

#influencer

1. Warm-up Question: Pastor Tandy gave some illustrations of influencers in the world today. Who has been a big influence in your life and how? What have you learned from that relationship?
2. Pastor Tandy said “If you grew up like me, when you think of evangelism, you think of street preachers telling you that you are going to hell. Or, maybe, Billy Graham.”
 - a. What do you think of when you hear the word “evangelism?”
 - b. Is evangelism something you are afraid of? If so, why?
 - c. Is evangelism something you enjoy? If so, why?
 - d. Do you believe we have an obligation to share the Gospel with others? Why or why not?
 - e. In your own life, who shared the Gospel and brought you to faith in Christ? How do you feel about the person who brought you to Christ?
3. There is a famous quote, of uncertain origin, that goes like this: "Preach the Gospel at all times and if necessary, use words."
 - a. Have you heard this saying before and why has it become so popular among Christians?
 - b. Scripturally, is the foregoing statement true? Consider Matthew 5:16, where Jesus said, “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” Is what Jesus says in Matthew 5:16 consistent with the foregoing statement? Why or why not?
 - c. How have you lived out this principle in your life? Give us an example of a time when your actions (or those of someone you know) have proclaimed the Gospel message.
 - d. Tandy said she feels the foregoing statement would be better if reframed this way: “Preach the Gospel at all times with your actions and your words.” Do you agree with how she has reframed the quote? Why or why not?
4. Tandy said, “For most of us, it's easy to mow a neighbor's lawn, or take a meal to a needy family, or go off somewhere and help build houses, or participate in an Angel tree. It makes us feel good. Most of us are more than willing to demonstrate the love of Jesus with our actions, while at the same time, we are hesitant to declare the Gospel of Jesus with our mouths.”

- a. When you demonstrate Jesus to others by doing good works, how does that make you feel?
 - b. When you talk to others about Jesus, how does that make you feel?
5. Read Romans 10:9-17, as printed on p. 3. Discuss what these scriptures say to you about sharing the Gospel of Jesus with your words.
 - a. Verse 14 says, “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?” What do you think that verse means?
 - b. Verse 15 says, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” What do you think that means?
 - c. What’s the overriding point Paul is trying to make in this passage?
6. Tandy said, “The primary method God has intended for the message of Jesus to go out to God’s people is for the Gospel to be spoken out of a believer’s mouth and to be heard by an unbeliever’s ear.” How does this statement make you feel? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
7. The book of Acts is regarded by many theologians and historians to be a historical book. Many outside accounts have confirmed that what Acts tells us was actually taking place at the time. Therefore we consider it the history of the early church. With that in mind, read Acts 4:5, 7-12, as printed on p. 3.
 - a. When the disciples spoke about Jesus, they spoke with boldness and they spoke with urgency. Do you feel an urgency to share the Gospel? Do you feel boldness? If not, how do you develop that? What does it look like practically in your life?
 - b. If you were to share the Gospel with someone in spoken word, what would you say? What is your understanding of the core message of the Gospel?
 - c. Acts 4:20 says, “Peter and John answered, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.’” What is it about what you have “seen and heard” of Jesus that you would really like to share with others?
 - d. For you, what’s the biggest impediment to talking to others about your faith? Do you feel you need to be more open to sharing your faith?

Romans 10:9-17, English Standard Version

⁹ If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Acts 4:5-20, English Standard Version

⁵ On the next day the rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ And when they had set [Peter and John] in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹ This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men^[c] by which we must be saved."

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. ¹⁵ But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, ¹⁶ saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." ¹⁸ So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."