

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

MATTHEW 4:19 ESV

THEME 2024: "SHARE THE WORD. MAKE DISCIPLES" MAT 28:19-20



BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH

Worship Service & Communion

Sunday, 3 March, 2024

Worship Services In-person & Online 10:40am & 6pm

 <https://www.youtube.com/user/bereanbarbados/live>

 <https://www.facebook.com/BereanBarbados/live>

Sunday School In-person 9:30 - 10:15am

 **ZOOM** links provided

Midweek In-person & Online Service (Wednesday)

Noon & 7:30 pm | ZOOM links provided

Youth Service in-person 7pm (Friday)

 **WhatsApp** 845 - 5752 or Tel: 426 - 4707

email: info@bereanbarbados.org

www.bereanbarbados.org

5 Common Evangelism Excuses and 1 Excuse-Exploding Truth

Why Don't We Evangelize?

A.T. Robertson, a renowned Bible teacher, once famously remarked to a struggling student, "Well, excuse me, brother, but all I can do for you is pray for you and flunk you." This anecdote reflects a reality in our Christian journey: despite the call to evangelize, many of us fall short. We find excuses, rationalize, and evade the responsibility.

Excuse 1: "I don't know their language."

One common excuse is the language barrier. It's a legitimate hurdle, yet not insurmountable. While communication in unfamiliar tongues poses challenges, efforts to learn languages or provide evangelistic materials in diverse languages can bridge this gap.

Excuse 2: "Evangelism could cause problems at work."

Work-related concerns also deter some from evangelism, fearing it might disrupt professional environments. However, prioritizing evangelism need not compromise work obligations. Instead, it calls for discernment to ensure that sharing the gospel doesn't detract from professional responsibilities or tarnish the message's integrity.

Excuse 3: "Other things seem more urgent."

Excuses often extend to prioritizing competing demands over evangelism. Busy schedules and pressing tasks consume our time, leaving little room for spreading the gospel. Yet, evaluating our priorities reveals whether legitimate commitments or excessive busyness hinder evangelistic endeavors.

Excuse 4: "I don't know non-Christians."

Isolation from non-Christian circles emerges as another barrier. Many, especially within Christian communities, lack meaningful interactions with unbelievers. While engagement within the church is crucial, it shouldn't preclude outreach to those outside Christian circles. Balancing Christian responsibilities with intentional efforts to build relationships with non-believers is essential.

Excuse 5: “People won’t listen, much less believe.”

Moreover, doubts about receptivity hinder evangelism. Concerns about others’ willingness to listen or believe can deter efforts to share the gospel. However, underestimating the transformative power of the gospel belies its efficacy. Recognizing the surprising nature of conversions and trusting in God’s sovereignty emboldens evangelistic endeavors.

The Heart of the Matter: Plan to Stop Not Evangelizing

At the heart of our reluctance lies a need for intentional action. *Twelve steps—pray, plan, accept, understand, be faithful, risk, prepare, look, love, fear, stop, and consider*—offer a roadmap to overcome barriers to evangelism.

Prayer precedes evangelism, aligning our efforts with God’s will. Planning ensures intentional engagement amid competing priorities, acknowledging evangelism as a crucial responsibility. Acceptance of this duty prompts a shift in mindset, embracing the role of every believer in spreading the gospel.

Understanding dispels misconceptions about evangelistic gifts, emphasizing the universal obligation to share the gospel. Faithfulness to God overrides fears of rejection or discomfort, prompting us to risk vulnerability in sharing our faith. Preparation equips us to articulate the gospel effectively, while attentiveness enables us to identify opportunities for evangelism.

Love motivates evangelism, compelling us to prioritize others’ spiritual well-being over personal comfort or social acceptance. Fear, directed towards God rather than man, reinforces our reverence for His commandments, inspiring obedience in evangelistic endeavors.

Ceasing to blame God for our inaction requires acknowledging personal responsibility in fulfilling the Great Commission. Finally, considering the profound implications of Christ’s sacrifice reignites passion for evangelism, fueling our commitment to share the gospel fervently.

In essence, overcoming barriers to evangelism demands deliberate action, rooted in prayer, fueled by love, and guided by faith. By dismantling excuses and embracing our role as heralds of the gospel, we can fulfill Christ’s command to make disciples of all nations.

Mark Dever (PhD, Cambridge University) is the senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, DC, and president of 9Marks (9Marks.org). Dever has authored over a dozen books and speaks at conferences nationwide. He lives in Washington, DC, with his wife, Connie, and they have two adult children. The article has been adapted to fit this publication. You can read the original article at the link below:

<https://www.crossway.org/articles/5-common-evangelism-excuses/>

Order of Service

March 3, 2024, 10:40 a.m.

THEME: "Glorifying Your Name"

1. Announcements
2. Call to worship
3. Prayer of Adoration
4. Song - Glorify Your Name
5. Prayer of Confession
6. Song 368 - Did You Think to Pray
7. Scripture Readings:
Genesis 16 and Matthew 16
8. Prayer of Thanksgiving
9. Song 217 - Thank You Lord
10. Prayer for Offering
11. Offertory Song 624:
Count Your Blessings
12. Choir Special - Great is the Lord
13. Pastoral Prayer
14. Song 482 - More About Jesus
15. Sermon - Pastor Paul Garnes
16. Hymn 458 - Draw Me Nearer (1 & 2)
17. Communion
18. Closing Song - Behold The Lamb
19. Closing Prayer and Benediction

ITEMS FOR PRAYER



- For our upcoming Elections for faithful persons to serve from 2024-2026
- For God's Word to be faithfully preached.
- For this evening's "Ephesians Sermon Series" at 6pm
- For guidance as we build God's Church.
- Pray for the ministry and wellbeing of our Pastor and family.
- For healing for our sick members.
- For grace for our shut-in members.
- For the Berean Church, Dominica, Grenada and DR Congo.
- For the friends of Berean - The Gilmours, Haecks, Hulls, Moores, Montagues, Porchers, Rogers, Rudders and Taylors.
- For our unemployed members to find meaningful employment.
- For the peace of Jerusalem.

EVENTS

MAR 10: ELECTION OF OFFICERS, AFTER MORNING SERVICE.

MAR 17: HARVEST HOTHERSAL AT 5PM.

MAR 24: HARVEST GRAZETTES AT 10AM.

MAR 30: FLEA MARKET & FUNDAY, HOTHERSAL AT 8AM-5PM.

MAR 31: RESSURECTION SUNDAY, SUNDAY, 9:30AM.

March Birthdays



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|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 5th - Jenny Lynn Francis | 13th - Cheryl Paul | 27th - Joyce Belgrave |
| - Zachary Haynes | 14th - Lucy Crichlow | 30th - Kim Bayley |
| 7th - Carl Ward | 20th - Pearlita Franklin | - Cheryl Branch |
| - Faith Williams | - Delores Corbin-Ward | 31st - Ricardo Parris |
| 13th - Sylvester Branch | 24th - Rosalind Conliffe | |
| | 25th - Eartha Skeete | |

Anniversaries



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|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 8 - Marva & Victor Springer | 23 - Hilton & Jenny Piggott |
| 17 - Patricia & Trevor Scott | 30 - Orin & Cheryl Paul |