shows. I don't know why they didn't call it *Extreme Grossout*, that would have been a much better name [slight congregation laughter] than *Feat Factor*. But the premise of *Fear Factor* is that you have to face off with your fears and in reality what happens in witnessing is we so become consumed by our fears that we exercise no faith and God is calling us, you and me, to exercise faith. Witnessing is an experience of faith and when I am willing by faith to believe what Jesus has said that He will do in my life then I begin to experience what God has promised and that is His strength and His power to take the mundane of my life and to make it something that matters for eternity and that really is the reason that I'm encouraging you to think in terms of *everyday EVANGELISM*, because it's going to stretch you in your faith, it's going to encourage you in your walk with Christ and you're going to begin to rely on His power and His strength and here's the wonderful thing, is that the same power that Peter and Andrew tapped into 2000 years ago is the power that you and I can tap into also. You see the wonderful thing about God's power is that God's power has the ability to enable us without overwhelming us. What do I mean by that? God is gonna use you as you are. He's gonna use you and your personality and in your sphere of life and in your arena to do what He wants to do in and through you. He's gonna give you the power to do that. Now what you do may not be like a person sitting next to you, a row back...in front or a row behind you because you all have different personalities and different backgrounds and God uses us uniquely and distinctively as He has made us and as He has gifted us, but He still uses the same power. He will enable you but He won't overwhelm you. You know if I were to go to your home tonight and to walk in the kitchen it's very likely that I would find a variety of different kitchen appliances there. I might find a can opener, I might find a toaster, a..., I might find a mixer, I might find a smoothie maker, I don't know what all I might find on your countertop, but you know the amazing thing is none of those things do the same thing, but they can all be plugged in to the same source and when each of them is plugged into that power source the amazing thing is that then that same power enables each of them to uniquely and distinctively do what they were made to do and that's what God will do with you. God will take you as He's made you and He will shape you and empower you to be able to be used for the purpose of Jesus Christ. So my question is are you willing to begin to think in terms of *everyday EVANGELISM*? I love the words of Henry Clay Trumbull:

*I thought that it was better to make a mistake in one's first effort at personal spiritual conversion and correct that mistake afterwards than not to make any effort. There can be no mistake so bad in working for an individual soul for Christ as the fatal mistake of not making an honest endeavor. How many persons refrain from doing anything lest they possibly ~~should do the~~...should do the wrong thing just now. Not doing is the worst of doing.*

I think that's really what it comes down to in our witness, not doing is the worst of doing because we know, because we believe and so tonight I'm simply saying to you why should you think in terms of evangelism everyday? Because you've been commanded to walk in a new direction, because you've been called to live in a new occupation and because you and...can have confidence in witness because of Christ's promise and Christ's affirmation to you.

... *"...I will make you a fisher of men."*