

The Core of Evangelism Lesson 2

Content, Method, and Purpose

Last week I gave you the technical framework:

Content. Method. Purpose.

Today I want to come at it from a different angle, because if I don't say this now, this very course could end up communicating the opposite of what it teaches.

A disciple is not a student of theory. The word the New Testament uses, *mathetes*, describes an apprentice who follows someone while walking, not someone who sits down to memorize a curriculum. The twelve Jesus chose were fishermen, not rabbis. They learned by watching. Walking. Failing. Being corrected. Peter didn't take any exam before standing up to preach at Pentecost. It was three years walking beside Jesus that formed him, not a manual.

None of them had a written page to guide them.

What they had was the Holy Spirit forming them from the inside, and the living example of Christ walking in front of them. We have something they didn't: The Scriptures, complete, in our hands, in our own language. But that gift comes with a harder assignment than theirs. It's not enough to read it.

The real task is to live it so visibly that someone else decides to walk the same road, not because they memorized what you quoted, but because they watched you walk in the light.

The Word was never meant to end in your memory. It was meant to become your feet. As John said:

"If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another." (1 John 1:7)

So let's make this clear from the beginning: What I teach you in this course is not a measuring stick for who belongs in the Kingdom. Paul is clear that faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17).

No one is saved apart from hearing something true about Jesus. But James is just as clear that hearing which stops at hearing is not enough:

"Faith without works is dead." (James 2:17)

So the real question was never how much you've heard. The real question is whether what you've heard has started walking.

Before we continue, think for a moment about this:

The Word of God was never meant to end in information.

It was always meant to produce fruit. A transformation. The two were never meant to compete. With that settled, let's get to the heart of what I want to leave with you this week. Let me ask you something: If you had to talk to someone about Jesus, would you start by talking about eternity? Or would you start by showing how Jesus changes your present life?

Think about it for a minute before answering.

Because that's where the trap is. Eternity is an object of speculation for many. No one can prove it. No one can refute it with immediate evidence. That's why it's so easy to debate and so hard to communicate. But the abundance of life. The peace you carry in the middle of chaos. The joy that doesn't depend on things going well. The freedom from fear that others carry all day long.

Those things are observable.

Those are the things people have already seen in you. Otherwise, they wouldn't even be listening. So I want you to carry this phrase with you:

We don't preach a future place first; we preach a present life.

Eternity is the promise. Abundance is the evidence. And this doesn't take away a single ounce of weight from the hope of what comes after. On the contrary. The abundant life of today is the foretaste. The proof. The evidence that what God promises for the future has already begun unfolding in the present.

Just as Paul says when he speaks of the Spirit as the guarantee, the down payment of what is yet to come.

That abundance appears in three very concrete areas.

First, in the inner life. A peace that doesn't depend on circumstances. Which makes it worth asking yourself: Does your peace depend on things going well? Or on the One who holds all things together?

Second, in relationships. The ability to forgive. To let go of resentment. To love without conditions. Something the world sees every day, but cannot manufacture through its own strength, no matter how hard it tries.

Third, in purpose. Living with the awareness that every day matters. That every day has meaning beyond productivity or immediate pleasure. Something that strikes deeply in a generation that is exhausted and directionless.

So this week I'm asking something simple. Simple, but demanding. Choose one area of your life: Work. Family. Health. Any area where the world would expect anxiety or bitterness from you. And live that week from abundance instead of scarcity. Don't announce it. Don't tell anyone you're doing it by faith. Just live it.

Next week we'll talk about what happened.

And I want you to tell me if anyone asked why you reacted differently than expected. Remember John 10:10. Jesus came to give us abundant life. And let me finish with this: I'm not asking you to win an argument about heaven. I'm asking you to be so evidently full today that someone can't help but ask where it comes from.

That question, not the perfect answer you prepare afterward, is the true beginning of evangelism.

Questions for Reflection

1. Am I treating God's Word as information to learn, or as a path to walk?
2. If someone looked at my life today, would they see evidence of abundance or signs of scarcity?
3. What area of my life needs to demonstrate the abundant life of Christ this week?

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