

# THE TACTFUL CHRISTIAN (III)

## (Examples of how to teach)

### INTRODUCTION:

#### A. The lesson from this series

1. The tactful Christian, God our model for discretion
2. The principle before the application
3. **Examples of how to teach**
4. Abigail's discretion

#### B. At times it can be difficult...

1. It can be difficult how to teach the Gospel to others, to the neighbor, school friend, co-workers, etc.
2. To help us in this endeavor of spreading the Gospel (**Matt. 28:19**), we want to study some examples of inspired men from the Bible and how they taught. We want to study the content of their teaching but also their way about it, or their method.
3. In this study can also be of help when teaching a Bible class at home or in the building.

#### C. The passages are well known. Nevertheless, we will see them with a different perspective than normal. We will emphasize the method used in the teaching.

1. The apostle Paul and the Ephesians (**Acts 19:1-7**)
2. Jesus and Simon the Pharisee (**Luke 7:36-47**), Jesus and the lawyer (**Luke 10:25-37**)
3. Jesus and the Samaritan woman (**John 4:1-42**)

### I. PAUL AND THE EPHESIANS (Acts 19:1-7)

#### A. To begin where the other person is

1. For the Ephesians not know about the Holy Spirit was a problem (**Ephesians 19:2**), but was not their first immediate problem they faced! There was something more basic which they were lacking.
2. Notice how the apostle Paul digs in a little bit further with his questions, and then he is informed about their immediate problem. They were baptized in John's baptism that was the problem. Before speaking about the Holy Spirit, the apostle Paul had to establish something in common with them, salvation, for they were lacking this important principle, salvation!
3. The apostle Paul begins with these disciples where they were spiritually, that is at their level of spiritual growth. From there Paul begins to build the "bridge" if you will to take them forward to the teaching of the Holy Spirit and other things.
4. Notice that all of this was accomplished by asking the right questions and listening to the other (s), to determine where the person is in relationship with their spiritual growth, or how much they know.
5. For example:
  - a. It could be an error to discuss instrumental music before establishing the authority of the Scriptures.
  - b. The error of discussing baptism before the other person knows and or acknowledges he/she is a lost person. The first question that comes to our mind is, "Have you been baptized?", but rather we should ask first, "If you die tonight, are you going to paradise, and eventually to heaven?, How do you know?"

- c. Also the error of discussing about the existence of miracles performed by Jesus and His disciples before understanding their purpose (to produce faith in man and to confirm the preaching of the word of God for the first time)
- 6. We need to know what the other person believes before we can help him.
- 7. We need to begin with what we have in common.

**B. Not to teach before the appropriate time, before the appropriate fundamentals are taught first.**

- 1. The apostle Paul did not teach about the Holy Spirit to these disciples in Ephesus at the beginning.
- 2. To teach the first fundamentals, the basic first and leave the errors concerning the Holy Spirit, Revelation, etc., for latter
- 3. Do not get out of the topic.
- 4. Follow a logic order, first the milk and then the solid food
- 5. To resist the urge to contradict or refute every error from the other person in that very moment

**II. JESUS AND SIMON (Luke 7:36-47), JESUS AND THE LAWYER (Luke 10:25-37)**

**A. Use illustrations**

- 1. In the illustrations, Simon and the lawyer could see the point, the principle Jesus was making by these illustrations. On the other hand, a direct accusation by Jesus at the beginning it could have been rejected by them both.
- 2. An illustration could help us establish a principle with the other person without this person getting offensive.
- 3. For example:
  - a. Faith and works
    - 1) It could be illustrated with the life savior (if a person falls from a boat in the ocean and someone throws him a floating device, the person in the water has to get close to the floating device and to grab it, but it was always the floating device that saved him and not his own efforts)
    - 2) The conquest of Jericho (**Joshua 6**)
  - b. Some complain about the preacher, a brother when they exhort, admonish others trying to achieve in them obedience for them to live faithful to God, they said the preacher is too strict, he is too demanding, aggressive and gets in their personal lives.
    - 1) Can be illustrated with a burning house
    - 2) What would you do if you saw your loved about to get burn when the house was on fire? I wonder, would you restrain yourself from waking them up, after all they may think you are too demanding, strict and get in their personal lives by not letting them get a good night sleep? Or will you not get in the house, yell for everybody to leave the house and taken them (grab them, forcefully), snatch them out the fire? (**Jude 23**)
  - c. Instrumental music and the Old Testament
  - d. Speaking in tongues

**B. Leave the other person come to his own conclusion, to leave him to express them verbally**

- 1. We have notice on previous sermons that Jesus made questions to people, with this purpose in mind
- 2. The goal is to teach and for the student or person to learn!
- 3. The person will always learn more when he is persuaded to think and response, then when he only has to listen. This is the very purpose why we had exams in school! This is the reason why we have lessons in our Bible study to answer those questions, to make us think!

4. It is important to guide the student (or those whom we are teaching the Gospel) with questions. With the questions to guide them to the goal, to the Biblical principle, towards the truth! One question leads to another and this one to a third one, etc., until it reaches the beginning.
5. For example:
  - a. Many of us want to approach friends and love ones who are lost in this manner, “You are lost and you are going to hell, let me tell you why” If we do our homework, if we do our task to teach well, our friend will make the question, “Are you telling me I am lost?” When this question comes out of him first then we know he has understood the necessity for a Savior, he has learned.
  - b. **(Romans 6)** – “What is baptism? According to the text, what is baptism? How does a burial takes place?”
  - c. **(Romans 1:16)** – “What is the power of God for salvation?” (Not faith alone, the Holy Spirit, etc.)
  - d. **(Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19)** – “What kind of music does God tells us to use in His worship?”
  - e. Divorce

### III. JESUS AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN (John 4:1-42)

#### A. Opportunities are found everywhere (John 4:1-8)

1. What an inconvenient place to teach! Jesus was not in a congregation; gather together with the church in a certain comfort place, with air conditioner, nice padded pews and with a restroom at least to drink water when thirsty! He was at the well, and that what it mattered.
2. The Samaritan woman was lost and Jesus had the Gospel.
3. The salvation of souls is not a question of place, but rather of urgency! It is not whether there is 25 million, or only 15 thousand who live in a city or town, but it is about the salvation of people.
4. Yes, there are better places than others, but we do not have to be in the perfect place to teach people, we just need to be willing and most important, doing it!

#### B. At any given time (John 4:6-7)

1. What an inconvenient time to teach! She was busy and the Lord was tired, thirsty with hunger.
2. Some of us will wait for the “perfect” time to teach, a moment of course that will never come. For us it is always to postpone or re-schedule an appointment. We need to teach whether we feel like it or not.
3. **(Ephesians 5:16) NASV** – “making the most of your time, because the days are evil”

#### C. Teach anybody (John 4:9, 18)

1. What a poor candidate for the Gospel! First of all, she was a woman, but a Samaritan woman, an immoral person (**John 4:18**), she did not manifested any spirituality.
2. It is not up to us to pick and choose who should we preach or not. At times we are very peculiar on the type of person whom we present the Gospel. We base our prejudice on how the person is going to respond to the Gospel. We need to teach the Gospel with the notion that **EVERYBODY** needs to hear the Gospel.

#### D. Create the opportunity (John 4:9-10)

1. For some of us this moment where Jesus is at the well with the woman could have thought of becoming an opportunity to teach the Gospel.
2. Jesus created the opportunity; Jesus pivoted the conversation to the spiritual.
3. Opportunities do not always come knocking at our door, we have to make them!

**E. Point out the necessity (John 4:11-14, then 15)**

1. "Why will I want the water you are offering?" Living water. Notice what Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again..."
2. This is fundamental
3. Ladies and gentlemen, we have what the world needs. The Gospel, it will help mankind, and what the Gospel will do for man.

**F. Not to hide the difficult things (John 4:16-18)**

1. The reason why Jesus asked her to call for her husband: to obligate, persuade her to see her own necessity that she was lost, she was in sin! Once again, Jesus achieved for the woman to say her own problem!
2. Many times we want to avoid any kind of confrontation or controversy by not point out the error on someone, when in reality this confrontation could be the key for their conversion.
3. It is absurd to convert someone by telling him how good of a person he is. Notice the following illustration about a certain vacuum cleaner salesman who visited my house.
4. We have convinced man of sin, before he can see the necessity of forgiveness.
  - a. **(John 16:8-9) NASV** – "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; **9** concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me" The Holy Spirit came to convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment.
  - b. **(Acts 24:25) NASV** – "And as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, 'Go away for the present, and when I find time, I will summon you.'"

**G. Not to teach before its appropriate time (John 4:19-24)**

1. The same previous point in the case of Paul and the Ephesians
2. Jesus answers, and quickly comes back to the topic at hand

**H. For us to manifest enthusiasm (John 4:27; 31-34)**

1. The disciples return with food, but Jesus is not hungry
2. What about us? Are we left with a sense of zeal when there is an opportunity to teach someone?
3. If we are not dedicated to spread the Gospel we will never accomplish much

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. Begin at the level of spiritually of the person presenting the Gospel**
- B. Not to teach principles out of order rather at their proper time**
- C. Use illustrations, leave the person to come to his/her own conclusion**
- D. Teach the necessity man has to obey the Gospel**
- E. Do not hide difficult teachings**
- F. Teach everywhere is possible, at any given time or place, to anybody. Create opportunities, teach with all your might, zeal**

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