



## The Why and How of Sharing our Faith (2)

### Discuss in Group –

- Q. If you had a can of “*Good News*” what would the ingredients be that make it up?
- Q. What do you think are the different ways that people hear the Good News of Jesus?
- Q. How does this affect the way that the church needs to learn to communicate it?

Here are some different ways that people hear the Good News of the Gospel – (Look up bible references and discuss each point on it’s importance and relevance today.)

- 1) **By what we say** - John 5 v 24 – 27 (faith comes through hearing)
- 2) **By who we are** – 2 Corinthians 5 v 16 – 21 (New creation which is the righteousness of God)
- 3) **Social action** – Acts 2 v 45, Acts 4 v 32 – 35
- 4) **signs of the Kingdom** – Acts 5 v 12 – 16
- 5) **By Spiritual Conviction** – John 16 v 5 – 11.

In all of these things there needs to be a balance if a true Gospel is to be declared. If we do social action without giving the giving an account of the hope we have in Christ, then we will be seen as just good people. If we declare the Gospel with great conviction but do not manifest loving action then the Gospel will be undermined and declared powerless. If we do these things but live lives that are sinful, compromised or lack the power of God, then the Gospel will be seen as a clever creation of man. NO!! All these things have to be present, as they were in the ministry of Jesus, if a true Gospel is to be declared.

What we have seen here is that the *Good News* is more than just words!! It is more than just words today and it was more than just words in Jesus’ day!

The simple truth of the Good News of the Kingdom, is that it is more than just the words that a Christian speaks. In the ministry of Jesus we see how what Jesus proclaims is backed up with factual evidence. As Jesus went around proclaiming, “Repent for the Kingdom of God is near,” he backed this up by the way he lived and with real and actual signs of that Kingdom breaking into the world. Often he would point to these signs as authenticating evidence that the Kingdom of God was being established and that the message he proclaimed was truly a message from God. In every sense not only did Jesus proclaim the Good News, but his life and actions was Good News to the people around him.

### Read and discuss what you think these passages are saying:-

Matthew 4 v 23 – 25, Matthew 11 v 4 – 5, Luke 10 v 8 – 9, John 10 v v 25, v 32 , v 37 – 38

### Discuss –

- Q. How open do you think we are to allow God to testify, through signs, to the Gospel of His Son?
- Q. What do you think are the implications to us, in regard to meeting needs and acts of kindness?
- Q. Do you think the church is ready to declare a full Gospel? (Give evidence for you answer)

**Exercise to do together :-** There are many people today who say that the true Gospel is not preached in all its fullness. In this there is a sense that what is being declared is easy believism.

As a group put together the core aspects of what you believe makes up the spoken Gospel . Then work out how you would present this to someone.