

## **HCAC Pastor's Words – Spreading the Gospel (2)**    **Rev. Almon Li** **(10/11/2015)**

The sub-theme for this quarter is “Spreading Gospel”. Being the believers saved by God’s love, we should know clearly that it is our responsibility to spread the gospel faithfully because this is the Great Commission that Jesus Christ entrusted to us before His Ascension: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

However, some believers said, “I am slow of speech and tongue. I don’t know how to talk about the gospel”; “I am too shy to build up a relationship with strangers and to share with them the gospel”; “I am gifted in evangelism”. In fact, many believers regard themselves as being incapable and lacking gifts in evangelism; therefore they think they cannot fulfil the Great Commission given by Jesus.

In John Chapter 12, there was a very successful evangelistic dinner gathering in which many Jewess believed in Jesus (as shown in 12:11). The success of the evangelistic gathering can be attributed to 4 persons who loved the Lord and displayed their gifts in testifying God and spreading the gospel.

1. The first person is Simon the Leper whose illness was healed by Jesus. Simon was so thankful to Jesus that he hosted the banquet for Jesus. He also invited his relatives and friends to join so that they could what Jesus said while enjoying good food.  
In real life, we may not be eloquent enough to explain the gospel to others. But we still have a role in evangelism -- just like what Simon did – by inviting relatives and friends to church, evangelistic gatherings, cell groups or Sunday services. By so doing, our relatives and friends will be able to hear God’s Word and know the gospel.
2. The second person is Mary, a female believer whom Jesus loved. Out of her love to Jesus, she offered an expensive perfume and poured it on Jesus to prepare for His burial.  
In our daily living, believers offer money, with a grateful heart, to God so that there is food in His house as well as enough money for the church to develop ministries, spread the gospel and expand the Kingdom of Heaven. By so doing, we are having a role in evangelism.
3. The third person is Martha who used her gift to prepare food for disciples and guests. In today’s churches, to prepare food for guests by believers with gifts in hospitality is very important and helpful in evangelistic ministries. In practice, we do need people to prepare food and receive guests sincerely when we have evangelistic gatherings in church or bible study gatherings at home. If the guests feel that they are being

respected, they may be more open to accept the gospel. Therefore, do not undervalue your gifts in hospitality.

4. The last person is Lazarus who was raised from the dead by Jesus. He just stood there among the people, not even saying any word. But everyone believed in Jesus because of the miracle that Jesus did on him.

Today, when we spread the gospel, we need not talk about things that are difficult to understand, but simply testify what God has done on us. This is very effective in leading people to the Lord.

Brothers and sisters, God has made us His disciples and instructed us to spread the gospel to the non-believers so that they can be saved. To spread the gospel is the responsibility of each and every believer. As God has entrusted the Great Commission to us, He will give us the gifts required to accomplish this task.

Think about what gifts God has given you. Eloquence to explain the gospel? Courage to invite people to church? Gift in hospitality? Gift in administration? Willingness to offer money? No matter what gifts you have, I hope that you can use them faithfully. Let us please God, glorify Him and benefit others, by working together and matching our talents to spread the gospel and expand the Kingdom of Heaven.

