



## PART 6

# Evangelism is a Team Sport

**GRANDER VISION** → There's a wider PURPOSE, nobler CAUSE, bigger PLANS in play than just the mundane, routines and repetitions of our day-to-day lives.

How do we see that vision, live that life and play that role? Eyes UP, heart OPEN, feet WALKING, hands OUTSTRETCHED, knees BENT.

→ *Five challenges there: How are you doing with each? Any that have shifted over the last few weeks? Any you need to work on?*

**LIVING IN 3D** → DEVELOP friendships, DISCOVER stories, DISCERN next steps.

### **MATTHEW'S PARTY (Luke 5:27-32)**

#### 1. MATTHEW SAW THE GRANDER VISION

- \* He could easily have retreated into his new cosy CIRCLE of Christian COMFORT, but he recognised that Jesus had a GRANDER VISION, lived in 3D and had His EYES UP, all the time.
- \* So, Matthew said to himself, "What if I invite a few OLD FRIENDS round, mix them in with some of my NEW ONES and see if some of the GOOD STUFF RUBS OFF?"

→ *What do you think might have been going through Matthew's mind between his decision to follow Jesus and the party he threw: Why did he have it? How did he do it? What would have been his hopes and fears?*

→ *How did Jesus' lifestyle influence Matthew's decisions?*

#### 2. WHAT'S IN YOUR HANDS

- \* God gave you PERSONALITY, SKILLS, INTERESTS, PASSIONS and now you get to use them FOR HIS GLORY.
- \* Evangelism isn't going to be a REINVENTION, but a REDEMPTION.

→ *How does God use who you already are and what you already have? Does He ask you to do things / stretch yourself way out of the box? What do you have in your hands? If Matthew threw a party, what might you do?*

#### 3. IT DIDN'T ALL RELY ON HIS SKILL

- \* Matthew recognised his own SHORTCOMINGS and strategically invited others to make up the SHORTFALL.

### **3 THOUGHTS TO WRAP UP THE SERIES**

#### A. RECOGNISE & HONOUR THE EVANGELIST

- \* Not many of us are NATURAL evangelists, but there are some 'set apart ones' that have NATURAL & SUPERNATURAL GIFTING.
- \* Paul told Timothy to DO the WORK of an EVANGELIST (2 Tim 4:5)
- \* We may not have the GIFT, but we ALL have the COMMISSION.

→ *Do you know any gifted natural evangelists? What sets them apart? How do you recognise them? What could you do to help and encourage them?*

→ *What did Paul mean when he told Timothy to 'do the work of an evangelist?'*

#### B. WORK AS A TEAM

- \* I may not be Billy Graham, but I CAN HELP HIM OUT.
- \* This is not an EXCUSE but a RECOGNITION of GIFTING and also that I do HAVE a PART to PLAY.

→ *How might you use the fact that you're not a good, natural evangelist as an excuse? How does your understanding of your spiritual gifts help?*

→ *If you were to hold a 'Matthew Party,' who would be on your team? What sorts of people would NOT be on your team?*

#### C. LEARN HOW TO GENTLY RAISE CONVERSATION ONTO SPIRITUAL DIMENSION

- \* Could we elevate it from MUNDANE to SPIRITUAL?
- \* What can we introduce to move things a little DEEPER, MORE PERSONAL, WEIGHTIER?
- \* Few of us are CONFRONTATIONAL; GENTLY, CAREFULLY, SKILFULLY make a good alternative.
- \* Everyone is on a JOURNEY. How do we help people IDENTIFY WHERE THEY ARE? How do we NUDGE people a little FURTHER ALONG? How do we OPEN UP the HEART? How do we move the conversation in the DIRECTION of JESUS (if moving it all the way is several steps too far?)

→ *How often do you find conversations being elevated onto spiritual themes? How good are you at making that shift?*

→ *Can you think of some really good questions you could use to move the conversation deeper and more personal? Perhaps these possible categories might help: Personal traits and behaviours, likes and dislikes, blast from the past, just imagine, opinions and perspectives, hard-hitting, from the heart, extreme spiritual matters.*

→ *Are you good at asking questions? How can questions help people identify where they are on their journey or nudge people a little further along or open up their heart or to identify the big questions they need to ask themselves?*

#### THE BIG Q: How are we going to WIN the LOST?

- \* We dream of HARVEST: Are we sitting around WAITING for GOD to wave a 'supernatural revival wand?'
  - \* Or do we have to walk across rooms, ask questions, tell stories, pray prayers, cultivate friendships, build bridges, issue invitations, push doors, sow seed?
- *Do we already know the answer to that question? Where should 'walking across the room' / the principles we've looked at through this series fit into the church's 'evangelism strategy?'*

→ *If the purpose of this series was <sup>1</sup>To help people move from hiding in circles to walking across rooms, <sup>2</sup>from ought to TO can do, <sup>3</sup>and give you tools fit for the job, do you feel the objectives have been reached ... or at least o you find yourself a little further down the road?*