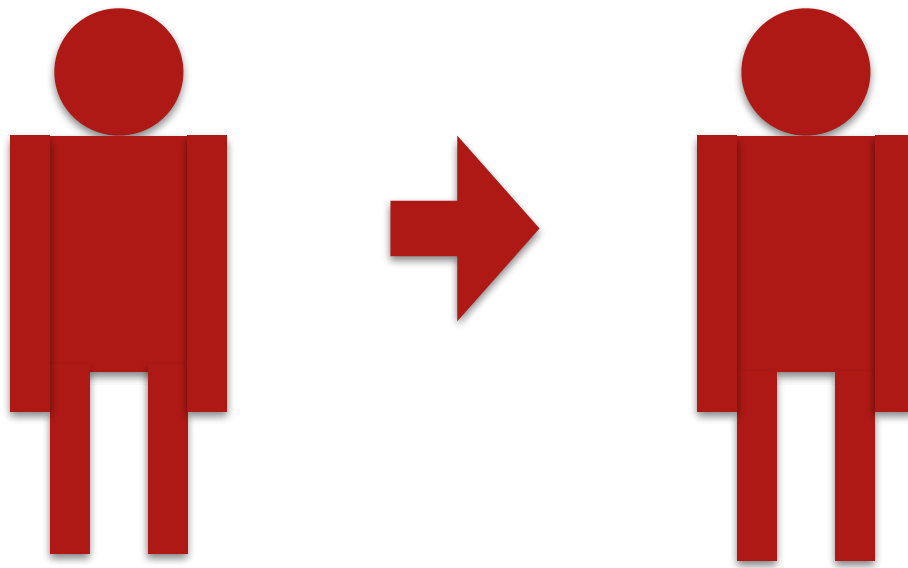


# Examining the Master Evangelist

By Nathan Combs



“My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work” - John 4.34

Dear Tyngsboro Brother or Sister,

Roughly a year ago, some of us spent time considering a practical approach to teaching non-Christians. I shared with you the lessons I use in studies, encouraged you to develop your own plan, and provided several weeks in which to practice with a partner.

I'd like to approach the subject of evangelism with you again during this new class, but this time from a different angle. We're going to carefully study the way Jesus evangelized in the gospels. The first eight lessons will focus on how He taught people personally and the last four will focus on how He equipped His disciples to go out and imitate Him. Our theme verse and class goal will come from John 4.34 - "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work." Jesus spoke these words to His disciples in the Samaritan village of Sychar, right after He had taught a Samaritan woman and right before He taught the entire village. Like Jesus, connecting people with their Creator should be our source of strength, not merely our duty.

As an evangelist working alongside you, I am constantly striving towards the goal of Ephesians 4.11-12 in all that I do with our church. Jesus expects me to do all that I can to "equip" you in your "ministry" (or service) to God in His kingdom. Our goal as a congregation is not to pay one man to be the minister for us; instead, God has commissioned evangelists and other teachers to help all Christians become servants who work together for God's glory. While there are many different kinds of ministries we can learn about and grow in, I know many of you desire training and practice in the area of evangelistic ministry. I certainly do not consider myself an expert in this area, and I look forward to learning with you as we sit at Jesus' feet together.

There are hundreds of thousands of people who live and work in this general area, not to mention the many friends and family members we already know. If we pray for strength and opportunities to teach, I am confident that the Lord will answer our prayers and use us powerfully to sow the gospel message. Let us be bold, knowing that God has "made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant" (2 Corinthians 3.6).

In brotherly love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'N'.

## Class Organization

	Topic	Scripture(s)
How Jesus Evangelized	Why Jesus Taught People	Matt. 9.35-38, Mk. 6.30-34, Jn. 4.31-38
	Where Jesus Taught People	Matt. 9.35; 26.55, Mk. 2.1-2; 4.1, Acts 5, 8, 16, 17
	How Jesus Set Up Teaching Situations	John 1.39-51, Luke 5.1-11
	How Jesus Sustained Himself	Mk. 1.21-39, Matt. 14.13-23
	How Jesus Had Conversations	John 4.1-6
	How Jesus Had Conversations	John 4.7-15
	How Jesus Had Conversations	John 4.16-29
	The Kind of People Jesus Pursued	Matt. 11.19, Jn. 7.49, Lk. 5.27-31; 7.36; 14.1; 15.1; 19.1-10
	How He Trained the Disciples to Evangelize	Jesus Sends Out the Apostles
Jesus Sends Out the Apostles		Matthew 10.16-25
Jesus Sends Out the Apostles		Matthew 10.26-42
Jesus Sends Out the 72		Luke 10.1-20

## Why Jesus Evangelized

1. List some reasons why you don't participate in talking to people about Jesus?
2. Read Matthew 9.35-38 and Mark 6.30-34. What motivated Jesus to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom? Why did he have that concern?
3. Based on what Jesus tells his disciples in Matthew 9.37-38, what do we learn about our general attitude about evangelism and what we should pray for?
4. Read John 4.31-38
  1. What's happening in the context of John 4 leading up to this passage?
  2. What does Jesus teach the disciples about His "food"? How do we apply this?
  3. What is the point of Jesus' discussion of sowing, reaping, and harvest? How can we use this encouragement?

## **Where Jesus Taught People**

1. Name some locations in which Jesus taught people in the gospels. Consult Matthew 9.35; 26.55, Mark 2.1-2; 4.1 for some ideas and provide any more that come to mind.
  
2. Later on, where did Jesus' disciples teach people in the book of Acts? For some examples, see Acts 5.42, 8.26, 16.13, 17.1-2, 17.17.
  
3. What do these teaching situations have in common with each other?
  
4. Brainstorm some places where we could go to have conversations about Jesus
  - a. Where can we go to find groups of people?
  
  - b. What are some ways in which we can get into our communities like Jesus did?
  
  - c. What kinds of services can we perform in the world that will create opportunities to be around people and share our message about Jesus?

## How Jesus Set Up Teaching Situations

1. Read John 1.39-51
  - a. How does Jesus respond to the curiosity of Andrew and the other man?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What subsequent events happen as a result of Jesus' interaction with them?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. How can we imitate the way Jesus interacted with Andrew and the other disciple?
  
2. Read Luke 5.1-11
  - a. Prior to this situation, did Simon have any interactions with Jesus in Luke's gospel? If so, when?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Make a list of the ways Jesus interacted with Simon in this account.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. How did Simon behave after he saw the miracle? How was that different from his first conversation with Jesus? How did this situation change Simon?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. How can we apply this situation to our interactions with others?

## **How Jesus Sustained Himself**

1. Read Mark 1.21-39
  - a. List the amazing things that Jesus did in the course of one day (vss. 21-34)
  
  - b. How did Jesus recover from such an exhausting day? How can we apply this?
  
  - c. According to vs. 38, how did Jesus characterize His mission? How can we use this?
  
2. Examine Matthew 14.13-23
  - a. What had just happened earlier in the chapter that caused Jesus to seek solitude?
  
  - b. How were Jesus' plans derailed and what was His attitude about it? What can we learn from His example?
  
  - c. Did Jesus eventually receive His alone time? What did he do with it? When did he eventually rejoin the disciples (vs. 25)?

## How Jesus Had Conversations

1. Read John 4.1-6
  - a. Leading up to this conversation, what are we told about Jesus' personal situation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What was unusual about Jesus and His disciples passing through the area of Sychar (Hint: read John's commentary at the end of vs. 8)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Who were the Samaritan people? Consult 2 Kings 17.24-41.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. Why does John tell us what time it was when Jesus was sitting beside the well?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What applications do you see for us? How can we make our lives imitate this passage?



## How Jesus Had Conversations

1. Read John 4.7-15
  - a. Considering the natural barriers between Jesus and this woman, what is curious about how this conversation begins in vs. 7-8?
  - b. How does Jesus move the conversation forward after she becomes amazed (vs. 10)? What is the "gift of God"?
  - c. Based on the woman's response, how is she thinking about Jesus and what is He offering her?
  - d. How does Jesus compare what He's offering with the well water in Sychar?
2. How can we put our lives into this text? What practical lessons do you see for us?

## How Jesus Had Conversations

1. Read John 4.16-29
  - a. Why does Jesus so abruptly change the subject in vs. 16? Or does He?
  - b. After realizing Jesus' prophetic powers, where does the woman steer the conversation?
  - c. In Jesus' response to her question, do you see any connection back to the first things He was talking to her about?
  - d. How does the reaction of the disciples contrast with the reaction of the woman?
  
2. What are some practical applications we can see from this text?

## The Kind of People Jesus Pursued

1. What kind of reputation did Jesus have amongst the Jews (Matthew 11.19, Luke 15.1)?
  
2. What did the Pharisees think of the Jews who weren't part of their number (John 7.49)?
  
3. Read Luke 19.1-10
  - a. Write down everything we're told about Zacchaeus in these verses.
  
  - b. Think about Jesus' mission statement (vs. 10) in the context of this passage. What does Jesus mean by seeking and saving the "lost"?
  
  - c. There are other places in Luke that discuss being "lost" (Luke 15.6, 9, 32). What do these verses have in common? To whom was Jesus addressing these teachings?
  
  - d. How does Luke 19.5 compare with Luke 7.36 and 14.1?
  
- d. What do we learn by looking at Jesus' party with Levi and his friends (Luke 5.27-31)?
  
- e. Practically speaking, how can we imitate Jesus in our attitudes and choices?

## **Jesus Sends Out the Apostles**

### **Matthew 10.1-15**

1. Obviously Jesus gave his apostles a special kind of supernatural authority in vs. 1 that we haven't been given (exorcism and healing). But what kind of authority do we have as 21st century Christians?
  
2. What do we learn about Jesus' apostles from examining the list of their names (vss. 2-4)? What applications can you make from your observations?
  
3. Jesus gave them strict instructions to only preach to fellow Jews, not Samaritans or Gentiles (vss. 5-7). Why? What do we learn from that?
  
4. What was the primary message they carried with them (vs. 7)? What was their attitude supposed to be toward their gifts (vs. 8)? Applications for our evangelism?
  
5. Why does Jesus forbid his apostles from preparing for their journey (Vss. 9-10)? How can we apply that to ourselves?
  
6. In vss. 11-15, Jesus tells them to find a "worthy" person and house or move on to the next town. What does he mean by that and how can we use that principle ourselves?

## **Jesus Sends Out the Apostles**

### **Matthew 10.16-25**

1. What does it mean for the apostles to be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves” (vs. 16)? What does that mean for our lives?
  
2. They are told that suffering and hatred and death is in store for them because of the message they preach (vss. 17-23). How is that motivating? Consider Matthew 5.10-12.
  
3. The apostles were told to not worry about their words in times of persecution. Why (vss. 19-20)? Although the Holy Spirit does not work within us in the exact same way, how can we apply this to ourselves?
  
4. Where does this persecution come from (vss. 21-22)? Applications to us?
  
5. What principles can we take from Jesus’ command to keep running to the next town (vs. 23)?

**Jesus Sends Out the Apostles**  
**Matthew 10.26-42**

1. What kind of specific persecution can Jesus' disciples expect to get that He received Himself (24-25)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Jesus told His apostles that they should be fearless (vss. 26-33). Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Jesus is referred to as the "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9.6), yet He says here that He didn't come to bring peace, but a sword (vs. 34). How do we reconcile those ideas?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. In this text, what is involved in taking up your cross and following Jesus (vs. 38)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How is Jesus encouraging the apostles in this final section about "receiving" and "rewarding" (vss. 40-42)? How can we be encouraged?

**Jesus Sends Out the 72**  
**Luke 10.1-20**

1. Do you see any differences between how the 12 apostles were sent out compared to the 72 disciples (compare Matthew 10.1-2 and Luke 10.1)?
  
2. Why would Jesus send the disciples out in pairs?
  
3. What message were they supposed to proclaim regardless of whether they were accepted or rejected by the town they entered (vss. 9, 11)?
  
4. Where were Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum? Why does Jesus condemn them? What encouragement can we draw from this as gospel messengers?
  
5. The disciples returned from their mission with joyful excitement about their miraculous powers. What does Jesus teach them in response? What applications can we make from vss. 13-16?