

**Sermon Series:** “Sharing Good News—A Way of Life”—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—2/1/2009

**Title:** “Creative Communication”

**Text:** Luke 10: 25-37

**Intro.:** *Illus.: Big Ed’s Hearing*

**Theme:** Telling the story of God’s Good News in Jesus in the context of real life stories is one of the most effective ways to introduce another to God’s grace and the Holy Spirit powerful working.

### ***Acknowledging that everyone needs to hear the Good News but not everyone is ready***

- Often our listener is blinded by the unbelief in their heart
- 1. Spiritual truths can only be revealed by the Spirit by faith
  - a. **1 Corinthians 2:6-10**
  - b. These truth of Christ are counter-intuitive and often opposite of the way the sinful mind thinks
- 2. Understanding the mind and philosophy of the secular world we are invading with the Good News of Jesus
  - a. **Ills.: George Bernard Shaw on communication**
  - b. **Sensualist** – one living for the here and now and looking to satisfy every desire as the first priority
  - c. **Legalist** – one who is consumed by the black and white because sees others taking advantage of him/her
  - d. **Agnostic** – grudging acknowledging a “greater power” but trying to beat the system with minimally superb
- Knowing and trusting the power of the story of Salvation History to change lives
- 1. *Faith comes from listening to this message of good news—the Good News about Christ. Romans 10:17(NLT)*
- 2. Recognizing that stereotypes of “**Bible thumper**” may work against direct quoting of the Bible
- 3. Placing the message of Christ in the ear of another by creative story telling
  - a. Recalling the story and the message in Bible stories in your own words
  - b. Retelling one of Jesus’ parables (“*an earthly story with a heavenly meaning*”)

### ***Jesus’ story of the Good Samaritan***

- **The Question (Luke 10:25-29)**
- 1. Antagonistic questions from our hearer are often opportunities to lead the Gospel
  - a. The Jewish scribe was bating Jesus but was asking the wrong question (*what must I do....inherit vs. 25*)
  - b. Jesus poses a question back to re-ground him on God’s truth (*What is written .... Do this and live. vs. 26, 28*)
- 2. The question often makes the other hungry for the truth (*Who is my neighbor? vs. 29*)
  - a. The lawyer was uncomfortable with his and Jesus’ answer because it inwardly convicted him of shortcoming
  - b. Patient enough to allow the Spirit to work the Word into the heart of your listener
  - c. *For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)*
- **The Story (Luke 10: 30-35)**
- 1. Rather than being offended by the hearer’s antagonism following through with the delivery of God’s Good News
  - a. **Ills.: a sport’s analogy of “follow through”**
- 2. Use something common, familiar to connect your hearer’s circumstance to God’s Salvation History in their life
  - a. Jesus used the dangerous road from Jerusalem to Jericho (*vs. 30*)
  - b. Using the story of Joseph and Potiphar’s wife to talk about integrity and sexual purity on the job
  - c. Using the parable of the unforgiving servant to drive home the destructiveness of unforgiving attitudes
  - d. But use a story that relates to a common and familiar life-story in your hearer’s life
- 3. Draw a moment of conflict and decision around the dilemma/issue your hearer is facing (*vss. 31-32*)
  - a. Lawyer knew that ceremonially priest and Levite were justified but not in the courtroom of “love thy neighbor”
  - b. Not preaching truth but laying it out and having your hearer consider the logical conclusion of their action/path
- 4. Present the up-side-down nature of the Good News in Jesus (*vss. 33-35*)
  - a. What the Samaritan did was not natural but supernatural
  - b. Presenting the good news of the nature of the new life which Jesus brings
  - c. *What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)*
- **The Closer (Print and read Luke 10: 36-37)**
- 1. **Ills.:Tell them the rest of the story**
- 2. Don’t leave them hanging — point them back to the Good News
  - a. Jesus draws the lawyer back to the principle of “**mercy**”
  - b. *No, O people, the LORD has already told you what is good, and this is what he requires: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8 (NLT)*

### **Big Ed's Hearing**

Big Ed goes to the revival and listens to the preacher. After a while the preacher asks anyone with needs to come forward to be prayed over. Big Ed gets in line. When it's his turn, the preacher says, "Big Ed, what do you want me to pray about?" Big Ed says, "Preacher, I need you to pray for my hearing." So the preacher puts one finger in Big Ed's ear and the other hand on top of his head and shouts, hollers, and prays a while. After a few minutes, he removes his hands and says, "Big Ed, how's your hearing now?" Big Ed says, "I don't know preacher, it's not until next Wednesday at the Dupage County Courthouse." **Submitted by Marshall Shelley, editor in chief, Leadership Media Group, Christianity Today International**

### **Biggest Problem in Communication**

The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place. **George Bernard Shaw, Irish literary critic, playwright, and essayist (1856-1950)**

### **Tell them the rest of the story**

The story is told by famed Christian preach Dwight L. Moody that the night before the 1871 the Chicago Fire, which gutted the section of the city where the Moodys lived, that he was preaching at a two night revival and focused on the story of Jesus standing before Pilate. Moody especially drew his listener's rapt attention around the story of the suffering and passion of the Savior and the humiliation that he endured at the hands of the Romans soldiers who mocked and whipped him. As he drew to the conclusion of the sermon, he riveted on the struggle Pilate felt toward condemning an innocent man. So Moody, trying to drive home the connection to his congregation's lives, paraphrased the statement of Pilate to the Jewish people, "What would you have me do with this Jesus, called the Christ?" Moody concluded, "What will you do with Jesus? Will you come back tomorrow night to hear the invitation and give your life to Christ." For many, the opportunity never happened. The horrific firestorm that swept that part of Chicago snuffed out many of the lives of his listeners. Moody agonized over the fact that he had not delivered to his listeners the Good News that Jesus had claimed them, that he had died for them, and that all he wanted was for them to believe in him to be saved. He vowed never again to preach another sermon in which he did not deliver that Good News before his listeners left.

### **Luke 10:25-37**

<sup>25</sup>On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"  
<sup>26</sup>"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" <sup>27</sup>He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" <sup>28</sup>"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." <sup>29</sup>But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

<sup>30</sup>In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

<sup>36</sup>"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" <sup>37</sup>The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

### **1 Cor 2: 6-10**

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"--but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.