

SHARE

We exist to Enjoy and Share the Love and Message of God with Everyone—part 2

January 12, 2020

Last week we looked at “Enjoy.” This week we look at “Share.”

DAY 1: Shared joy

1. The gospel is not an end in itself. Joy is not an end in itself. In fact, the kind of joy God offers us is not an individual effort or discovery. It is a *shared* joy!
2. Our greatest shared joy relates to our salvation. Being involved with lost people brings great joy to the Father’s and Jesus’ heart! (Luke 15:1-2)
3. Under the verses below, jot down what strikes you about the concept of shared joy, or our God-given responsibility to be people who “share!”

Romans 10:14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 4:32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

Romans 12:13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

1 Timothy 6:18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Jude 1:3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

4. Does the idea of “shared joy” make a difference in how you think about joy? How so?
5. Joy usually doesn’t happen in isolation. It usually involves engaging and sharing with people.

DAY 2: Parable of the talents

There are some very important parables that highlight the importance of being people who “share” or are engaged with people in ministry to them.

Matthew 25:14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.

¹⁵ To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

²⁰ The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' ²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²² "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' ²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴ "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸ "Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents.

²⁹ For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

2. What strikes you most from this parable?

3. Do you relate to any of the three servants? Which one? In what way?

4. No matter how small your “talent” may be, it is important to invest it, to share it with others!

5. One day, you will stand before the Master who will ask you, “What did you do with the talent I gave you?” It’s time to buy up your opportunities with people!

DAY 3: The parable of the sheep and the goats

1. Another important parable is the parable of the sheep and goats.

Matthew 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?

³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?

³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,

⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' ⁴⁶ "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

2. What strikes you about the “sheep?”

3. What strikes you most about the “goats?”

4. Why do you think the “sheep” surprised that they actually served Jesus in His need?

5. Someday all of us will stand before God as sheep or goats. What makes the difference?

DAY 4: Parable of the Good Samaritan

1. It's easy for us Christians to "coast" on our salvation, to "sit and soak" in church, and to live essentially self-centered lives as Christians. We all too easily rely on our religiosity to convince ourselves we don't really need to be involved with people.

Luke 10:25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" ²⁷ He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

²⁸ *"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."*

²⁹ *But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"*

³⁰ *In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.*

³³ *But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.*

³⁵ *The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'*

³⁶ *"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" ³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."*

2. Why do you think the priest and the Levite walked by on the other side of the road instead of stopping to help? If you had walked by, what would you have told yourself?

3. Why do you think the Samaritan stopped?

4. What strikes you about the lengths he went to help?

5. You likely will not find people beaten up and left to the side of the road this week. But there always people who need someone to take an interest in them, to hear their story, to dive into some of their difficulties. Be alert to people!

DAY 5. Making it practical

1. Sharing does not come easy, even to our redeemed human nature.

2. Sharing involves a number of “tools.” Below, check the tools you think would help you be more aware of opportunities to share with people:

- ☐ Intentionality (Luke 19:10)
- ☐ Listening (James 1:19)
- ☐ Asking open-ended questions
- ☐ Rejoicing with someone over their good fortune or good circumstance (Rom. 12:15)

3. There are different ways we can share. Check the ways you think you could “share” with others:

- ☐ Financial
- ☐ Thoughtfulness (a simple note, a small gift, flowers, etc.)
- ☐ A gift on their birthday or anniversary
- ☐ A word of encouragement
- ☐ Taking someone out to lunch
- ☐ Sharing your faith story with them
- ☐ Asking them to share their faith story with you

4. Are there people and faces that come to mind? List some names.

5. What ways can you be a part of their lives that involves sharing?

6. Every Christian is to be “on mission.” You have a calling!