

As Jesus sends us into the world, we should not try to escape from the world, nor should we avoid all relationships with non-Christians. We are called to be salt and light, and we are to do the work that God sent us to do. This is our unfinished business.

As a saved soul, the business of your life is to be Christ's witness. Whatever circumstances God may place you in, always pray immediately that His atonement may be recognized and as fully understood in the lives of others as it has been in yours. Pray for your family and friends, pray for those with whom you come in contact now that they get to the knowledge of Christ and grow in Him.

Every Believer's Business Is To Be A Witness To A Christ-less World

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. What did God speak to you about most specifically, most powerfully in this lesson?

2. How did Jesus first find you? How did he get you to join him: With coaxing? Big scare? An invitation you couldn't refuse?

3. This week, whom have you glorified by the way you lived? How so? Can others read what you are thinking or feeling, almost like an open book? Or is your heart under lock and key? Why is that? If someone could read what you feel right now, what would they see?

PRAYER

On the space provided below, record prayer requests and answers to prayers.



Bridging the Gap

WARM-UP

Tell If you'll be asked to identify the men and women who helped get you closer to your knowledge of Christ, who will they be? These people truly became witnesses of Christ. Do you still remember them?

WORD

THE PURPOSE

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

Luke 19:10

The Scriptures tells us that Christ came to seek and save that which was lost. That's the main purpose why He came. So as believers, it is incumbent upon us to help facilitate that divine intent. How do we share Jesus' love and concern for the lost?

OUR IDENTITY

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

Mark 1:17

Jesus called people from all walks of life – fishermen, political activists, tax collectors. He called common people and uncommon leaders; rich and poor; educated and uneducated.

Jesus calls us today. When Jesus calls you to follow Him, how do you respond?

Today, many people think only certain people are fit to follow Jesus, but this was not the attitude of Jesus. God can use anyone, no matter how insignificant he or she appears. When you feel small and useless, remember that God uses ordinary people to do his extraordinary work. Obeying God, we can become extraordinary people.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

¹⁴*"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.*
Matthew 5:13–14

You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:3

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

We represent the Kingdom of God. As believers, we are Christ's ambassadors, sent with his message of reconciliation to the world. Because we have been reconciled to God, we have the privilege of encouraging others to do the same. How well are you fulfilling your commission as Christ's ambassador?

Jesus used salt to illustrate qualities that should be found in his people. We should make a difference in the "flavor" of the world we live in, just as salt changes meat's flavor. We should counteract the moral decay in society, just as salt preserves food from decay. Are you making a difference in your life or are you just going along with the crowd?

Light represents our relationship with Christ. If we live for Christ, we will glow like lights, showing others what Christ is

like. Are you showing your light to others or are you letting sin dim your light?

We are to present the gospel of God in how we conduct ourselves in every situation. If others can read our lives, they should be able to read the living letters that represent Jesus in our lives.

We are to be witnesses to this Christ-less world. Yes, we are ambassadors, salt and light, and living letters of Christ. But in the final analysis, we, as believers, are explicitly described as witnesses to this world. That is our identity.

The Strategy

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.
1 Corinthians 9:19

This is our strategy – becoming all things to all men. For what end? With the hope of winning as many lost people as possible.

Our Model

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners?'" ¹²On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9:10–13

"The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners.'" But wisdom is proved right by her actions."

Matthew 11:19

Jesus dined with the worst sinners in town – the tax collectors. He provided a sense of community and fellowship with this bunch of people with questionable character. He was dubbed as a friend of sinners.