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## Lessons on Evangelism from the Holy Week

### Introduction

- The suffering of Christ was for the Salvation of the whole world — 1 Jn 2:2

Christ: *“When I am lifted up, I shall draw all men”*  
Jn 12:32

eg) Philip preached Christ to the Ethiopian official from Isaiah 53 — Acts 8:32,33,35

The most important passage on the suffering of Christ

- Jesus was passionate after souls from beginning to end, but the intensity heightened during the Last Week.

Every incident during the Passion Week teaches us many strategic lessons concerning missionary evangelism.

Let’s look at 7 of them, Palm Sunday to Good Friday.

### 1. The Tethered Donkey

Mt 21:1-3

At least 6 lessons from this incident —

a) A picture of Rural Evangelism —

India lives in Villages ... 80%  
(even though there’s so much of urbanisation these days)

“If villages prosper, India prospers” — Morarji Desai

But 80% of our work is among the 20%. i.e. urbanites  
6,00,000 villages ... many without a witness

A missionary to a shopkeeper in a village:

“Do you know Jesus?”

Answer: “I don’t sell it in this shop.”

An Evangelist to an old villager:

“Have you heard about Jesus?”

Answer: “He is not in this village!”

Govt. scheme: Computer & Cellphone for every villager

b) Like the donkey, people are bound by superstitious beliefs & lifelong fears —

eg) Orissa — Bonda Women ... scanty clothes  
Rajasthan — Child marriages  
Karnataka — Temple prostitution  
M.P. — Branding the skin with hot iron (witchdoctors)

Wanted Careys to crusade against *Sati!*

Unless we leave Nazareth for Naphthali,  
people will continue in darkness (Mt 4:13-16)

c) Colt also tied — Innocent & ignorant children

They are enthusiastic.

*“Kingdom theirs!”*

eg) VBS gave birth to several Missions.

d) Sent two disciples —

*“two by two”* (Lk 10:1)

Do not wait for 10 or 12. Start with 2.

Husband & wife team (like Acquila & Priscilla)

e) Jesus sat on a “she” donkey!

Women ministers —

Pandit Ramabai — Mukti Mission (Maharashtra)

Amy Carmichael — Dohnavur Fellowship (Tamilnadu)

Mary Slessor — Cannibals (Calabar, Africa)



Missionary prayer meetings —  
thin attendance

Pastors, make atleast 1 of the 4 Sunday Services  
a Missionary Prayer Meeting!

Don't say, we cannot change our people!  
If we cannot change the Church,  
how can we change the country?

Oswald J. Smith —  
“A Church that does not evangelize will fossilize!”  
Buildings become Monuments.

Jesus was not impressed by buildings —  
(Mk 13:1,2) ... AD 70 ... destroyed by Romans

Secret of the early Church: Mobile Pulpits  
(like mobile phones)

Over-investment in buildings —  
Cushioning the pews  
Carpeting the floor  
Conditioning the halls  
Curtaining the altar  
Colouring the walls  
whereas there are Churches without money for  
covering their roof!

Mega Churches: Instead of one hall to hold 10,000 members,  
why not 10 halls to hold 1000 members each?

- Another lesson:
    - doves sold after all for sacrifice
    - money exchange for Greek & Roman coins  
for Temple tax
- Don't commercialize religion! (*“Den of thieves”*)

Do not talk too much about funds —  
eg) “Last week’s offering or Last week’s baptisms?”  
Which is more important?

#### 4. The Fruitless Tree

Mt 21:18,19

Three observations:

a) Fruitless Christian — Self-contradiction

Saved to save ...  
Blessed to bless ... (Abraham) (Gen 12:2)  
Jn 15:16 ... “I chose you ... fruit ...”  
Mt 4:19 ... “Follow Me ... fishers ...”  
Not an option but an obligation!

Fruitlessness is not just laziness, it is “wickedness.”  
(Mt 25:26)

b) Pretence of the Tree

Do not deceive by generalised accounts &  
statements —

“Individual” accountability —  
Rev 22:12 ... “Everyone”  
5 talents ... 2 talents ... “To whom much”

c) This tree instantly cursed.

Another Parable (Lk 13:6-9)  
3 years & 4th year! (Fig tree in a Vineyard)

This is following vv1-5 ... “unless you repent”

Why were our lives spared in Tsunami 2004?  
Invest: Time ... Talents ... Treasure

#### 5. The Sacrificial Women

Two Incidents on Tuesday —

a) Poor Widow (2 mites) (Mk 12:41-44)

b) A Woman (perfume) (Mt 26:6-13)

The lessons —

- i) They trusted the Lord for their future
  - a) Widow: Her entire livelihood
  - b) Woman: 1 year wages ... dowry for groom
- ii) Linked to world evangelism: Mt 26:13
  - eg) CT Studd ... Gave all to Missions ...  
including what was kept for his bride

Your Church budget —

What's the primary item?

John Wesley: "The Church is the only Society on earth that functions for the benefit of its non-members!"

"The World is my Parish!"

- Come out of the OT mentality of just Tithing —  
It was just a *"tutor"* ... to bring us to Christ!  
(Gal 3:24,25)  
Start there ... Do not stay there!
- The same day ... Judas struck a deal  
Mt 26:13-16 ... *"THEN ..."* (v14)  
Mk 14:9-11 ... *"THEN ..."* (v10)

For the woman: 1 year earnings smaller than her Lord

For Judas: 1 month earning greater than his Lord

## 6. The Fearless Witness

Jn 18:37 ... before Pilate ...

a) Because of Prayer —

*Willing mind ... weak flesh* (Mt 26:39-41)

Peter denied thrice (Mt 26:40)

But Jesus declared thrice ...

*"I am He!"* (Jn 18:4-8)

Knee failure ...

Buckling under threats ...

Early apostles ... *"Hour of Prayer"* (Acts 3:1)

*"House of Prayer"*

b) Because of the Spirit's anointing —

Building & Battling go together (Mt 16:18)

*"Neither by might ... but My Spirit"* (Zech 4:6)

Building the Temple (v9)

Spiritual battles cannot be won by

- Intellectual brilliance
- Oratorical skill
- Technological expertise
- Social status
- Financial power
- Institutional strength

Paul quoted Jesus while inspiring Timothy —

1 Tim 6:12,13 ... *before Pontius Pilate*

Persecution everywhere.

Days of martyrdom not past.

## 7. The Dying Thief

Lk 23:39-43

- Personal Soulwinning

Jesus ... Nicodemus

Zaccheaus

One lost sheep

Everywhere He was a personal Soulwinner.

We need second touch to see men as men, and even a third touch to see men as souls! (Mk 8:22-25).

Each one to reach one!

Too much money spent in mass Meetings —

Public crusades can be banned, but personal soulwinning cannot be stopped.

T.L. Osborn: “Restoration of the art of personal soulwinning is the rediscovery of the NT Christianity!”

### **Conclusion**

1. Go to the villages & deliver people from bondage.
2. Conduct open-air evangelism.
3. Do not overspend on buildings.
4. Understand why God has extended your life.
5. Give sacrificially for missions.
6. Depend on the Spirit’s power.
7. Give yourself to personal soulwinning.

Then,

the Crucified Saviour “*shall see the travail of His soul, and be satisfied!*” (Isa 53:11)