

4 acts of Love

(Reflections from the sermon on Sunday – April 24, 2016)

3 – Act #2: Fearless Conversation

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

James 1:19 NIV

“Quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry...” seems to be a great model for fearless Conversation.

People think that the church is not only judgmental, but, out of the same train of thought they also have the perception that the church wants to tell people what they should know, what they should think, and what they should do... - in other words, we lecture them.

As the true Body of Christ, Jesus should be our guide to reach the hearts of all people. And just as Jesus models for us the way to RADICAL HOSPITALITY (last week's lesson for reaching those who feel the church is judgmental) He is also our model for FEARLESS CONVERSATION – the way into the hearts of the unchurched individuals who don't want to be lectured to.

1. How does it make you feel to sit and listen to someone tell you how to live?
2. Generations past have been content being told how to understand our faith from “professional” theologians. People want to ask questions and engage in conversation about life and faith. If you had a question about faith living, God, scripture, or anything related to your spiritual life, what would be the most important one?
3. FEARLESS CONVERSATION is engaging in conversation without fear. What is your greatest fear of engaging people in a conversation about their faith or belief system?



4. Where should our confidence come from? (Read **Ephesians 1:19-20**; **Romans 8:31**.)

5. Take careful note of how Jesus takes control of the conversation with Nicodemus in John 3:1-8. Based on this dialogue, what is most important for this Pharisee to hear from Jesus?

6. Using familiar things to explain the unfamiliar is a method that Jesus used when addressing the Good News. What metaphor did Jesus use to explain the Spirit?

7. Why can't Nicodemus understand the concept of being born of the spirit – from above? (Read verses 9-12)

People will have the same barriers in our conversations when we get to the spiritual content. Take time and allow them to go slowly and soak it in. And Pray!

Jesus said in verse 13 that only the Son of Man (Jesus) has actually been in heaven and come to earth – This is His credentials that Nicodemus needs to understand as the details of the Gospel are presented.

8. What does Moses lifting the bronze snake and Jesus being lifted up have to do with the Gospel? (**Numbers 21:9**; **John 3:14-15**)

9. How was this beneficial to the Pharisee, Nicodemus?