

Here am I, Send Someone Else

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. Illustration about husband in *Illustration Unlimited*, #6, p 183.
- B. We often make just as poor excuses for not evangelizing.
 - 1. When God spoke to Isaiah, Isaiah said, “Here am I! Send me” (6:8).
 - 2. We, however, often say, “Here am I! Send someone else.”
- C. Tonight, we want to examine excuses we make for not sharing the gospel.

II. I DON'T HAVE THE TALENT.

- A. Many believe that God has not given them the talent to share the gospel.
 - 1. There people claim that god gives different talents.
 - 2. God chose not to give them the talent to evangelize.
- B. Yet,
 - 1. Those who say this generally use it as an excuse.
 - a. They've never tried to evangelize.
 - b. How can I know whether or not I could have been a great pianist if I've never played?
 - 2. God has given us all talents.
 - a. These talents were given according to ability—God doesn't expect more from us than we can do.
 - b. Everyone received some talent—we all have some talent that can be used in God's kingdom.
 - c. The man who did noting with his talent was cursed—God expects us to do something with the talents we have.
- C. What are you doing with the talents you have?

III. I DON'T KNOW HOW.

- A. This would be an acceptable answer for those who are new in Christ (1 Pt 2:2).
- B. But, we are to grow in Christ.
 - 1. The Scriptures teach this (Eph 4:15; 2 Pt 3:18).
 - 2. Part of growing in Christ is learning how to evangelize.
- C. How can we learn?
 - 1. Study through Acts.
 - a. This will provide much rich material for evangelism.
 - b. This will teach us how to evangelize.
 - 2. Study the epistles to see how Paul & others evangelized.

IV. I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME.

- A. We live in a fast paced world—it is often difficult to find time to serve God.
- B. yet, we are to put God & his kingdom first (Mt 6:33).
 - 1. To paraphrase a quote by JC Penney, “If we are too busy to serve God through the week, we have more business than God ever intended.”
 - 2. We must serve God regardless of what else is taking place in our lives.

V. I'M AFRAID.

- A. Personal evangelism can be a scary experience.

1. People can quickly become angry.
2. Some questions you may not know how to answer.
- B. Fear can prevent us from doing what expects.
 1. Because Abraham was afraid he had Sarah tell Pharaoh that she was his sister (Gn 12:10-13).
 2. The man with the one talent hid the talent because he was afraid (Mt 25:25).
 3. Illustration about the fearful farmer, *Illustration Unlimited*, #2, p 204.
- C. yet, we cannot allow fear to keep us from doing personal work.
 1. The cowardly shall have their part in the second death (Rv 21:8).
 2. Are you allowing fear to keep you from personal work?

VI. I DON'T LIKE REJECTION.

- A. Rejection is never pleasant.
- B. Yet, we need to remember,
 1. Some of those who heard Jesus rejected the Gospel (e.g., Jn 6:60-66).
 2. Some of those who heard the apostles rejected the Gospel (e.g., Acts 17:32).
- C. Those who reject the Gospel don't reject us—they reject God (1 Sm 8:7).

VII. I DON'T WANT TO LOOSE MY FRIEND.

- A. True friends do what is in the best interest of the other person.
 1. Friends help each other be all they should be (Prov 27:17).
 2. Friends help each other when they fall (Eccl 4:9-10).
- B. True friends share the Gospel. Are you a true friend?

VIII. I DON'T THINK GOD REALLY CARES.

- A. Some think God really doesn't care if we reach the lost or not.
- B. Yet, those who refuse to evangelize shall be lost.
 1. Jn 15:2.
 2. Ezek 33:8-9.

IX. I'VE GOT A PREACHER.

- A. Many think that their preacher should do the evangelism in a community.
- B. Yet, the Bible teaches that all Christians should evangelize.
 1. The "clergy-laity" distinction prominent in the religious world is unknown in the New Testament.
 2. Those scattered after Stephen's death went everywhere preaching the Word (Acts 8:4).
 3. Andrew brought Peter to Jesus (Jn 1:40-42).
 - a. When Andrew brought Peter to Jesus, Andrew was not a great apostle.
 - b. Andrew was never really a "great" apostle.
 - 1) We never really read much of him in the New Testament.
 - 2) He's terribly overshadowed by his brother.
 - 3) Andrew was just an ordinary man who brought his brother to Christ.

X. I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH BIBLE.

- A. Only new Christians should be able to say this.
- B. Those of us who are older Christians should be teachers (Heb 5:12).
- C. We need to study the Bible.
 1. The Gospel is God's power to save (Rm 1:16).
 2. Jesus' words will judge us in the last day (Jn 12:48).

XI. CONCLUSION.

- A. There are many excuses we can use for not spreading the Gospel.
- B. There are many excuses we can use for not accepting Jesus. What excuses do you use for not accepting Jesus?