



**As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**

## Teaching 5 – Evangelism with Compassion

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### EVANGELISM WITH COMPASSION

Jesus as the Son of Man is “a builder of future generations”. In so doing, He begets sons **John 1:12** who also build future generations. Beyond the physical reality of procreation we are builders of future spiritual generations through the effective sharing of our faith. As spiritual sons or seeds of Abraham **Romans 4:16** we propagate the spiritual lineage through the testimony of our faith. It is only through Jesus, the Seed of Father Abraham that the continuation of eternal life-giving faith can pass on to others.

After being commissioned into ministry at His baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where He was severely tempted by the devil.

Can any of us identify with that process? Have you ever had a major move of God in your life when, wham! The forces of hell shot their arsenal at you! “What’s this? I just had the glory of God come down! Now I’m in the furnace of affliction!”

How do you evaluate the temptations of Jesus? Were they real or imagined? Were they difficult, or, since He was God, did they not even cause Him to blink?

Jesus’ temptations involved real-life areas of human conflict. Name three areas in which you are most often tempted. **Can you find one scripture to answer each personal temptation the way Jesus did?**

***Review the temptation passage in Luke 4:1–13 and answer the following questions:***

Why was it necessary for Jesus to be tempted? **See Hebrews 2:17**

Can you categorize the main areas of human experience in which Jesus was tempted and relate them to your own experience?

How did Jesus consistently respond to those temptations?

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## A COMMISSION WITH COMPASSION:

Now let's look at several scriptures about being commissioned with compassion. Answer each of the following questions with a few sentences about changing or improving how you relate to unsaved people.

What is the most important ingredient that needs to be present with our preaching of the Gospel? **Luke 10:30–36** how could you improve in this area?

How was Jesus always seeking to communicate His message to a lost world? **Luke 13:18-21** how could you improve in this respect? What kind of people did Jesus feel were ready for the kingdom of God? **Luke 18:10-14** Do you associate with such people often?

To be commissioned with compassion is an awesome responsibility. After all, are we very righteous and compassionate by nature? **Romans 3:10; Romans 7:18, Mark 7:21**

Describe your own sense of worthiness to be God's spokesperson and define what you base that worthiness on. We have to walk in the character of Jesus, with compassion.

**Psalms 51:10 John 7:38 John 15:4 2Corinthians 5:7**

***Describe how the above scriptures have been confirmed in your life.***

Apparently, our dependence on the Lord is a significant key to being adequate to serve Him. It surely doesn't come from our own strength or design! Jesus wants us to follow Him closely. As we do, His character and His purposes will be fulfilled in and through us.

When Jesus said, "Follow Me!" to Peter, James, John, and Matthew, they immediately left everything and "followed" Him **Luke 5:10, 11, 27**

Jesus is not vague or indecisive about anything, especially when it comes to people's accepting or rejecting the Good News! But why does Jesus sometimes speak in such intense terms, almost sounding angry, it seems? If God is love, why would He speak such sharp words?

His warnings are confronting, but no less compassionate towards hearts hardened against Him. If a three-year-old child plays in the street after being repeatedly instructed not to do so, a parent's response will most likely be expressed with a fair degree of intensity; but that doesn't contradict love—it verifies it.

In the following references, Jesus addresses the issue of resistance toward the gospel. State in one or two sentences the underlying spiritual principle Jesus is teaching and what action should be taken in response to those principles.

**Luke 8:4 Luke 9:5 Luke 10:13-16 Luke 11:29 Luke 12:9**

**Evangelism**—it's not just words. It is Good News accompanied by love, power, and righteousness, resulting in changed lives, which, in turn, continue to change lives! Could anything be more fulfilling than seeing people's lives turned around so they not only live for Jesus, but in time, bring others to Christ as well? The joy of being a part of such a wonderful witness, accompanied by God's power, transcends the thrill of other endeavours.

**Question:** *Now that you've studied this subject in part, without dwelling on the word too long, what picture comes to mind when you think about "evangelism"?*

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