

Lesson 6

Sharing My Faith: When They Say No!

Mt. Zion Church Bible Study

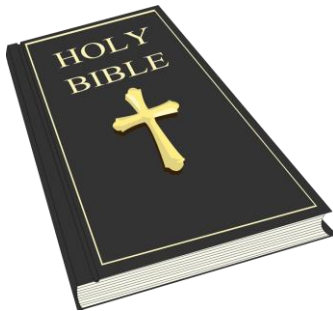


Lesson written by

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We Have a Vision to Be Intentionally Learning!

Introduction: The following lesson is designed to help students to begin the process of understanding how to deal with people when they do not want to listen or reject the story of faith. Often times we find that this rejection comes with personal feelings of hurt and anger because we perceive that the person has rejected us. In many ways this is understandable because we are preaching or teaching to people who we may know or for whom we may have a significant concern. The challenge for this is understanding what this means for us as preachers and teachers of the gospel message and how we should respond when people either say 100% no or say they are not interested right now.



Read

Isaiah 53: 1-3

Matthew 19: 16-22

John 1: 10-13

1 Corinthians 3: 6-8

I. The Reality of Rejection Isaiah 53: 1-3, Matthew 19: 16-22

The idea of rejection has emotions connected to issues of inadequacy, value, pride, and other individual issues. No one enjoys hearing “the no” in any area of our lives. In our daily lives we may hear no from our bosses, our spouses, our bank accounts (SMILE HERE), and even at times from ourselves. Yet, how do we manage the no when it comes from someone we are witnessing to out of a concern for their present condition and their eternal life?

One of the most challenging aspects of sharing your faith is that we step out and expose ourselves emotionally with no guarantee that a person will actually respond in the affirmative. We must understand the reality of rejection.

Numerous passages point to people not accepting the message of Christ. Isaiah 53: 1-3 suggests the Messiah would not find open arms as he came preaching a message of redemption. Further, Matthew 19: 16-22 provides an example of direct rejection as Jesus tells someone how they can be saved.

What does the wealthy man do when Jesus tells him the path to salvation?
_____ Why does the man leave? (Trick Question) The man leaves because he is wealthy, which means he has great abundance. What does he have a great abundance of? _____

It is important for us to understand that one can be a billionaire and have an understanding that their need for salvation is more important than their money. The rich young ruler was wealthy in himself which caused him to lack an ability to release worldly items and follow Jesus. He could have been wealthy in tennis shoes or clothes. The issue is that some people will not accept Christ because they are blocking themselves.

Notice, Jesus responds by telling a spiritual truth. If a person cannot get out of the way of their own wealth they will not be able to get to heaven. Jesus is not mad. He is not sad. He does not sit down and cry about it. He simply understand the reality of choice. Some will and some will not choose salvation, though all have the opportunity to choose.

II. The Reality of Responsibility—I Corinthians 3: 6-8

When you share your faith, you may be like the author who at times finds it easier to talk to people he has no relationship with because there is no emotional connection to them. Christ, however, has called us to begin our ministries in Jerusalem which is the people we know. So, how do we manage that rejection?

Let's analyze 1 Corinthians 3: 6-8. Paul wrote to a group of people who were struggling with whom they should claim as their leader in light of who may have preached the Gospel to them. This is not part of the current lesson, but it does highlight an important reality. **YOU AND I ARE ONLY CO-WORKERS!**

Notice verse 6 What is the process Paul describes?

1. _____
2. _____
3. But God _____

The responsibility for growth is on whom? _____

When does growth happen? _____

Where does growth happen? _____

Paul makes the point very strongly in verse 5 when he states who he and Apollos were in the whole scheme of things. What does he call himself and Apollos in verse 5 and verse 9?

The point we must understand is that you and I are workers who have a task. Our job is to complete the task. The task is to share the gospel. If you are a planter then plant. If you are a waterer then water. If you are a fertilizer then fertilizer. Your role is tending the garden. God's role is managing the growth.

We are not Saviors. We are co-workers (laborers) in the Lord's vineyard!

III. The Reality of Acceptance John 1: 10-13

The question you may have now is so why try? If God is responsible for growth and some people will reject me then why try? Two answers come from this question. First, we share our faith obediently because we were commanded to share our faith. Secondly, we share our faith obediently because some will say yes and be saved.

How did you come to understand Christ?

Think about your own faith journey. Take a moment and recall how you got to salvation.

Jot a few notes down about that journey. Consider when it happened. Who shared the message. How long did it take for you to say yes to Christ.

Where would you be if this had not been your process? The key here is to realize that we are woven into the lives of those to whom we preach the gospel. You do not know the impact that you have had on people as you speak of Jesus.

What does John 1: 10-13 help us to understand?

1. The world _____
2. His own _____
3. Some _____ and became _____!

The reality of acceptance is a reminder that the work we do for Christ is worth the effort! Someone will find hope, love, peace, and forgiveness because you shared that Jesus saves and loves them. Perhaps, what you needed to know is that you play a part in God’s work! You are important and necessary, so go back out there and tell people about Christ!

Prayer: Jesus thank you for reminding me that you are the reason I share my faith. You are the one who saves and I am just an instrument working for you. Help me to continue to share even though some may not accept. Amen!