1. **The Fear of Rejection**

Are we more worried about what people think about us or about pleasing God?

- “We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.”- 1 Thess 2:4

- “Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.” – Galatians 1:10

How do these verses apply to our lives when we are sharing our faith? Who cares most about them hearing the gospel?

- “If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.” – 1 Peter 4:14

-“Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.” – Luke 6:22-23

What is the worst thing that could happen to you when you share your faith? According to these verses what are the two blessings you get when you are rejected for standing up for Christ?

- “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.”- 1 Cor 3:6

**- “Success in witnessing is taking the initiative in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results up to God.” – Bill Bright**

What three things can happen when we share our faith? Why is it so important for us to remember that it is not our job to convert people? What is our role in witnessing?

1. **The Fear of Losing a Friend**

That should be the very reason that you do share with them! If they don’t accept Christ, you will lose a friend for all of eternity. What kind of a friendship would that be! **You don’t have to be pushy just lovingly taking the initiative and sharing. They will respect your love for them**.

-“My friend, I stand in judgment now - And feel that you’re to blame somehow - While on this earth I walked with you day by day - And never did you point the way - You knew the Lord in truth and glory - But never did you tell the story - My knowledge then was very dim - You could have lead me safe to him - Though we lived together here on earth - You never told me of your second birth - And now I stand this day condemned - Because you failed to mention him - You taught me many things, that’s true - I called you friend and trusted you - But now I learned, now its too late -You could have kept me from this fate - We walked by day and talked by night - And yet you showed me not the light You let me live, love and die - You knew I’d never live on high- Yes I called you friend in life - And trusted you in joy and strife -Yet coming to this dreadful end- I see you really weren’t my friend” – My Friend by D.J. Higgins

How would it make you feel thinking about one of your friends writing this poem? What friends of yours do you want to see start to follow Jesus? What could be the best way to share Jesus them?

1. **They Have already Heard It**

**The average person hears the gospel at least 7 times before they decide to commit to Christ.** Repetition is very important when someone is considering the gospel. Some people who have heard it only understand certain parts. Your conversation will likely help make it clearer. Also, this time may just be their time to respond. How does that fact that people need to hear the gospel multiple times influence your decision to share with others?

- “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Gal 6:9

- “Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.” – Ecc 11:6

- “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” – 1 Cor 15:58

- According to these verses why is it so important to keep sharing with people even if they may have already heard it? Why do we so often assume it will not help them if we share?

1. **I Don’t Know How**

 Then learn how! Something as important as sharing the gospel should be something you take time to learn. There are a lot of great books but the best way to learn how is just start practicing. For example, if you want to learn how to swim you can’t really learn until you jump in the water!

-“When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.” – 1 Cor 2:1-3

How does this verse encourage us with our inadequacies? According to this verse what do we have to know in order to share our faith?

-God does not promise to take away all our fear when we share our faith. **It may even be a little awkward. But awkward conversations change lives!**

“For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” Luke 12:12

Do you think that your friends will be concerned about how smooth your presentation is when you share the gospel with them? What do you think will make the biggest impact on them when you share?

1. **I am Just Lazy**

 What do you think Jesus would say to that excuse? Everyone has spare time. It is really a question of priorities, not time.

- He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son. – Proverbs 10:5

- I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. – Rev 3:16-17

 - “Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” – Col 4:5-6

How do these verses explain our need to get more involved in using our time to reach the lost?

“Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.” – James 4:17

Why is not sharing the gospel a serious sin?