

## INTRODUCTION 引言

What is a good way to share information to a big crowd? Using Superbowl commercials is an effective way. This year, the price-tag for a 30-second TV segment is 8 million dollars. We see animals that can talk, alien invasion, celebrities who save the world, and ordinary people pursuing their dreams, etc. Audience may not even remember the products afterward. But at least they enjoy the videos. Before there were TV and internet, word-of-mouth was the only way to pass information. That was how the gospel was spread in the Bible times. Put yourself in Jesus' shoes (or sandals). You only had 3.5 years' time. How could one person complete the gospel mission? As the saying goes, rather than giving people fish, it is better to teach them how to fish. The Lord traveled around and told people the good news. He also trained people to do the same. But He did not organize conferences in a Roman stadium. He only called twelve disciples. They were not the most influential people. There were fishermen, a tax-collector and an anti-government agent. Jesus' goals were not only to teach them skills, but also to shape their hearts. They did not only learn how to share the gospel, but also why they must do it. The Lord is mobilizing us in the same way. Christians know that evangelism is His command. But we will not take actions unless Jesus fills us with passion. Everyone who is saved is also sent by Jesus.

## EXPLANATION 解釋

### 1. Show and Tell 展示與傳講

In this passage, Jesus tells us the heart of a gospel messenger. He taught the disciples by His example. I call Jesus' approach show and tell. We see three elements in the text. First is about Jesus' **message**. It is about the gospel of the Kingdom. The Lord went to synagogues in different places. His primary target were the Jews. They knew that they were God's chosen people. They thought they were in God's Kingdom by birth. But Jesus corrected their misconception in John 14:6 – ...**“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** Jesus is the ONLY way, truth and life. People can only be saved through Him. Therefore, Jesus must be the center of our gospel message. Today, some seeker friends are inspired by the moral lessons in the Bible. They may be looking for God's blessings. Those are good objectives. However, we need Jesus because we are sinners. Non-believers may not like to hear that. But the full gospel message must include topics such as sin, the cross, Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus does not make good people better. He makes spiritually-dead people alive. Only Jesus can change us from the inside so that we can live a way that pleases God. The second element in Jesus' approach is the **method**. Jesus healed people's illness by miracles. His supernatural power proves that God's Kingdom had arrived. But Jesus did not come as a doctor but to be the Savior. He used physical healing to help people realize their spiritual sickness. Once Jesus healed a paralyzed man by saying that his sins were forgiven. The religious teachers were mad, thinking that Jesus misused the name of God. Jesus clarifies in Luke 5:23-24 – **23 “Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? 24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...”** Jesus used a visible healing to confirm an invisible recovery. Today, people are struggling with various issues. For example, loneliness,

depression, relational conflicts, and lack of purpose, etc. The gospel is a message of hope. Jesus can set people free from whatever burden they may have. He reconciles us with the Father and restores our dignity as God's children. He loves those who do not even love themselves. Besides Jesus' message and method, we also see Jesus' **mercy** toward people. Verse 36 says He showed compassion to them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Sheep rely on a shepherd to guide them, provide for them and to protect them. They will be starved to death or eaten by wild animals if they are left alone. Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd. He tells people His goal in John 10:16 – **“And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”** Jesus gathers wandering souls and gives them an abundant life. Nowadays, most people have a comfortable life. But they do not have an abundant life only God can give. Jesus was aware of people's deepest need. What do you see when you are in public such as the office or at a grocery store? People are busy with their duties. Do you look at them with compassion? We must tell people that Jesus is the source of peace and joy. The Lord does not only provide an answer for eternity. He also helps us overcome problems in reality. He calls us to follow Him daily. He will guide us on a path of righteousness. Jesus promises to give us hope for tomorrow and strength for today. Moreover, He did not only share the gospel message, He also lived a gospel-centered life. We as Christians and our church as a whole must do the same. Before we tell people about Jesus, we must show them that He lives in us. God's blessings are something money cannot buy, no factory can produce and no power can take away. These blessings will attract non-believers, until they respond: “I want what those Christians have!”

## 2. Pray and Send 祈求並差遣

Jesus told people about God's Kingdom by showing it through His life. The disciples learned from the Lord by observation. Then Jesus sent them to carry out the gospel mission. But the needs were too big and urgent for twelve men to handle. Therefore, Jesus asked the disciples to pray, so that God would send out more workers. He described lost souls as produce in the field. They are ready to be harvested. Crops left in the field will soak up rain and rot or be consumed by pests. We need to pray that the Lord will mobilize more gospel workers too. Besides, there are other things we can pray for. First, we can pray for **opportunity**. The apostle Paul asks believers to pray for him in Colossians 4:3 – **At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison.** Paul was in jail for sharing the gospel. But his heart for evangelism could not be contained by prison walls. The book of Acts records that Paul witnessed to even the Roman officials who interrogated him. God gives us many opportunities to reach out to seekers. People may not think about God unless something triggers their mind. There were multiple plane accidents in recent weeks. Some victims were at the height of their careers or younger folks who had a bright future. They were gone in an instant. People were reminded again that life is fragile and unpredictable. We should seize the opportunity and urge people to accept Jesus today. We do not know what tomorrow will bring. Tomorrow is in God's hand. Another thing we can pray for is God's **authority**. Paul tells us to use the right tool in the gospel mission in 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 – **4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.** We are in a spiritual battle. Our real enemies are not politicians, pagan religions and philosophers. It is Satan who manipulates people's mind. For

instance, he fools people that everyone will eventually go to heaven or there are ways other than Jesus to get there. The devil also enslaves people with success, money and pleasure. We can never convince people to believe Jesus by our arguments. We must rely on God's authority. We quote Bible verses when sharing the gospel. The Scripture alone is powerful to enter into people's heart. We show them that the gospel is based on God's truth. We are just the messengers. Only God can save people. Therefore, we must also pray that the Holy Spirit will convict seekers that they are sinners who need God's grace. When we talk about praying and sending, we must include ourselves too. We ask God to put the desire to reach out to others in us. We pray that God will remove our shyness and fear. God has put you in a certain field. It can be a classroom, gym or office. You are the most ideal candidate to share the gospel in those places, because you meet the people there regularly. You can spend time and get to know them. They will share more about their struggles when they sense that you truly care about them. Pray that God will give you wisdom on how to start a gospel conversation. For some of you, your targets can be your family members. Your conduct at home is an effective testimony. Be a godly spouse, parent or child. Family members may be more willing to hear what you believe when they see your good behavior. It is true that Jesus sends out pastors, missionaries and evangelists. But He also assigns you to specific targets. Will you partner with the Lord in the gospel mission?

## CONCLUSION 結論

Everyone who is saved is also sent by Jesus. We are willing to tell people about the Lord if we agree how good it is to know Him. Those who are blessed will be eager to pass on the blessing. Jen Rubino is such a person. She was a gymnast growing up. Once she visited a doctor due to some pain in her wrist. Jen thought it was caused by an injury. It turned out that she had a rare connective tissue and bone disease. She underwent over twenty surgeries to fix the problems. One of which was a complicated hip surgery. The doctors had to break her hip in five places, rearranged and put the bones back together. She spent a week in the ICU, which was followed by a whole year of rehab to learn how to walk again. Jen experienced not just pain, but also loneliness and separation in the hospital. She missed school, sports, family and friends. One day, Jen received a hand-made card from a volunteer. That made her feel that she was not forgotten. That inspired her to start a card-making mission after she was discharged from the hospital. Jen later founded the Cards for Hospitalized Kids. She partnered with a local library and her high school. Today, Cards for Hospitalized Kids has grown to a national organization. So far 500,000 cards have been distributed all over the U.S. Jen initiated the effort because someone touched her life. Jen wants to bless others because she was blessed by someone. You are a Christian because someone shared the gospel with you. Will you respond to Jesus' calling and tell others about Him? You can do so at any time. Two weeks from now will be March 16. The Southern Baptist Convention encourages churches to set aside that Sunday and preach on John 3:16, in which Jesus says: **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."** Our church will participate in the effort. We encourage every member to do two things: pray and invite. Pray for the salvation of a non-believer. Then invite the person to come that Sunday if he/she lives in town.

## INTRODUCTION 引言

與大眾分享資訊的好方法是什麼？使用超級盃廣告可能是一個有效的途徑。今年一個 30 秒的電視廣告的價格高達八百萬美元。我們看到會說話的動物、外星人入侵、拯救世界的明人、追逐夢想的普通人等等。觀眾看完了那些廣告之後可能都不記得它們到底賣什麼產品。但至少他們享受看那些影片。在電視和網路尚未被發明之前，口傳是唯一的溝通方式。這就是聖經時代傳福音的方法。假設你是耶穌。你只有三年半的時間。一個人怎能完成整個福音使命？英文有一句俗語說，給人們一些魚不如教他們釣魚。主週遊各地，向人傳播好消息。祂也訓練人們做同樣的事情。但是祂沒有在羅馬體育場舉辦會議，祂只呼召了十二個門徒。他們也不是最有影響力的人。其中有漁夫、收稅官和反政府份子。耶穌的目標不只是教導他們技巧，更重要的是塑造他們的心志。他們不僅學會如何傳福音，還明白為什麼必須這樣做。主也以同樣的方式動員我們。基督徒都知道傳福音是主的命令。但是，除非耶穌激發我們的熱情，否則我們不會採取行動。每一個得救的人也都是被耶穌差派的人。

## EXPLANATION 解釋

### 1. Show and Tell 展示與傳講

在這段經文中，耶穌告訴我們福音使者的心志。祂以身作則，教導門徒。我把耶穌的策略稱為「展示與傳講」。我們從經文中看到三個要點。首先是耶穌的**信息**。它是關於天國的福音。主走訪不同地方的會堂，祂的主要目標是猶太人。他們知道自己是神的選民。他們以為自己生下來就有資格進入神的國。但耶穌在約翰福音 14:6 中糾正了他們的誤解：...「我就是道路、真理、生命；若不藉著我，沒有人能到父那裡去。」耶穌是唯一的道路、真理和生命。人們唯有透過祂才能得救。耶穌必須是我們福音信息的中心。今天，一些福音朋友被聖經中的道德教訓啟發。他們也許正在追求神的祝福。這些都是很好的目標。然而，我們需要耶穌，因為我們都是罪人。非信徒不會喜歡聽到這一點。但完整的福音信息必須包括罪、十字架、耶穌的死亡和復活等主題。耶穌不是要讓好人變得更好，祂乃是使靈性死亡的人復活。只有耶穌可以從內心改變我們，使我們過著討神喜悅的生活。耶穌的策略的第二個要點是**方法**。耶穌施行神蹟醫治人們的疾病。祂的超自然能力證明神的國已經來到。但耶穌不是以醫生的身分而來，而是以救世主的身分而來。祂用身體的治療來幫助人們了解自己靈裡的疾病。有一次，耶穌醫治一個癱瘓的人，並告訴他的罪被赦免了。宗教領袖們非常生氣，認為耶穌濫用了神的名字。耶穌在路加福音

5:23-24 中澄清：23 或說『你的罪赦了』，或說『你起來行走』，那一樣容易呢？24 但要叫你們知道，人子在地上有赦罪的權柄。」就對癱子說：「我吩咐你，起來，拿你的褥子回家去吧！…」耶穌用看得見的醫治來證明看不見的復元。今天，人們面對各種問題。例如孤單、憂鬱、人際關係的衝突、缺乏人生目標等。耶穌能解救脫離任何重擔。祂使我們與天父和好並恢復我們作為神兒女的尊嚴。祂愛那些甚至不愛自己的人。除了耶穌的信息和方法，我們也看到耶穌對人的憐憫。第 36 節說，祂憐憫人們，因為他們就像沒有牧人的羊。羊依靠牧羊人的引導、供應和保護。如果任由羊到處流浪，牠們就會被餓死或被野獸吃掉。耶穌稱自己為好牧人。祂在約翰福音 10:16 告訴人們祂的目標：「我另外有羊，不是這圈裡的；我必須領他們來，他們也要聽我的聲音，並且要合成一群，歸一個牧人了。」耶穌聚集迷失的靈魂並賜給他們豐盛的生命。如今，大多數人都過著舒適的生活。但他們並沒有享受到唯有神才能賞賜的豐盛生命。耶穌知道人們最深層的需要。當你在辦公室或超市等公共場所時，你會看到什麼？人們忙於自己的事情。你會以憐憫的眼光看待他們嗎？我們必須告訴人們耶穌是平安與喜樂的源頭。主不只是提供了永恆的答案，祂也幫助我們克服現實中的困難。祂呼召我們每天跟隨祂。祂將引導我們走義路。耶穌承諾給我們明天的盼望和今天的力量。此外，祂不只是傳福音的信息，祂也過一個以福音為中心的生命。我們作為基督徒，以及我們整個教會都必須這樣做。在我們告訴人們有關耶穌的事之前，我們必須讓他們知道祂活在我們心中。神的祝福是金錢買不到的、工廠無法生產的、也沒有力量能奪走的。這些祝福會吸引非信徒，直到他們回應：「我想得到那些基督徒所擁有的東西！」

## 2. Pray and Send 祈求並差遣

耶穌以祂的生命向人們傳講神的國。門徒透過觀察向主學習。然後耶穌差派他們去執行福音使命。但是需要太大、太緊急，十二個人無法應付。因此，耶穌要求門徒祈求神差派更多的工人。祂把迷失的靈魂形容為田裡的農作物。它們已經可以收割了。留在田裡的收成吸收雨水後會腐爛或是被害蟲吃掉。我們也必須祈求主動員更多的福音工人。此外，我們還可以為其他事情禱告。首先，我們可以祈求**機會**。使徒保羅在歌羅西書 4:3 中也請求信徒為他禱告：也要為我們禱告，求神給我們開傳道的門，能以講基督的奧秘(我為此被捆鎖)。保羅因為傳福音的緣故被關進監獄。但牢房的圍牆無法阻擋他傳福音的心。根據使徒行傳的記載，保羅甚至向審問他的羅馬官員作見證。神給我們很多機會去接觸尋道者。除非有某些事情觸發人們的思想，否則他們可能不會想到神。最近幾週發生了多次飛機事故。有些受害者正處於事業的巔峰，或是前途光明的年輕人。他們一眨眼就過去了。這再次提醒人們，生命是脆弱和不可預測的。我們應該抓住機會，鼓勵人們今天就接受耶穌。我們不知道明天會發生什麼事。明天掌握在神手中。我們可以祈求的另一件事是神的**權柄**。保羅在哥林多後書 10:4-5 告訴我們要在福音使命中使用的正確工具：4 我們爭戰的兵器本不是屬血氣的，乃是在神面前有能力，可以攻破堅固的營壘，5 將各

樣的計謀，各樣攔阻人認識神的那些自高之事，一概攻破了，又將人所有的心意奪回，使他都順服基督。我們正處於一場屬靈爭戰之中。我們真正的敵人不是政客、異教和哲學家。操縱人們思想的是撒旦。例如，他欺騙人們說每個人最終都會上天堂，或者除了耶穌之外還有其他途徑到達那裡。魔鬼也用成功、金錢和享樂來奴役人們。我們無法靠辯論說服別人信耶穌，我們必須依靠神的權柄。首先，我們在傳福音的時候要引用聖經。唯有聖經才有能力進入人心。我們向人們表明福音是基於神的真理。我們只是使者，唯有神才能拯救人。因此，我們也必須禱告，願聖靈使尋道者知道他們是罪人，需要神的恩典。當我們談到祈求並差遣時，我們也必須包括自己在裡面。我們祈求神使我們有負擔去接觸人。求神挪去我們的害羞和恐懼。神已經把你放在某些禾田。可能是教室、健身房或辦公室。你是在那些地方傳福音的最佳人選，因為你經常遇見那裡的人。你可以花時間去認識人們。當他們感受到你真正關心他們時，他們會分享更多自己的掙扎。祈求神賜給你智慧，讓你知道如何開始福音的對話。對某些人來說，他們的目標可能是家人。你在家裡的行為就是有效的見證。做一個敬虔的配偶、父母或孩子。當家人看到你的好行為時，他們可能更願意知道你到底信什麼。耶穌確實差派牧師、宣教士和傳道人。但祂也分配特定的目標給你。你願意在福音使命中與主合作嗎？

## CONCLUSION 結論

每一個得救的人也都是被耶穌差派的人。如果我們同意認識主有多好，我們自然會願意告訴人們有關主的事。受到祝福的人會渴望把祝福傳遞下去。Jen Rubino 就是這樣的人。她從小就是體操運動員。有一次，她因為手腕疼痛去看醫生。Jen 認為那是受傷造成的。結果發現她患有一種罕見的組織和骨頭的病。為了解決那些問題，她接受了二十多次手術。其中一次是複雜的腕關節手術。醫生必須將她的腕骨打斷五處，然後重新排列並將骨頭接回原位。她在加護病房待了一周，接下來又花了一年時間康復，重新學習走路。在醫院裡，Jen 不只感受疼痛，她也覺得孤單和與人隔離。她想念學校、運動、家人和朋友。有一天，Jen 收到了一位志工親手製作的卡片。這讓她感覺到她沒有被遺忘。這啟發了她在出院後開始製作卡片的熱忱。於是 Jen 創辦了「住院兒童禮卡」。她與本地一家圖書館和她的高中合作。如今，「住院兒童禮卡」發展成為一個全國性組織。到目前為止，那個機構已經在全美分發了 50 萬張卡片。Jen 得到別人的祝福，因此她渴望祝福別人。你是基督徒，是因為有人向你分享福音。你會回應耶穌的呼召並向其別人講述祂的事蹟嗎？你隨時都可以那樣做。兩週後是 3 月 16 日。美南浸信會呼籲各教會利用那個主日傳講約翰福音 3:16，那段經文說：「神愛世人，甚至將他的獨生子賜給他們，叫一切信他的，不至滅亡，反得永生。」我們的教會也會參與這個行動。我們鼓勵每位成員做兩件事：禱告和邀請。為非信徒的得救禱告。如果那個人住在這裡，你便邀請他在那個星期日来聚會。