

## THE STRATEGY OF EVANGELISM IN THE CONTEXT OF BANGLADESH

---Rev. John Mark (Wahab).

A single drop of rain or even a single shower can't make a stream or creek. To make a flowing river continuous rain is absolutely necessary.

Our country is like a desert in the area of the knowledge in the Gospel and God's world. Though all people were created in the image of God through the same line of Adam, the first man, but they have turned away ignoring the God-given principles, required believing in the Holy One. Sometimes people with different attitudes are found in the society. These people flatly deny the fact that the people of the whole world were created to love one another and bring glory to Him.

Most of the people of the world are somehow acquainted to someone called the Supreme Being who, at the remote, pivots the mechanism of the cosmos. But they have no clear conception of Him. It is as if, some blind people have observed an elephant and thought different ideas about it from touching it as a blindfolded man.

God had started sharing His identity to the wayward beloved children bit by bit. Finally He has revealed himself to the lost person, through His Son Jesus Christ, Who is the source of grace, power and holiness. He is the pinnacle of love and perfection. Anyone can really trust in Him without any argument or doubt. He manifested himself to be trustworthy to His disciples at the cost of his own life and shed His blood. He is living love expressed and incarnated God. In any country among any group of people there are several doors or windows to enter into people's lives. For an example, people you can make contact to any person using your five sense organs.

In the cultural context of Bangladesh to manifest the undefiled unique love of God before the un-reached people you would have a lot of wide-open opportunities. In the city of Athens the apostle Paul could find out such a contact point in the area about the idols and one to an unknown god to manifest the love of our Lord Jesus Christ even among the hordes of godless people. Jesus was touched and led by the Holy Spirit. Are you being urged by the same Spirit to evangelize or saturate this country or any country with the saving message of the Lord? Think yourself, as if you were in a room without any source of light, you wouldn't be able to see anything around you. Please try to light up a lamp, anywhere in the society, whatever even if it is feeble, immediately it would start illuminating the area resulting in amazing possibilities. So without light you are as if dead in a so beautiful world that God made and said "it is good".

People are the best of God's creation. Please try to understand them and behave accordingly in a manner that honors the Lord Jesus Christ. Only the accursed Satan makes them ugly whispering heinous plots in their minds. It is God alone who takes all the steps to make them free from their sinful and deteriorated state. Jesus Christ is the only answer to all of these problems.

The dealers of any commodity try to introduce the products to the consumers. They manifest it, explain its utility, longevity, versatility, durability etc. to make the consumers understand and convince of the same. The evangelists and the truly committed believers of the only Redeemer of the sinners Jesus Christ should leave no stone unturned to make him acquainted to the un-reached people. They should help people to come to the Lord and to be united with one another. He came to gather whatever was lost and scattered away.

The dim impact of the age-long evangelical ventures proved the process pessimistic, discouraging, illogical and unreasonable. But the message of the Gospel and life of Jesus Christ is unique. His love is unique, at the stage of his pinnacle, his holiness is incomparable; his compassion is unbound by the framework of human knowledge and perception. His entire life is the vivid picture of the invisible God.

He translated the love of God and manifested His plan to the world at the cost of His holy and unblemished life. If someone tries his best to introduce his own culture instead of the living Lord, of course there would be an ulcer in that society. Evangelist should not take the inquirers & new believers away from their roots & tear them apart from the existing society before educating, edifying and building them up profoundly in the Living Lord.

One could by the Grace of God carefully study the words of God and may come to a living faith. God speaks to the believers and unbelievers through His Living Words & also inspires and guides them by the work of the Holy Spirit to bring about conversion and sanctification. It is not the social structure of the society but the attitude of the people that is to be changed into that of the compassionate Lord which may then affect the attitudes and actions of a society. He died not for the Christians alone but also for the sinners of the whole world to make them Christ's own. His path may be smooth and even but the pastors and missionaries, for their selfish end, made that path sometimes uneven and complicated. The Lord asked every believer to worship the heavenly Father in the Spirit & truth. The Spirit means contrary to the physical being & truth means contrary to the falsehood. There is no need to delight the nostril of the Living Lord by burning incense, because He sees the hearts and prefers its purity of the devotees.

He demands our hearts should be holy as that of the Father in heaven. We may like and plant many kinds of different trees because we tasted the fruits of those trees. We dislike some of those because either they are not good for wood or not good for fruits. So it is true to say that the trees are known by its fruits. We prefer someone responsible, faithful & hardworking than other lazy people like those who are of no use.

We would say in the context of Bangladesh, that if we sincerely want to evangelize our people, we must not harm them but love & help them. We must be impartial in our attitude, as the Lord did love all the people impartially. Our goal should not be tearing the individual apart from the society or family, but help him to be adjusted with them. The believer is to be a light to remove darkness. So that it is kept and set in the midst of darkness. The believers in the Living Lord Jesus Christ are called the Light of the world, as He is the unique light of the world. They are His emissaries – so it is obvious – they must be put in the heart of the society, so that the whole society may receive light & be illuminated.

We must understand the strategy of battle. No single shower can make a creek or stream of water in the desert or even in an oasis. To make any flowing creek or river constant & continuous heavy showers are needed. In the knowledge of the saving message countries like Bangladesh are as deserts. Some of them have ideas about the living Lord but those are erroneous, partial & imperfect. We can follow the strategy that Apostle Paul did use in the city of Athens when he preached about the statue to the unknown God. He did not criticize them bitterly rather with love & respect he opened his mouth and explained the truths about the living God.

Islamic people know something about Jesus Christ. In the Koran many truths about Him are told including his, virgin birth, his righteousness, power over disease, death and Satan and truths to do with the last or final Day of Judgment when they recognize that Christ will return. Careful study will help the believers to point out the contradictory & erroneous statements are found in the same book always with grace and humility.

If someone knows Jesus Christ perfectly in the Holy Bible he would be able to detect the wrong teachings being professed in other books. It is like that type of detection of the currency; you must know the legal tender to distinguish the forged tender. Jesus Christ is the incarnate love of God for the fallen human being. He came to redeem the sinners, not to condemn them. He is here to set up peace in the hearts of the people that the world has no capacity to offer. He is the only way back to the Father in heaven.

We must saturate our country by the teachings of the Living Lord Jesus Christ – the saving message – the only Gospel. The gospel is not only a book but also the living and walking inspiration of God's mind and heart. When people are changed into His likeness then the goal of the evangelism would be successful. We may come in contact with the notorious persons not to enhance their devilish activities but to see them transformed into the attitude and character of the living and loving Lord Jesus Christ.

We should not introduce any culture or social environment that would maroon them from the larger existing society. God doesn't demand any social, physical or cultural activities to worship Him. His demand is God must be worshipped in Spirit & Truth. Both are immaterial. Spirit is the Holy Spirit that convinces a person to have a new attitude that our Lord does possess. And Truth is God's absolute truth and revealed by the Lord Jesus Christ– we can't attain these qualifications from any institutions in the world or buy them at any cost from the whole materialistic world. The power of the Holy Spirit is a gift of God available to grant people the grace to repent as a depraved sinner.

The Word of God is good for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We must wait for the harvest to be given in God's time. It is good optimistic scene in Bangladesh. But if someone waits even a thousand years without cultivation or sowing seeds in the field, that waiting would be foolishness for him. For last 25 years we have been cultivating the land and sowing the seeds and now are the time to enjoy and have a bumper harvest.

---

---