

Don't worry, just do it!

Series: Personal Work and Personal Evangelism

Intro:

- → **series on personal work and personal evangelism** — something congregation very interested in doing more actively
 - ! **last week, lesson 1:** Be a good neighbor — paradigm, view, perspective, way of thinking
 - ! live by the golden rule: have compassion for people, move to show mercy
 - ! “good neighbor” personal work
 - ! “good neighbor” evangelism
 - ! **compliment congregation**
 - ! “good neighbor” attitudes that exist
 - ! **personal work that is occurring:** encouragement, meals to sick
 - ! e.g., all the encouragement and help given me and my family
 - ! **illus.:** received two card in the mail last week, as have before, both totally made my day
 - ! **personal evangelism that each is doing:** talking to friends, neighbors, acquaintances
 - ! **task: to improve**
 - ! **commend for desire of each to improve** as personal workers and personal evangelists
 - ! **fact: can't put all our efforts** into personal work and personal evangelism, must strike a good balance, to do all that God has set forth for us to do as His creation
 - ! **challenge: make the best of our time** (Eph. 5:16)
- **This lesson:**
 - ! **Title:** Don't worry, just do it!
 - ! **Purpose:** try to motivate us to do what we can do, today — what we already know to do
 - ! **future lessons, this series:** give more tools for personal evangelism
 - ! **future series:** prepare us for an organized evangelistic effort, where in we can use the talents and tools we develop in this series of lessons
- **#1 Problem: Sometimes we leave our first love** — bringing souls to Christ!
 - **Rev. 2:1-7** Jesus to Ephesian Christians
 - ! doing some great and mighty things for the Lord
 - ! but had left their first love
 - ! not told exactly what it was - but they knew
 - ! could have been any one of a number of things - lesson applicable to all Christians who leave their first love as they mature in the Lord
 - ! had to repent, or would be lost
 - ! if they did, would be saved
 - **Development of a congregation:** sometimes we get involved with so many other things, we **leave our first love of personal work and personal evangelism** (rf. Charles Goodall's meeting, S. Livingston, stages of a congregation)
 - ! **Stage #1** (when congregation starts)
 - ! everyone is zealous
 - ! everyone involved in practically everything, very evangelistic, telling people about the church and inviting them to church
 - ! build church building
 - ! some of the best builders of physical buildings

- ! if we put that much effort into getting people into the building once we build it, we'd be doing all the personal work and evangelism anyone group could do, might have to start another building program shortly thereafter
- ! ability of members
 - ! **aren't necessarily "good"** in human terms at evangelism
 - ! but through their diligent efforts and fervent prayers **they are successful**
 - ! **e.g., babies in Christ** and young people can be some of the best personal workers and personal evangelists, because they operate mostly upon zeal and don't try to "think" through everything - they just do it
 - ! young people are often effective bring friends and acquaintances to church, have not made personal work and evangelism so complex in their minds that they're paralyzed
- ! **Stage #2: formalization (institutionalizing, Goodall):**
 - ! elders, deacons, church building, structured classes, etc.
 - ! people do what they are good at, stop doing the things they're not good at
 - ! soon, most or all, stop evangelizing, because people figure they're not very "good" at it (human terms)
 - ! **but fact is, those who are not good at it (humanistically speaking) are usually the best**
- ! **Next few stages (summarized):**
 - ! begins to realize something is wrong, not going the way it should, not evangelizing any longer
 - ! not out in the community, doing what they had been doing before
 - ! try to replace what had occurred in stages #1 & 2, with highly structured and formalized programs, etc.
 - ! just keeping house
 - ! don't want to entertain visitors that are different than they are
 - ! **illus.:** preacher tells story, moved to work with congregation, started converting people, elders said, we didn't have any problems till you moved here - new Christians with problems
 - ! congregation dies when the old members die - not evangelistic
 - ! or something happens and it gets a fresh start
- ! **our challenge:**
 - ! maintain the zeal and "just do it attitude" in phase #1, not leave our first love, while growing and maturing as Christians and a church
- → **Solution, if we have lost our first love for souls - zeal for personal work, evangelism:**
 - ! **Rev. 2:5a** remember, repent, do the deeds you did at first
 - ! **remember:** think back to what it used to be like, instill the same
 - ! **e.g., a 10 year period in the history of this congregation,** 600+ people were baptized, restored, or placed membership (average 60+ people per year)
 - ! **it took the whole congregation to do the work (future lesson)**
 - ! **repent:** change our minds, reorder our lives, to again love lost souls and brethren
 - ! **do the deeds you did at first:** start doing again, what you had done before
 - ! **e.g., positive change has begun, keep working through the process, guided by the elders, managed by the deacons, accomplished by the whole membership**
 - ! **our greatest task is to motivate ourselves,** to get out work more (personal work, become more evangelistic)
 - ! we have always had the ability — already have everything we need to do the work (evangelism)
- ! **must be zealous, remain zealous**
 - ! **PP - Tit. 2:14** (Paul, of Jesus) zealous for good deeds (works, KJ).
 - ! **zealous:** eager and ardent in pursuit of something (Webster's)
 - ! **PP - Eph. 2:10a** workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works.** . . .

→ **What's this mean to you?**

- ! each of us must find out what motivates us - makes us tick
- ! love lost souls, and brethren's souls
- ! be zealous, stay zealous
- ! repent when we become apathetic and lackadaisical
- ! stay focused of what really is important in daily life, and in the church

➤ **#2 Problem: Sometimes we're afraid we're not "perfect" at personal work (evangelism), so we do nothing.**

→ **Common problem we must get over in many areas of life, to be successful.** — will help us become more successful in other areas of life, if we can overcome our fears and improve in personal work (evangelism)

! **illus.: football kickers**

! **some kickers have found a book written for golfers to help** them as kickers

! **book: "Golf is Not a Game of Perfect"**

! **Dr. Bob Rotella**, exposes and analyzes the **doubts**, the **fears**, and the **frustrations** that haunt anyone who's ever picked up a club and swung it. He suggests **how these mental and emotional hazards can be played through**, and, **regardless of skill level**, how teeing off with a more positive and confident outlook will translate into better performance.

! **Garrett Rivas, Junior, Michigan Wolverines, leads his team in scoring with 71 points** (Detroit News, detnews.com, Nov. 11, 2004)

! **Rivas worked with former Michigan kicker Jay Feely**, also a Tampa native and a member of the **Atlanta Falcons**, while he was in high school. **Feely gave Rivas a book** he had read while at Michigan, "Golf is not a Game of Perfect."

! **Regarding kicking, Rivas said:** "At that moment, I clear my head of everything," Rivas said. "Before I give the nod (for the snap), I say, 'Just kick it.' . . . If I'm thinking about, 'Oh, man, I can't over-rotate, I can't do this, can't do that,' that's when you're going to miss. I tell myself a few key things, clear my mind and just kick it."

! **Regarding a college football kicker, Rivas said:** "Everyone at this level is good enough to be there and is good enough to kick," Rivas said. "But what separates them is the way they can handle their head."

! **applications: the doubt, fears, and frustrations that keep us from being the personal workers (evangelists) we want to be, are the same things that keep us from doing other things in life**

! **must learn to overcome**

→ **Quick review, Scriptures: do not worry, be anxious, fear, doubt**

! **don't:**

- ! **PP - Matt. 6:33-34a** seek first His kingdom, do not worry
- ! **PP - Phil. 4:6** anxious for nothing
- ! **PP - Matt. 10:28** do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul
- ! **PP - Ja. 1:6** ask in faith without any doubting

! **do:**

- ! **PP - 1 Pet. 3:15** sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, ready to make a defense, with gentleness and reverence;

➤ → **In some ways, we have to me like a young person: Be young at heart — fearless, just do it**

! **Christians must have a child-like attitude:**

- ! **PP - Matt. 19:14** kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these — children
- ! **PP - Mk. 10:15** receive the kingdom of God like a child

! **illus.: David and Goliath** (boy vs. giant) — **1 Sam. 17**

! **background:**

! **Philistines had entered Judah**, camped in Ephes-dammin

! **Israel stood** on one mountain and **Philistines on** a facing mountain, valley in between

! **Goliath was** their champion

! six cubits and a span - depending on *which* type of cubit or what standard used for its size he was
9-11 feet tall, tallest in recorded history

! **Goliath challenged** the Israelites every day (intimidated), twice a day (morning and evening) - kill him and they served Israel, he kill one of them and they serve them

! had done this for 40 days

! **Israelites were greatly afraid**

! **David:**

! **David was** Jesse's youngest son, a boy who was a shepherd

! **Jesse sent him** to check on his three oldest brothers, taking them some food

! **David heard Goliath's challenge**, convinced Saul to allow him to fight the giant

! **David's question / attitude:** For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?

! **went out to fight dressed as a shepherd**, with a sling and 5 stones

! armor was too big and bulky for him

! David **ran quickly** to the battle ground, **slung a stone** a **hit the giant in the forehead, killed him**

! **David's attitude (talking to Goliath before fighting):** "This day the **LORD will deliver** you up into my hands . . . and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD'S and He will give you into our hands."

! **application:** we must have a simplistic attitude, able to overcome the self-imposed complexities of the situation, and just do what we have to do — **the battle belongs to the Lord**

! **illus.: Rebecca Jones** — simplistic attitude toward person work (evangelism)

! member at West Side congregation in Thomasville, GA

! very humble, lives with family on a Plantation house where her husband works

! unable to read very well, I would go with another brother to help her and Alvin do their Bible class books for church

! could not teach a Bible "class"

! did a great job telling people about God, church, inviting to church, setting up classes

! kept me busier more than any other single person

! child-like attitude: fearless, care about the lost, just do it

! **application:** we must be **lowly** in heart, **humble**, and **child-like** to **fearlessly** go out and do personal work (evangelism) - **just do it**

→ **What's this mean to you?**

! we must **realize that we are equipped** to do personal work (evangelism), **no matter who we are** (age, intelligence, financial resources) - **matter of just doing it**

! **we can't get wrapped up in all the reasons we can't** do personal work (evangelism)

! **just go out and do it:** do the best you can, knowing the battle belongs to the Lord

! prayerful, equipped with all that God has blessed you with to perform His work

! it's about God, not about me (you)

! if we do, God will be well pleased

Conclusion:

➤ → Summary:

! **if we have lost our first love for the souls of others**, we need to **repent, change our thinking**

! **motivate** ourselves and become **zealous** to help others (souls)

! **if we are afraid that we're not perfect, or that we are inadequate** in some way, we **need to change our attitude toward self**, having a **proper perspective of God's view toward us**

→ **Fact:** God created us in Christ for good works

! no reason that we cannot be the personal workers (evangelists) we want to be

! **Don't worry, just do it!**

→ **Good progress:** Great group of people in this congregation, working hard, trying their best, growing in the Lord and working in His kingdom

! keep it up, continue to strive to improve

! prayer, hard work, God's blessing, God giving the increase — *the battle belongs to the Lord*

→ **Inv.:**

Audio sermon notes:

! ➤ denotes the place to proceed to the next PowerPoint slide.

! All Scriptures are NASB unless otherwise noted.

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