

## Get Their Name Everyday Evangelism

John 1: 35-42  
August 5, 2018

Welcome and Intro to the series

So, what's the worst thing that can happen...right. That's what we ask ourselves...what's the worst thing that can happen. We ask this question when we're about to take a risk or do something crazy or hit send. Usually we get a good laugh from everyone around and we jump in having thrown caution to the wind. But there are some things we can't say "what's the worst thing that can happen" ...like when you're potty training and you forget to bring a change of clothes when you go out. Or when you don't provide for your future and there's no plan for retirement. Or when you have a cut and you decide to go swimming in shark infested waters. Or, as a coach, you go into a cave with a bunch of kids on your soccer team in Taiwan. Or you give out your social security number to someone on the phone. What's the worst thing that can happen...right.

There are worse things that can happen! Some of us have been on the receiving end of some pretty bad "worse things." [Pic of broken leg] There are some people in this room who have lost a lot, broken something, stared at a huge mess [Pic of messy kitchen] or maybe even had something really tragic or terrible happen...it was the "worse thing ever." And you never want to go back there ever again. [Pic of relief] Somehow you survived, and you hope to God that nothing like that ever happens again. So, can I tell you something that I believe with all my heart. I believe that, of the 151,600 people who pass away every day, of the 6316 people who will die this hour, (according to Ecology Global Network) that there is many them who will not spend eternity in heaven with God. Now, the ultimate "what's the worst thing that can happen" is to live in such a way that you don't care about the afterlife.

I believe **we are all going to live forever...the question is, where will you reside**...heaven or hell. To me, the worst thing that can happen is to die not knowing our savior Jesus Christ and die without the promise of heaven secured by the death and resurrection of Jesus. But, here's the thing...we church people...we live like, hey, what's the worst thing that can happen if my friends and family don't know Jesus? We may not say it that way but, by not doing anything to invite our friends and family members into the Kingdom of God through faith and trust in Jesus Christ is, in effect, like saying to those family and friends – eh, what's the worst thing that can happen.

So, let's start there, before we go any further. There is a "worst thing" that can happen. Hell is a very real place that is the absence of the Love of God and the joys of heaven. The Bible tells us many times and, in many ways, that there is an after life and that the decisions we make in this lifetime direct where we will reside. What's the worst thing that can happen...that someone you know will spend their eternity apart from you, and worse yet, apart from God. That someone you know will spend an eternity wishing someone would have invited them into a relationship with a Father who loves them and a Savior who was willing to give his everything for our eternity. So, let's talk about how the passion for someone we know, who is far from God and who is in need of salvation, can lead the likes of us to invite others into a relationship with Jesus and the gift of salvation. It means **we need to move from a come in kind of church to a go out kind of church**. It means we need to be willing to reach beyond these walls and into the world around us. The day is gone when a church could open its doors on a Sunday morning and people would just show up. The day is here that is calling us to go out and invite people into the relationship we've found in Jesus.

Look at these statistics from the book *Get Their Name* that was written in 2013, so this is current. I want to read for you from page 1 of this book so that you can catch the seriousness of the situation:

- Stats from page 1 of the book "Get Their Name" Read the entire second paragraph.

The demographics from the most recent study tells us that people are concerned about their health, their financial security, schools and education and their relationships. Most of us are walking around with little or no thought about where we will spend our eternity. When Jesus left the earth and ascended into heaven the thing he left for his disciples to accomplish (ahem, that's us) is to go into all the world and speak in such a way that people come to know him.

We need to become passionate about helping people see the need for salvation in their lives. Until we get a passion for the lost we will not become the F, C, M church that is FOR the Harrisburg community. In effect we need to become modern-day missionaries. Now, I can only imagine that you did come to church this morning in hopes of being told that you needed to become a modern-day missionary. So, let me say that in a way that may be a bit easier to hear. We need to live out our lives in such a way that the **people who know us ultimately get to know Jesus because of us and our relationship with Him and with them**.

So, what does it look like to be a F, C, M (Family First, Community Centered, Mission Minded) modern-day missionary? I am so glad you asked. Here are a few of the most important things each of us needs to remember.

- **Have an intentional plan.** Most of us would accomplish very little without a list. Do you know what I mean? If I want to do more than three or four things I have to write them down or I'll forget the third or fourth thing I was trying to remember. Without a plan, great things never get done...as the builder of a skyscraper or a battleship. We need to be intentional about helping others find a relationship with Jesus.
- **Know your story.** One of the things that shuts all of us down quickly is when someone pushes us about why they should believe something we are telling them. But, it's hard to argue with someone about their personal experiences. You can debate all day long but, my story is mine and I'm sticking to it because it's mine and no matter what you say...I saw it, I experienced it, I know it to be true because I was there. So, what is your story about how you know Jesus is real?
- **Pray for opportunities.** God would love to bring opportunities to your doorstep. Remember, those people you love...he loves even more. He gave His son for them so if you ask God to make some divine appointments happen God will do just that...just ask and see what happens, trust me on this one...I've had all kinds of "God-moments" that I never expected but, because I asked God to make them happen – okay, you get it right.
- **Looks for opportunities.** So, keep your eyes open and take every encounter as an opportunity for a God moment. Look to see what God's doing. You just never know; a chance meeting could end up turning into a modern-day missionary moment. I've had tons of them...
- **Trust that God is going to make an encounter happen.** It's important to believe that God is at work. God is not taking a nap but is busy orchestrating your next encounter in hopes that it would turn toward His Son.

There's something I want you to notice through all of the things we've talked about so far today, **it's all about relationships.** You can't do any of these things without establishing a relationship with those who you love, and God loves more. It's rare that you will run into someone, hear their story and invite them to church. But, the people who you have a relationship with, those people might actually be wondering why you haven't invited them yet. They might even be thinking that you go to church, but you don't like it because you've never invited them to join them. Worse yet, they might think you don't want them in heaven with you and that's why you've never told them about your faith.

And maybe you're afraid. Maybe you don't think they want to be invited. Maybe you think that they know they're welcome. Or maybe you think they know what time the services are and that if they wanted to be there they would have showed up by now. But, the stats on inviting people to church are that 83% of all people who don't go to church would be open to an invitation to attend church if someone would invite them. You see, people go to church because of relationships and if you love people half as much as Jesus loves them we would invite them to join us.

Now, the stats on church attendance tell us that people stay at church because of relationships. People show up to hear about God, to learn about how to live for Jesus and to see the people they've come to call their church family. So, a healthy church fosters and helps create relationships. Healthy and growing churches do things intentionally to create relationships like:

- Guest friendly events: Sunday mornings, movie nights, etc.
- Small groups
- Meet and sit with the person you invite
- Give a tour of the building
- Creating a hangout place

So, let me ask you some challenging questions. First, are you willing to get outside your comfort zone and put that list of five into practice? The cause of heaven is worth it. Hell is the alternative and I don't want to see anyone there...how about you.

Second, can you build some margin in your life for the moments God is going to create. We live in a fast paced, get it done, move, move, move world. The only way we are going to have room in our lives for the God moments is if we create some margin. We push the clock for all its worth and then we wonder why they God moments aren't happening. Start creating time for the things God wants to happen. Make sense?

Okay, here's the last question. Are you involved in the community – on purpose? There are things each of us could be doing if we would just turn off the tv and get out there. There's tutoring at the library, helping with the fire company, volunteering at the hospital, helping out a neighbor, and the list goes on.

It's time we take heaven and hell seriously and begin to be people who are making it hard to go to hell from Harrisburg.