

FYI

Barnabas Group: Monday, July 25 at McKnight's at 7:00 p.m.
Evangelism Workshop: Friday, July 29 at 7:00 p.m. at McKnight home.
Mike McKnight Schedule: other "events" posted on rear bulletin board; check it out!

Read through the Bible in 2016!

(Submitted by Mike McKnight)

Suggested chapters to read so that we might read through the entire Bible during 2016! **This week's "schedule":**

- **Day 200** - 2 Kings 18:1-8; 2 Chronicles 29-31; Psalm 48
Monday
- **Day 201** - Hosea 1-7 Tuesday
- **Day 202** - Hosea 8-14 Wednesday
- **Day 203** - Isaiah 28-30 Thursday
- **Day 204** - Isaiah 31-34 Friday
- **Day 205** - Isaiah 35-36 Saturday
- **Day 206** - Isaiah 37-39; Psalm 76 Sunday

July Birthdays

22 Morgie McKnight 25 Chuck Limburg

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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Evangelism...

This is a continuation of an article, we started last week, by Allen Webster...some scriptures referenced have been written out so we don't have to look them up...and "you" has been changed to "we" in parts of the article.

Seizing Opportunities to Shine the Light to Strangers

We must be flexible.

Most of us have full schedules—agendas, to-do lists, and appointments. Many of our opportunities to teach others will come at inopportune times. We have to be flexible enough to say whenever possible, "This is my priority right now. I'll make time for this conversation, study, and soul." One man said, "I have a sign on my mirror that I see every morning when I first wake up. It reads, 'What have you got going today, God? I'd like to be a part of it. Thanks for loving me.'"

Philip closed down a successful gospel meeting to go teach one man from Ethiopia (Acts 8:12, Acts 8:26-27). The Samaritan in Jesus' parable delayed his trip to help a man in need (Luke 10:33-35). This Samaritan stopped to help, and dirtied his hands by dressing the man's wounds. He put the man on his own beast, which meant that he had to walk. He took him to an inn, stayed the night, and left money to care for him in the days to come. He was flexible; he was unselfish (Matthew 16:24; Galatians 2:20).

For contrast, consider the priest and the Levite. The robbed man would have died just as much from their neglect as from the robber's wounds. They were not flexible. They did not want to get involved. Perhaps they had good excuses. "If I touch a dead man, I will be

unclean and can't lead in worship." "I left late and I'm in a big hurry." "There are important matters which require my immediate attention." "My family is expecting me home soon." "There is nothing I can do; he'll probably die anyway." We might call these characters the passing priest, the looking Levite, and the sympathizing Samaritan. Which do we want to be?

We must be bold.

When dealing with passing opportunities, we do not have time to work up our courage and go over exactly what... It is usually a now-or-never, use-it-or-lose it, hit-the-ground-running adventure. Evangelizing strangers is not for the faint of heart. It is a good thing, then, that *"the righteous are bold as a lion"* (Proverbs 28:1). Peter and John were bold (Acts 4:13). The early saints prayed for boldness to preach the word (Acts 4:29); their prayer was answered (Acts 4:31). Paul and Barnabas *"waxed bold"* and determined to carry the gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46). Paul did not allow shameful treatment to stop him; he remained bold in the midst of suffering (1 Thessalonians 2:2; cf. Philippians 1:20). Paul rejoiced when brethren showed backbone (Philippians 1:14), even when from the wrong motives (Philippians 1:15-18). Deacons are bold (1 Timothy 3:13). In Christ, we all *"have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him"* (Ephesians 3:12).

It seems that Paul was fearful when evangelizing in the wicked city of Corinth, so the Lord spoke to him in the night by a vision, saying, *"Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: for I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city"* (Acts 18:9-10). Paul continued there for eighteen months with great success.

What can make us bold?

- Spending time with Jesus (Acts 4:13) in reading and meditating on Him from the Scriptures.
- Studying the Bible's teaching on fear. Jeff Clark observed that the phrase "fear not" (or the equivalent) is found 365 times in the Scriptures—one for every day of the year. Among those Scriptures is this gem from Jesus: *"Fear not,*

little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). God wants us to succeed in building up His kingdom!

- Remember the gravity of our work: *"We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace"* (2 Kings 7:9). Christians have news too good to keep! We must not be like shy teenagers sitting across the room afraid to ask for a date. We must summon our courage and just do it. Frederick Wilcox said: "Progress always involves risk. You can't steal second with your foot on first."
- Remember God's promise to be with us (Matthew 28:20). *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"* (Romans 8:31). J. Hudson Taylor said, "All God's giants have been weak men who did great things for God, because they reckoned on God's being with them." Pray (Acts 4:29).

We must be knowledgeable (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18).

With stranger evangelism, we do not usually get a second opportunity. There is no time to go home to look up a scripture or find our notes from last Sunday's sermon. We must be ready to give an answer in the moment of the question (1 Peter 3:15). This requires careful study on many topics, for we do not know where the door into the discussion will take us. It may lead us to discuss the moral decline of the country, or some political hot potato. We may meet someone that is struggling with marriage problems. Or we may need to discuss a doctrinal issue or just a Bible question on some fact or character. Therefore, the broader our knowledge, the better equipped we will be to be helpful and gain the confidence of others.

We must be personable.

A smile, a fit word (Proverbs 25:11), and a pleasing personality are useful tools in stranger evangelism. *"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly"* (Proverbs 18:24), and so must a man who wins a soul.

More next week...