

Opportunities Galore

Introduction: The Great Commission commands us to “make disciples” while we are going about the everyday activities of life Mt.28:19

Evangelism is more than just a programme of the church, it is to be the lifestyle of every believer. “We are His witnesses” Acts 1:8 (Not His lawyers or judges – but witnesses)

This morning we will see **eight opportunities** that Jesus and others took to be a witness for the Gospel.

1. Luke 5:27-29 **Inviting someone to your home**. Your home can be used as a place to show the care to others and it opens opportunity to talk to others about the gospel in a non threatening environment.

2. Luke 8:41-42 **Helping in a crisis**. I understand that the Chinese have three characters that make up the word for crisis 1. Danger 2. Responsibility 3. Opportunity. You may not be able to help someone “out” of a crisis, but perhaps God could use you to help someone “through” a crisis.

3. Luke 18:18 **Answering a question**. We are told in 1 Peter 3:15 to be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks of the hope that is within us. When people ask you why you are different or give you credit for some accomplishment, you can use this for an opportunity to honour the Lord and tell of the great things He has done in your life.

4. Luke 19:3-5 **Making an urgent appeal**. Have you ever felt compelled to pray or to talk to someone. This may be God’s Spirit prompting you to talk to that particular person.

5. John 1:35-42 **Witnessing to a relative**. Often the most difficult people to talk to about the gospel is our own family. They know us the best. They know both our weaknesses and strengths. We will have the greatest opportunity for trust from those in our family. Statistics show that most people come to know Christ through a personal friend or family member.

6. John 4:5-8 **Using a casual encounter**. You may be standing in a queue, sitting on an airplane, etc. and someone else is there not doing anything in particular. Show friendliness and greet them – it may open the door for further talk and an opportunity to share about your wonderful Saviour.

7. John 9:6-34 **Telling your testimony**. Like the man who received his sight, you have a testimony of God’s saving power in your life. This is your testimony. Know how to give your “story” in a variety of settings and use it to tell others what God has done for you.

8. Acts 8:36-39 **Doing deeds of kindness**. Kindness opens the door to telling others about your Lord. When people are blessed by your kind deed, they will be more open to hearing about the God you serve. “People don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.”

Conclusion: Ephesians 5:16. “Redeeming the time because the days are evil..”

Redeem means to purchase or “buy up” Time means “opportunity. God wants us to “buy up the opportunities” for the gospel. The Greek people had a statue called “Opportunity” It had hair on the front and was bald in the back. This is because you can grab opportunity when it comes toward you, but once it passes there is no way to grab it.