

Date : 3rd March 2019

Theme : Do Alpha

Topic : Communicating the gospel effectively

Key Verse : *At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed. Acts 14:1*

Introduction

Paul and Barnabas were effective because it was their intention to be so every time they spoke the gospel. The impact was such that a great number of Jews and non-Jews believed.

What contributed to their effectiveness?

1. Boldness

a. They were effective because they spoke with boldness whatever the situation

- Paul and Barnabas
 - in Damascus, Paul preached boldly, though Christians were at that time greatly persecuted by the Jews *Acts 9:27, 29*
 - in Antioch, they spoke boldly to abusive Jews who were contradicting what they preached *Acts 13:45, 46*
 - in Iconium they spoke boldly, with miraculous signs and wonders *Acts 14:3*
 - in Ephesus, for 3 months, then 2 years, Paul spoke boldly *Acts 19:8, 10*

b. The whole church prayed for boldness when they were threatened

- ... enable your servants to speak with boldness ... Acts 4:24, 29*
- result : they spoke with boldness *Acts 4:31*

2. Consistency

- They were effective because they never stopped speaking about Christ despite being stripped and scourged
(flogged *Act 5:40, 42* The usual amount of lashes was 39, a common mode of punishing minor offences)
- Believers, who were dispersed by persecution, went **everywhere** preaching the good news *Acts 8:4* (Any tool, like Alpha, must be sharpened through regular practice)

3. Everytime and everyone

a. Usual place (synagogue) ... *Paul and Barnabas went as usual ... Acts 14:1*

b. Everyone

- those who were glad and honored the Word ... *appointed for eternal life ... Acts 13:48*
- those who happened to be there (in the market place) *Acts 17:17*

Application

- Share with each other your Alpha dates
- Pray for people attending

BC Values

- 1) **I am caught by the Vision (to be fruitful) 2 Corinthians 4:7**
But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.
- 2) **I am committed to Cell Life Acts 2:42**
They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
- 3) **I am a Disciple (& I make Disciples)**
Luke 9:23 *Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*

John 15:8 *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*
- 4) **I am passionate about Spiritual disciplines**
1 Timothy 4:8 *For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.*

Isaiah 55:8, 9 ⁸*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. ⁹As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*
- 5) **I am submitted to spiritual Authority 1 Peter 5:5-6**
⁵*Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."* ⁶*Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*
- 6) **I value life-long Relationships**
Ruth 1:16 *But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.*

Mark 3:14 *He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach*
- 7) **I must be Equipped for battle Ephesians 6:11**
Put on the whole armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.
- 8) **I will raise up the next Generation**
Isaiah 58:12 (KJV) *And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.*

2 Timothy 2:2 *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.*
- 9) **I will Reproduce leaders of 12**
Mark 3:14,15 *He appointed twelve — that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.*

Luke 12:42, 43 ⁴²*The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?" ⁴³It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns.*
- 10) **I will Extend the witness of my church**
Isaiah 54:2 *Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.*

Luke 12:34 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*
- 11) **I will ACCOMPLISH my church goals**
Philippians 3:14 *I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

Colossians 1:28 ²⁸*We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.*
- 12) **I will invest TIME for the Great Commission**
Acts 20:24 *However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.*