

Teaching the Gospel to the Lost

Matthew 9:35-38

What Is My Responsibility To The Lost?

1. Those who have never heard the truth. **"Go preach ..."**
2. Those who have heard it and not obeyed. **"Exhort them ..."**
3. Those who have obeyed and then erred from the truth. **"Restore ..."**

Teaching Acts 8:4

- ▶ **Universal.** *Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 10:13-15*
- ▶ **Urgent.** *John 4:34-35; Acts 16:9-10, 29-32*

Characteristics Of The Teacher

Matthew 9:35-38

- ▶ **Conscious** of the lost. *9:36-37*
- ▶ **Compassion** for the lost. *9:36*
- ▶ **Commitment** to teach the lost. *9:37-38*
- ▶ **NOTE: Luke 15**

The Courage to Teach

Moses - Exodus 3 & 4

Fear & anxiety:

- ▶ Satan's scheme *"that it spread no further."* *Acts 4:17-20*
- ▶ Overcome apprehension, shyness, shame, lack of interest ...
 - *Mark 8:38 "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of man also shall be ashamed of him, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."*

The Courage to Teach

Moses - Exodus 3 & 4

Potential: *"Who am I?" - Exodus 3:11*

- All walks of life. *Acts 8:4*
- ▶ ANSWER: God's presence & power. *Exodus 3:12 (cf. Matthew 28:20)*
 - *"Certainly I will be with thee"*
- ▶ Power of the gospel converts. *Romans 1:16 (Philippians 4:13; Romans 8:31)*

The Courage to Teach

Moses – Exodus 3 & 4

Answers: “What shall I say?” Exodus 3:13

- ▶ ANSWER: God’s answers. Exodus 3:14–15
 - “Thus shalt thou say” (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16)
 - Prepare yourself. 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 3:15
 - Use prepared material.
 - Be honest: Don’t be afraid to say, “I don’t know ...” (Ephesians 3:4)

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The Courage to Teach

Moses – Exodus 3 & 4

Rejection: “They won’t believe me!” Exodus 4:1

- ▶ ANSWER: Trust the power of the gospel. cf. Exodus 4:2–9
 - Confirmed truth. Hebrews 2:3–4 (2 Peter 1:16)
 - God’s power to save. 1 Corinthians 1:18
 - Unbelief and rejection by others does not change our faith to keep teaching. Acts 8:1,4

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The Courage to Teach

Moses – Exodus 3 & 4

Ability: “I’m not eloquent!” Exodus 4:10

- Not prerequisite. 1 Corinthians 2:1; 2 Corinthians 8:12
- ▶ ANSWER: God gives us our abilities – we are to use them. Exodus 4:11–12
 - God didn’t overlook you. Matthew 25:15 (you can communicate)

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The Courage to Teach

Moses – Exodus 3 & 4

Reluctance: “Send someone else” Exodus 4:13

- ▶ ANSWER: God provides. Exodus 4:14–17 (Genesis 22:7–8, 14)
 - Word (cf. Aaron as prophet)
 - Proof of gospel’s power & source (cf. Moses’ rod)
 - You are proof of gospel’s power! Romans 6:17–18; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

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What Method?

Emphasize the Message:

- ▶ Unlikely circumstances. John 4:4–26
- ▶ Show an interest. Acts 8:29–35
- ▶ Moments of crisis. Acts 16:25–34
- ▶ Invitation to teach. Acts 17:19
- ▶ Different methods, but the same message in every case. 1 Corinthians 2:2

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What Method?

Message: Good teaching material is available.

- ▶ Teach about the Bible and its authority (2 Timothy 2:15)
- ▶ The church and salvation in Christ (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22–23)
- ▶ Teach about the purpose of life. (Ecclesiastes 12:13)
- ▶ Death and eternity (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 25:46; cf. Acts 24:24)

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What Method?

- ▶ Start with people you know.
John 1:40-42
- ▶ Use contacts in community.
Acts 5:28 (John 4:7)
- ▶ Wherever there is opportunity.
Acts 17:6 (Romans 1:15)

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What Method?

- ▶ Help the lost person see the application they must make.
Acts 2:36-38, 40-41
 - They need to know they are lost and be shown the way of salvation.
- ▶ With compassion, kindness, and firmness, help them see their sin and God's remedy. *Acts 26:27-29*

Teaching the Lost

Luke 17:5 "Lord, increase our faith!"

- ▶ To see & use our opportunities.
- ▶ To be prepared to teach.
- ▶ To be ready to sacrifice in order to teach the lost.
- ▶ To not give up, but keep on working.

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Teaching the Lost Matthew 9:38

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase." (1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

- ▶ We must teach or the lost will not be saved! *Romans 10:13-15*

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