

# Reaching Out

We have been looking at our Core Values :

Honour

Excellence

Advancement

This week we will look at **REACHING OUT**



**So listen to this...** (play track 1st verse & chorus...) I Couldn't resist!

When you Mention 'Evangelism' & it makes some people feel nervous... Or Condemned... They think of that guy with a sandwich board, or perhaps a megaphone... and let's be honest, like everybody else we've walked past them. These methods worked in the past.. But todays people seem to be in much more immersed in their phones than listening to street preachers.

So let's look at how Jesus interacted with people.

- Whom did He meet?
- How did He connect with them?

- Where did the encounters take place?
- Who initiated contact?
- What happened in the conversation'?

Like Jesus' original followers, believers today are sent into the world to be His witnesses (Matt. 28:19-20; Hybrid) **So wherever you go,** *make disciples of all nations: Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

### **So that's the Task... But how did Jesus Do it?**

The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John) include more than 40 meetings between Jesus and various individuals. So let's look at some.

**Who started the conversation?** In nine cases, Jesus initiated the conversations. Examples:

- **With a woman whose life** is messed up by multiple marriages... he simply asks for a drink of water...(John 4:7-42)



- **A crippled beggar**(John 5:1-15)



*Jesus was back in Jerusalem.*

*2 Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem, there was a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda, with five alcoves.*

*3 Hundreds of sick people—blind, crippled, paralyzed—were in these alcoves.*

*5 One man had been an invalid there for thirty-eight years.*

*6 When Jesus saw him stretched out by the pool and knew how long he had been there, he said, "Do you want to get well?"*

*7 The sick man said, "Sir, when the water is stirred, I don't have anybody to put me in the pool. By the time I get there, somebody else is already in."*

*8 Jesus said, "Get up, take your bedroll, start walking."*

*9 The man was healed on the spot. He picked up his bedroll and walked off. That day happened to be the Sabbath.*

*10 The Jews stopped the healed man and said, "It's the Sabbath. You can't carry your bedroll around. It's against the rules."*

*11 But he told them, "The man who made me well told me to. He said, 'Take your bedroll and start walking.'"*

*12 They asked, "Who gave you the order to take it up and start walking?"*

*13 But the healed man didn't know, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd.*

*14 A little later Jesus found him in the Temple and said, "You look wonderful! You're well! Don't return to a sinning life or something worse might happen."*

*15 The man went back and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.*

16 *That is why the Jews were out to get Jesus—because he did this kind of thing on the Sabbath.*

17 *But Jesus defended himself. "My Father is working straight through, even on the Sabbath. So am I."*

**In 25 instances, it was the other person who started the discussion.** Jesus responded to people's inquiries. Examples:

- **Rich people...** a rich young ruler... still rich(Matt. 19:16-30)



- **Mad people...** a demoniac - now Sane!(Mark 5:1-20)



- **Religious People...** Jairus, a synagogue ruler daughter raised from Dead. (Mark 5:21-43)



- **Sick people** a haemorrhaging woman Totally healed (Mark 5:24-34)



## Where did these conversations take place?

The majority of Jesus' interactions occurred in the 'everyday' of life & the workplace.  
Examples:

- Two guys on the lakeshore mending their fishing nets (Matt. 4:21-22)
- **Some short guy up a tree...** Jesus went for Dinner with him & it turned his life around! (Luke 19:1-10) Why should a tax collector want to see Jesus anyway?



**Many took place in homes.** Examples:

- At Peter's house with Peter's sick mother-in-law (Mark 1:29-31)
- With a Syro-Phoenician woman of another faith... maybe today it would be a Muslim, Hindu or Buddhist... (Mark 7:24-30)

**Very Few were in religious settings.....** (Not in Church!)

Instead, Jesus talked with people about spiritual issues **where they were**. On the Street... On a Journey... at Lunch break. It's only the religious people who talk about those things in

church... everybody else does it anywhere but Church. I think we have a lesson to learn from this!

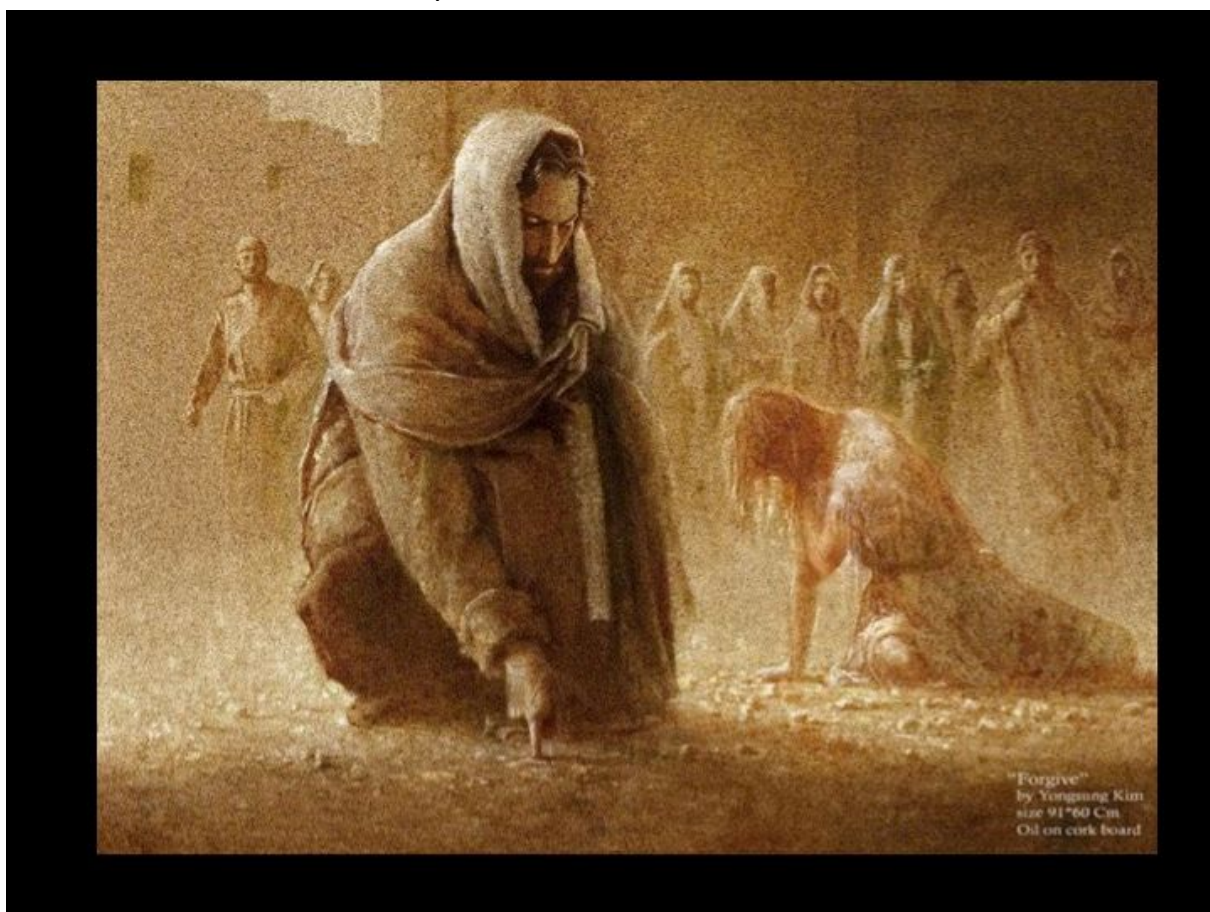
Jesus did not need a special environment or control over the circumstances to discuss things of eternal significance. We are probably familiar with this verse.

1 Peter 3:15 (NirV) *But make sure in your hearts that Christ is Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect.*

### What was discussed?

Jesus asked questions in more than half of the conversations He had. Examples:

- **An adulterous woman** the religious guys wanted to stone to death... Jesus reached out...A wrote in the Sand... & they lost interest.



- The lame guy lowered through the roof.. the scribes had no concept of telling people they are forgiven...(Luke 5:17-26) let alone of healing.
- **The guy with a paralysed arm**, Jesus told Him... 'Reach-out ... your arm' He did & was instantly healed. The Pharisees hated that... They couldn't heal... they couldn't forgive sins.. But they began plotting to kill Jesus.(Luke 6:6-11)



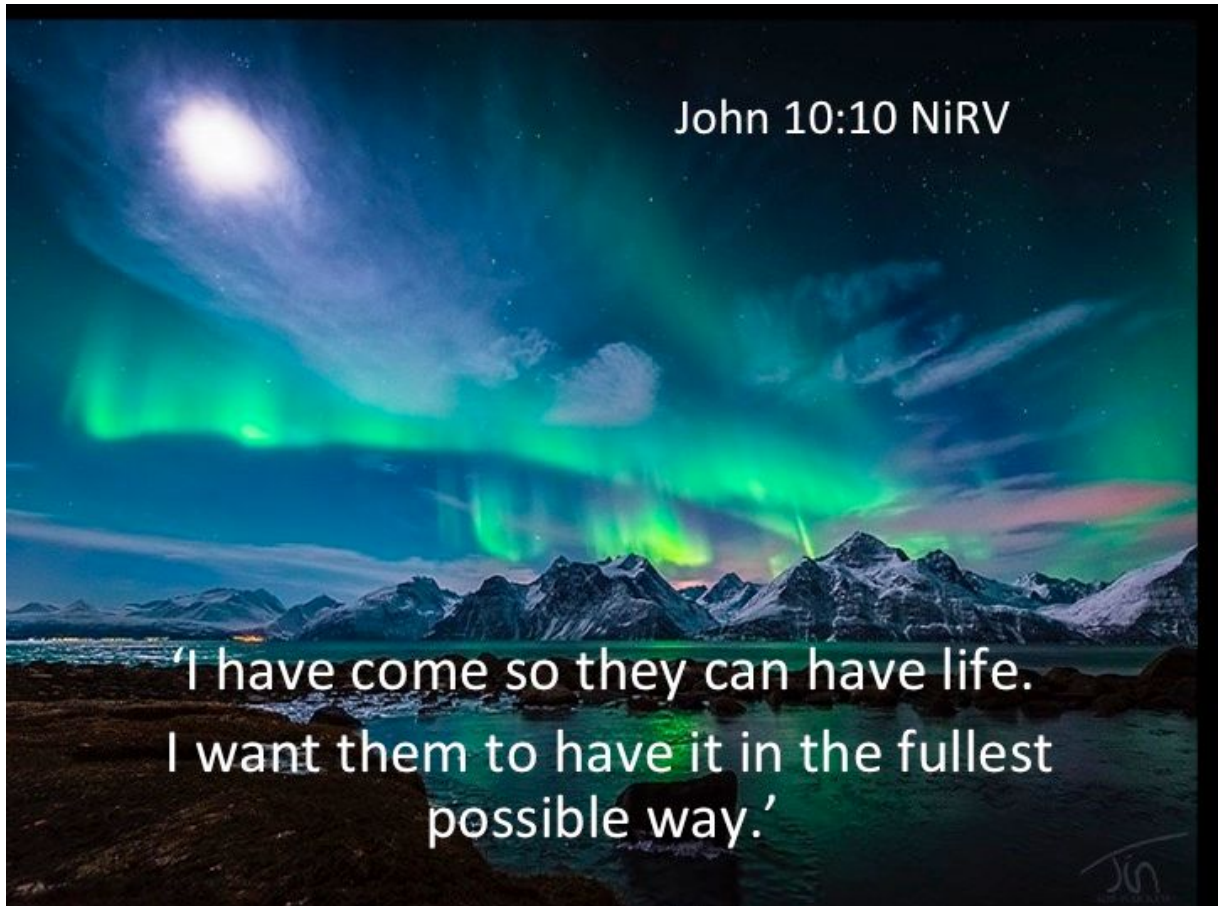


We can see that Jesus connected with what people were thinking and feeling... With where they were! He understood that new ideas need to be connected with what people already know & understand if they are to grow & last. He didn't press for a 'quick' on the spot decision. Instead, He understood that people need time for ideas to simmer and take root inside us... for people to get used to & 'own' these things in a way that says *'That's what I want for my life.'* them before they act on them.

I think we have all experienced that in our Journey of Coming to know Jesus.

#### **What can we learn from Jesus' example'?**

- Jesus knew how to take initiative... because he was guided by the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus responded to the initiatives, questions & needs of others... Because he was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit... and 'About His Father's business'
- Jesus left room in his day for interruptions by friends and others looking for his help. He had God's timetable and agenda
- Jesus usually met people on their own turf. That's why he came to earth in the first place. **John 10:10 NiRV** *'I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way.'*



- We are where we are because that's where God has placed us. He has a purpose for Who we are Where we are & in what we do..
- Jesus was interested in establishing common ground with others. He wants to do it With you...through you...with people you know... just as He did it. That means naturally, Wherever you are.

Reaching-Out as Jesus did simply means being willing to connect your faith with people's experience and need in ways that they can understand, in their own time and manner.

- It might be listening,
- it might be praying for them to be healed,
- it might simply be time for a coffee together that says...you matter.

It's cooperating with whatever God's Spirit may be doing with them and leaving the results of REACHING-OUT... To Him.

**Shall we stand:**

Maybe today you have never Reached-Out your hand to Jesus and asked him to come into your life as your Lord & Saviour... but if you reach out to Him he will take your hand. He will forgive & save you... And give you the power to live for Him.

Perhaps like some that Jesus met you need healing in your body, or maybe in your emotions or relationships... reach out to Jesus Today and he will bring healing to every area of your

life.

Finally, you may have listened today & thought 'Oh no...Not another sermon about Evangelism... I feel such a failure at meeting & sharing my faith with others...'

Reach out your hand today and the Lord will give you boldness, Confidence & courage in taking the opportunities you have to share Jesus with others.

As we pray REACH -OUT and God WILL touch you... Lets Pray...

Father, I pray as we reach out to you today you will reach out to us IN forgiveness & Salvation, In Healing in our bodies, our minds & our relationships and in boldness to speak Reach out & speak to others For you. Amen