

SUFFICIENCY IN EVANGELISM

(Acts 8:26-40)

- Introduction:
1. As Christians, we must continually examine our lives (II Cor. 13:5).
 2. From time to time, we may find areas of inadequacy that need our attention.
 3. One of the most fundamental obligations of a Christian is surprisingly neglected by some.
 4. Therefore, I would like to suggest several points that may help us become more sufficient in this area of evangelism.

I. THERE IS INSUFFICIENCY IN EVANGELISM

- A. The fact that there are people who are ignorant of God in this world of modern technology that expedites communication is a testimony that there is a need for improvement in this area (I Corinthians 15:34).
- B. (I Corinthians 1:21).
- C. The commission has been given, it is plain, it is important, and yet it is neglected.
- D. There are several reasons for our lack of sufficiency in evangelism.
 1. Fear (Revelation 21:8).
 2. Ignorance (II Peter 3:18).
 3. Bad experience (Matthew 10:14).
 4. Discouragement (Galatians 6:9).
 5. Indifference (I John 3:14).

II. GUIDELINES FOR GREATER SUFFICIENCY IN EVANGELISM

- A. Put Yourself In The Other Person's Place.
 1. Recognize their fate if unconverted (II Thessalonians 1:7-9).
 2. Also, recognize that their knowledge may not be as great as yours.
 3. Therefore, be plain and simple; this is not the time to impress.
 - a. **"Hermeneutical Agnosticism"**.
 - b. Alexander Campbell.
 - c. "You need to obey the gospel".
 4. (I Corinthians 14:19).
- B. Make Yourself Available To People.
 1. (Acts 8:27-29).
 2. Have you ever noticed with whom Jesus surrounded Himself?
 3. (Matthew 9:12).
 4. (Luke 19:10).
 5. A schedule or lifestyle that does not allow for contact with the needs of the lost needs to be changed.
 6. As busy as Jesus was, He always had time for people.

- C. Take The Initiative.
 - 1. (Acts 8:30).
 - 2. We need to approach people, not simply respond to them.
 - 3. The message of the gospel is still **"go!"** (Mt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15).
- D. Be Tactful.
 - 1. (Acts 8:30-34).
 - 2. We need to be sure that if one is offended, he is offended at the message, and not by the messenger.
 - 3. But **"tact"** cannot be allowed to stand in the way of **"contact"**.
- E. Be Precise.
 - 1. (Acts 8:34-35).
 - 2. Get to the point, and don't allow yourself to become sidetracked.
 - 3. Side issues are often tempting, but refrain.
 - a. (John 4:20-24).
 - b. (John 16:12).
 - 4. The primary issues in evangelism are not:
 - 1. What is the mark of the beast?
 - 2. Do you believe in guardian angels?
 - 3. Where did Cain get his wife?
 - 5. The primary issue in evangelism is, **"What is your relationship with God?"**

Conclusion: 1. May God help us all to, in a more adequate way, lift up our eyes and reach out to the harvest of souls round about us (John 4:35).