



SUMMARY KEYWORDS

People, Pastors, Evangelism, God, Evangelist, Extrovert, Gospel, Life, Church, Myth, Jesus, Talk, Professional, Faith, Story, Share, Reconciliation, Christian.

Kevin Palau 00:03

This is the City Gospel Movements podcast where we have conversations about church unity, serving cities and sharing the good news.

Ben Jack & Lizzie Burke 00:16

You're listening to exploring evangelism is a collaborative podcast series by city gospel movements and advance. We're your hosts. I'm Lizzy Burke in Portland, Oregon. And I'm Ben Jack in Manchester, England. Join us as we explore five common myths that hold people back from sharing their faith.

Ben Jack 00:35

So listening, the myth that we're talking about today is that evangelism is best done by pastors and extroverts. Is this a myth that you've come across yourself?

Lizzie Burke 00:44

Oh, I feel like it's one of the most popular most common ones. It sure is.

Ben Jack 00:49

Let me tell you a story. When I was 15 years old, I ended up on mission in the Republic of Ireland, that is Southern Ireland. And when I was 15, I still wasn't even entirely sure what my faith was, I'd say probably when I was 17 is when I really started going for Jesus. But here I was in Ireland on mission with YWAM for a couple of weeks, it's really exciting to be hanging out with people and having these interesting experiences and found myself in a town called Omar and I'm talking to people on the streets about faith and getting into pray with people. And it was a really formative time for me as a teenager and growing in my faith and, and learning that actually God could use someone like me who was even a bit confused about my faith, and that's under God would want to use someone like me to bring his truth to the world. And then two weeks later, I'm at home and I turn on the news and I see something terrible. And there's a bomb that's gone off in, Omar town, pretty much on the exact street that I was ministering on just two weeks earlier, and mass devastation, awful thing people killed. And you know, I learned two things through that trip. And then through the event that followed it, the first thing was that God could use someone like me, for his purposes, even someone who's still trying to figure out their faith and a long way away at this point from even realizing that one day I'd become an evangelist. And number two, two weeks later, realizing that the task of evangelism is urgent, because we never know when events might, you know, take a turn for the worse. And we might not have an opportunity to talk to somebody in the future. And we can't necessarily wait for years and years to have these conversations. And so the urgency and the fact that God would want to use somebody like me suddenly came into sharp focus. And I do wonder if other people had similar experience like that, if they would actually stop believing this myth that God doesn't want to use them. He only wants to use the



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pastor's I kind of wish that everybody without the tragedy, tragic side of it could have an experience like that to escape the pitfalls of this myth.

Lizzie Burke 02:41

Oh, definitely. No, that's an incredible story, Ben, and I think, you realizing you don't have to be this pastor, this extrovert, this professional Christian in order to share the gospel is so critical. And we're going to talk about that today we're going to talk about why does this myth exists that many of us believe evangelism is best done by pastors and extroverts. And so let's kick it off. Ben, what are some of the reasons why this myth exists?

Ben Jack 03:05

Well, the number one is an easy one, like-Lizzie, if your car breaks down, where are you gonna go?

Lizzie Burke 03:09

A professional mechanic!

Ben Jack 03:12

Yes!

Lizzie Burke 03:12

A good one- qualified!

Ben Jack 03:15

If you get me to come and fix your car, your car's not stopping when you try to push the brakes right now, not because I don't like you, but because I'm incompetent as a mechanic. Simple as that. So we look at our pastors, and we think, well, they're the competent ones. They're the professionals. They've got the training, and I don't necessarily so-so you go ahead and do it, Mr. Professional. And-and also, I think, because we find it a bit awkward, don't we? And when you find something difficult and awkward, it's nice to know, that maybe there's somebody out there who can do the job for you. So I think number one, we just like professionals in life.

Lizzie Burke 03:44

Totally, you know, and I think the other one has to do with comparison, because we think that our Christian life needs to look like other people's and I have been the best at comparing myself to people to mentors in my life to coaches who were really exuberant, they were total people persons, you know, and they were around people all the time, they were talking to them, they weren't afraid to talk to anybody, it seemed like, and I thought, Oh, if I'm going to be a good Christian, I need to be as exuberant and flamboyant, and out there as they are. And I'm not like I consider myself an introvert. But I felt like okay, I am going to do evangelism. And these look like them, not like me. And that comparison is why this myth partially exists.



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Ben Jack 04:24

Yeah, comparison is such a killer, isn't it? And it hits us in so many areas of our lives, and certainly in our, in our faith. And I think within church community comparison can have a massively detrimental effect at God working the things that he wants to work in your life. And maybe part of the problem is us because we're looking at other people and thinking that they have like a next level faith.

Lizzie Burke 04:43

Oh, totally. It's like, I can't do evangelism if I don't have the graduate school degree, or whatever. But it's like, no, this is no

Ben Jack 04:52

part of the thing as well as he is. I know, people that went to like seminary and they didn't even study evangelism at seminary pastors, but they're great pastors by the way, and the seminary was great and all that. They didn't even look at evangelism in their seminary course. So half the time they haven't even had the training anyway.

Lizzie Burke 05:07

Ben, you are opening a can of worms too early in this episode, we need to put you on mute. So we doubt also that there are God sized opportunities in our ordinary life. And you know, it was interesting. I've talked to a pastor through my work here at the Luis Palau Association. And he talked about he had planted two other churches before, and he sat his staff down for a meeting. They're planning on how to make their church more evangelistic. And so he's like, well, we got to start with the leaders. So we put a staff in a room for one of their first staff meetings, and he said, Okay, how many of you have shared your faith in the last year? How many times just take a guess, Ben? out of 12 people, how many times do you think they collectively shared their faith?

Ben Jack 05:48

Collectively as a whole group? We're talking about pastors here?

Lizzie Burke 05:51

Yeah, yeah, yeah!

Ben Jack 05:51

I'm gonna say-well, they must have done it a lot. I'm gonna say like, 100.

Lizzie Burke 05:56

Okay. 12, ministry leaders, 12 professionals, 3 times in the last year, they could count that they shared their faith. And so we need to understand, you know, like pastors are not- we might think through the professional at evangelism, but they're even wrestling with how to do this in their own life. And so, you know, we're going to talk about this myth that evangelism is best done by pastors and extroverts. But



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first, we need to define evangelism. What are we talking about when we mean evangelism? And then we'll keep going on with this conversation.

Ben Jack 06:28

Why don't we go with this definition, evangelism is the Holy Spirit empowered Proclamation. And that means with lips and life proclamation is not just preaching, proclamation with lips and life of the good news of Jesus Christ, in order that those who hear may trust Him as Lord and receive the forgiveness of the father for eternal relationship.

Lizzie Burke 06:53

That's so good, you know, and we got to sit down with many different people who consider themselves committed followers of Christ. And we wanted to understand what do you think about evangelism? Because it was clear, not everybody sees evangelism with that definition, Ben, but we wanted to hear Okay, what are your thoughts around evangelism so maybe you'll hear yourself in some of these clips.

Guest #1 07:13

So it's generally the extroverts amongst the people who are more people oriented. They care deeply about people about people's lives about their life trajectory.

Guest #2 07:27

You would expect there to be a big emphasis on evangelism, which I think there really isn't, at least insofar as we talk about it a lot. We don't so much encourage the parishioners to go out individually and talk about their faith in the Gospel with non-Christians.

Guest #3 07:45

Getting out of the mindset that it's someone else's job. That like, it's the church's job, that it's the pastor's job. I think we as a nation, like Brits are super passive, and we're super shy and super, like don't want to offend don't want to get in someone else's space. It's like it to what like, it's horrible what the Gospels really offensive, it calls people out on what they you-know, and their sins, and it caused them to repent and that's super offensive.

Ben Jack 08:16

Okay, so straight away, got three clips of it, the highlight three points for us, like the first one, Lydia was basically saying it's the extroverts, it's the ones that are naturally good at like, you know, being very out there and stuff. Okay, that's a common word. Then next, we got a church leader saying, We're not encouraging enough our parishioners and our congregants to actually to go and do it, and then and then equip them well enough. So there's a deficiency of equipping, which means that people don't feel like they have what they need to go and do it irrespective of personality type, they don't feel equipped. And that's, that's, that's a problem. And then Charlie, at the end, there was, you know, kind of saying, we got to stop coming up with excuses and being so passive, because we need a change of mindset here, as the three different people, you know, essentially alluding to the same problem, but with



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different facets of it. And it all leads to the same place. We've got a problem, Lizzie. And the problem is, we want someone else to do it for us.

Lizzie Burke 09:07

Yes, I think Charlie summed it up perfectly, because she was saying, pretty much we can find a way out of anything we don't want to do, we can make up an excuse, especially if it's uncomfortable. And so you know, as we talk about these myths in this series, exploring evangelism myths, we want to, you know, say there are some aspects of the myth that are true. And then we want to address the problem. So, first of all, what's true about this myth? Well, first of all, pastors usually do have specialized training, like Ben said, they go to seminary doesn't mean they've been trained in evangelism. But pastors usually have specialized training, but they're meant to train their people not do the work for the people. And I think this is so critical, because so often, we think, of course, I'm going to show up for church. I will sing the songs I will give my tythe. But why are we saying that then the pastor should be doing the evangelizing for us. If we're taking responsibility for all this these other aspects of our Christian life? Why would we then just relegate evangelism to the pastor?

Ben Jack & Lizzie Burke 10:07

Well, you've touched on a really important point there Lizzie, the and maybe it actually reveals to us, that we have a deficient understanding of evangelism, because we kind of have a good understanding of our way of giving to the church and our worship and all these different things that you've just mentioned. And our personal responsibility towards those things is, is generally you know, we're not perfect, but generally, I think we're quite healthy and some of those things, but our understanding and application of evangelism, I think, is really unhealthy. And we were passing the bark, and just like you said, Yep, they've got the training, let them do it. There is truth to the fact that there's training but I love what you're saying. What about if they took that training, and-and passed it on and passed it on and pass it on? And I guess it's like being a parent. I mean, I'm not a parent, but-but my friends who are would say the same thing, you actually want to teach your kids to eventually become self sufficient. And if you never pass on to them what they need to learn, then then they're always going to be better. Or You're never going to get rid of them they are going to be in your house forever.

Lizzie Burke 11:03

And that's another problem!

Ben Jack & Lizzie Burke 11:05

Exactly!

Lizzie Burke 11:06

Yeah!

Ben Jack 11:07

So you teach them to be self sufficient.



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Lizzie Burke 11:09

And it's interesting, because like I said, we talked to a lot of pastors, through, you know, both of our work. And in our own city of Portland, Oregon, about a decade ago, there was one of the really key pastors who rallies a lot of pastors in the city together. He said, We need training, how to share the gospel, especially before an Easter gathering, because they knew a lot of people who don't come to church are going to be at church on Easter. He said, we want to make sure that we are stewarding this moment. Well, great, right. So they invite Luis Palau in there, about 30 to 40. Pastors. And Luis teaches these seasoned pastors how to present the gospel, and provide an opportunity for people to commit their lives to Christ, like-

Ben Jack 11:49

Great!

Lizzie Burke 11:50

is this not Pastor 101? You know, but they were humble enough to say we need help in this. And 10 years later, they're still speaking about how effective that training was. And so I think we need to also those of us who aren't pastors recognize pastors struggle with this pastors are wrestling with how to do this. Well. And I think that is just a great story, to start kind of unraveling this myth that pastors have the best out of it.

Ben Jack 12:16

Yeah. Yeah, we are putting really unfair burdens on our pastors a lot of the time. And that's why we wanted to do this podcast, we want to equip the whole body, but we want to equip pastors well, and encourage you guys and gals out there and say, you know, keep going, keep doing what you're doing. And don't let the pressures of daily ministry life become so burdensome that that you lose your joy. And one of the ways that the joy can be lost and pressures can squeeze you into being something that God actually doesn't intend for you to be is, is to take on all of this roles and responsibilities that are supposed to be more evenly shared-

Lizzie Burke 12:17

Yes!

Ben Jack 12:50

across the body, you know?

Lizzie Burke 12:52

Yes, yes, absolutely. And we did 50 interviews with senior pastors last year, again, in Portland, Oregon, on the west coast of the United States. And evangelism kind of came up as one of those things that, you know, it's like, we know we need to do this. We know it's important, but it feels like another thing we need to do. And like you said, Ben, it shouldn't be solely on the pastor shoulders evangelizing is for



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everyone who calls himself a believer. And so let's go on to the second part of what's true, because the second part is we often put unnecessary weight on our pastors to share the gospel. But we may have more opportunities for gospel conversations than they do.

Ben Jack 13:31

Yeah. Yeah. I mean, well, it's true is that our pastors do have great opportunities from-from the pulpit, if, if people are coming along on a Sunday or to a special event that's been put on by the church and-and pastor is preaching then that is a great opportunity for the gospel to be brought in. We just need to lose this mindset where it's like, that's the gold standard opportunities like well, why-why is that the gold standard? Actually, for you, in your context with your friend or your colleague at work, the gold standard could be God empowering you working through you, in a conversation over the water cooler on Monday morning, after a difficult weekend for your colleague and God just Grace's you in the right things to say. And in his power and by his leading that is a gold standard moment that leads that person closer to Christ than they ever would be drawn by coming in hearing pastor in the pulpit as wonderful as those opportunities are.

Lizzie Burke 14:22

Yeah, you know, and it's interesting because I think as Christians sometimes we think nobody's gonna want to talk to us about Jesus. But in 2018 Barna study, this is so fascinating to me, a 2018 Barna study revealed non Christian so that co worker, that relative that you're talking about, Ben, they're five times more interested in talking to you about a spiritual, you know, thing than a pastor. They want to have a conversation with you, not your pastor because they have a relationship with you!

Ben Jack 14:51

That's it!-That's it right there, we've done it! We've achieved what we set out to achieve it disproves the myth right there its done!

Lizzie Burke 14:55

Yes, boom! Drop the mic!

Ben Jack 15:02

I mean, we'll carry on but we could start right now because that that is exactly the point that needs to be made is-

Lizzie Burke 15:08

Yeah!

Ben Jack 15:08

your friends, your colleagues, your family members, whoever are so much more likely to actually want to hear from you. Why? Because they have a relationship with you, you are present in their life, they trust you, they know you. And-and that can never be undervalued, that we must make sure that we



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keep that in focus is the presence of you in that person's life is such a huge part of the process of evangelism.

Lizzie Burke 15:33

Okay, so we've addressed pastors. Now let's talk about extroverts. So we typically think it's a competent, talkative extrovert, who's best at evangelism. But this simply is not true. And it's not with biblical basis. And Ben, I know you're gonna step up on your soapbox, you only have a couple minutes. What are some thoughts about this?

Ben Jack 15:52

So like just a quick survey, I mean, all we have to do is dig into the Bible a little bit. And we can see that it's just not true that God is only using a certain type of personality or a certain type of skills it. Moses used to kind of like the prototype evangelists sent to a leader a nation to say, let the people of God go there. They're captive, they're bound. Let-let those people go, they don't belong to you, they belong to God. That's essentially what the evangelist is doing, going into the world saying, sin, it needs to let go of you. And you need to make a choice to turn back to God, and be set free and come into relationship. What is Moses has to say to Pharaoh, let them go so they may worship God, so they may worship Him. And that's what we're doing is about to start worshipping other things, worship God. But what do we know about Moses? He had a speech impediment he couldn't even speak clearly that was no hindrance to God, he sends him and Israel's history is-is changed and transformed and into the New Testament. Timothy, one of the only times in the New Testament when the word evangelist is used, right when Paul is saying, within second Timothy four, do the work of an evangelist yet what do we know about Timothy he's timid, timid, Timothy, sickly, another one is a bit sickly of body as well in some way. And yet these things are no barrier to God. Why? Because while the Great Commission itself tells us as we go and make disciples, of the nations teaching them to obey, baptizing them, who's gonna be with us, God Himself, surely I will be with you, until the end of the age. And then it's parallel verse in Acts, one eight, Jesus says, you're going to receive power when my Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you'll be my witnesses. And Lizzie I want to keep talking about this. I could give you Loads more examples. I think my time is already up.

Lizzie Burke 17:24

Yeah, you're getting louder and louder and louder!

Ben Jack 17:26

Yeah. I get excited about this!

Lizzie Burke 17:29

Yes!

Ben Jack 17:29

Dig into the Bible. When we dig into the Bible, we can start to see what's actually true.



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Lizzie Burke 17:34

Yes!

Ben Jack 17:34

And get rid of this cloud of mistiness that we've started to believe is true from cultural ideas, our own insecurities.

Lizzie Burke 17:40

Yes! So if you're listening to this, we want you to understand there is no discrimination regarding who can share the gospel. Because once you're in the kingdom, it's not about gender, or age or personality type or socio-economic background. You are an ambassador of God, called to carry this ministry of reconciliation. Okay, that said, I had an amazing interview. I love doing these interviews that we are doing with these experts, because I got to sit down with Pastor James Meeks, who is a phenomenal pastor. He's based in Chicago, Illinois, he leads and founded Salem Baptist Church of Chicago, which is a huge mega church. And he also was a state senator. So he's definitely not afraid of being in front of crowds and speaking and meeting tons of strangers. And I wanted to ask him, you know, as a pastor, as an extrovert, what do you think about this myth that many people believe people like you are best at sharing the gospel? Not people like introverts and people who don't like speaking in front of crowds. So, let's give a listen to this interview with Pastor James Meeks. Well, Pastor James Meeks, I'm going to jump into this topic that it's commonly believed that pastors and extroverts are best at evangelism. So, you served as a state senator in the United States, and you're also pastor of a huge growing church in Illinois. So, a lot of people would assume, oh, Pastor James, it comes easily to talk to people. Do you consider yourself an extrovert?

Pastor James Meeks 19:08

I do consider myself an extrovert. I love people. I love talking to people. I love communicating with people. And I just like the idea of being in crowds and talking. So yes, I consider myself a extrovert number one.

Lizzie Burke 19:23

So I think, you know, there's this idea that nowadays being a pastor, it might be even more challenging to share the gospel because say your neighbor asks you what you do, and you say, I'm a pastor. Sometimes pastors feel a little bit awkward about that. In some ways, is it harder for a pastor to share the gospel?

Pastor James Meeks 19:44

I think it is. I think that because people know that pastoring is what we do. They expect us to talk about God and they expect us to try to win their souls to the Lord. That's why I believe that evangelism is best done by the laity I believe it's best done by first cousins, brothers and sisters. I don't know everybody at your family reunion, I probably will never meet them. But you know them all. And they know you and



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have a relationship with you. So I think that it's best done not by a professional or pastor, but one on one with two people who know each other.

Lizzie Burke 20:22

What do you want to tell to those people who think well, Pastor James, you're the expert, you went to school for this, you share the gospel, every week, in your relationships, it's better for somebody like pastor James to share the gospel than for somebody like me.

Pastor James Meeks 20:37

It's just like lunch, I can't eat your lunch. Neither can I tell your story. You have to be the person to tell other people your story. Evangelism is simply saying to other people, what the Lord has done for you, that was a period in your life when you didn't have God. Now you have Him! What happened? What brought you to God? I think that if everybody would just get in the habit of telling their own story to their own neighbors, relatives, associates and friends, we'd have a lot more people won to the Lord. So I'd say to that individual, just tell your story. I couldn't tell it anyway.

Lizzie Burke 21:15

That's really good. So do you think listeners would be surprised to hear some of their pastors, honest thoughts about evangelism?

Pastor James Meeks 21:23

Well, the most honest thought I guess I could give is that we know that it is right to teach evangelism. And evangelism should be what pastors are seeking to teach everybody to do. But it's the most difficult thing to teach, because people have such a fear. And they feel that they're not going to know enough Bible, and they're not going to have all the answers. You don't have to have all the answers. You got to believe that there's a power that lives inside of you Acts chapter one verse eight says he shall receive power, the Holy Ghost will come upon you, you shall be witnesses. And to me, you just have to believe that there's enough power given to you by God, that you can communicate your own Gospel story, and then help another person pray to receive Jesus Christ. That's all evangelism is. But most pastors know that people fear to be taught evangelism.

Lizzie Burke 22:14

So why would you want to encourage them pastors who want to train their people in evangelism, but they're trying to overcome hurdles like fear? For instance? How are you encouraging your people to evangelize? And what are some practical things listeners can take away and apply in their context?

Pastor James Meeks 22:32

Very good question. So, this is what we do at the Salem church, we actually cut a song on a Sunday morning. And we actually have soul winning rehearsal, we have five minutes, so that you can when the person next to you to the Lord, and then the next five minutes, they can when you we actually practice in church, in a safe environment. It's just like everything else. When we learn to drive, we didn't just get



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in the car and start driving, we have to practice. And you practice sometimes in a simulator church can be a simulator, where it's safe, to learn how to win another person to the Lord. And so you have to have practice somewhere. And we do our practice right in church, and we practice on each other. So I would like to pass that along to every pastor, if you intend to teach people to soul win, don't just throw them out into the deep, have a period of time in worship service, where people are talking to other people about their faith, going through some of their questions, and learning how to do it in a safe environment.

Lizzie Burke 23:37

Pastor James, thank you so much for these thoughts. Are there any kind of final words you want to share?

Pastor James Meeks 23:42

Yeah, the one final word that I want to share is that one of the things I think we're going to be surprised that when we get to heaven, is that Jesus has put many people in our path for the purpose of telling our own story. We talk about everything, we talk about politics, we talk about hair, looks movies, we saw, let's start including in our dialogue, our personal story, and how we came to Christ. And we'd be surprised at how God will use our story to win other people to cry.

Lizzie Burke 24:15

Thank you so much.

Pastor James Meeks 24:17

Thank you, and thank you guys for having me.

Ben Jack 24:20

Lizzy, that was a great interview that gives us a lot to talk about. I mean, the first thing that jumps out is his absolute definitive like, no, it's-it's not just for extroverts that's really encouraging to hear, from an extrovert, and you know, a major church leader. But I love that he then goes on to talk about story and how important our stories are.

Lizzie Burke 24:38

Mm hmm! No, totally, I think you know, so often I get caught up in comparing myself to other people, whether I could be good at evangelism or not good at evangelism, that I don't even focus on meditating on my own story of salvation, how God saved me, and letting that sink to my heart. So that propels me to share this story of salvation with other people. So instead of focusing on comparing myself, boom, focus on how God saved you and let that Holy Spirit empowerment, move you to share your own story with other people.

Ben Jack 25:12



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Now, Lizzie, if I was to ask you to like write a service running order, like you're in charge of a church, I want you to come up with a service running order. I wonder how many running orders we would have to go through variations until we arrived at a service running order that included within it, practicing evangelism, it doesn't seem to be something that that we'll see. And there's James saying, we do it all the time.

Lizzie Burke 25:35

I've never heard of that. I've never heard of a church creating space for their own people to kind of like roleplay and pretend like they're sharing the gospel or answering spiritual questions. I thought that was really interesting.

Ben Jack 25:47

At one time, I had the privilege of going to NASA in Houston. And they they gave me a little tour, they showed me around, it was fun. And-

Lizzie Burke 25:53

Wow! You cant just drop that I went to NASA!

Ben Jack 25:56

No! I'm dropping it! I'm dropping it! I went to NASA and they showed me around, I had some friends that work there. And they showed me around and they took me in the simulator will show you how to, you know, land on the moon or whatever. But they wouldn't let me turn it on. And they wouldn't let me have a go because I don't know why I thought they maybe they thought I was gonna crash the simulator, I didn't even know that was possible. But like, it was amazing, this idea of like being able to go in the simulator and have a go and stuff. And there's something far better than landing on the moon. And it's actually getting to introduce someone to God Himself life and love itself. But just like landing on the moon, it's gonna take a little bit of practice. So, I love that he uses this idea of simulator. That church can be a simulator, but unlike NASA, your church needs to let you do it. Like we need to not have churches that are like NASA. Nope, no simulations here. We need churches that are like, let's go for it. Let's have everyone gets to play. Everyone gets to have a go.

Lizzie Burke 26:45

Yes, I love that. I absolutely love that. Okay, so we've addressed you know what's true about this myth, we've talked about, you know, a few stories. But really, there are three problems. We don't want you leaving this episode without hearing. And then we want to give you some practical ideas of how to move past these problems. We don't want to just bring a problem up and say good luck. But the first problem is, there's an overemphasis on personality types, which distracts from biblical identity. Can you unpack this Ben? I mean, there's a lot there.

Ben Jack 27:16



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Absolutely, like straight away we go to Scripture to discover who it is that we become, when we begin to follow Jesus. I think one of the biggest problems in some ways that people have thinking about evangelism is, is thinking of the Great Commission only as a command to be obeyed instead of a promise. You know, Jesus says, go into the world to make disciples. And so, there's that kind of command element go. But then in the verse that I also quoted from Acts one eight, which is kind of Luke's parallel version, he says, you will receive power and you will become my witnesses. It's more of like an affirmation of what's going to happen. I think if you put those two things together, what you see is Yes! Jesus has the authority to send us in fact, he's got all authority. That's exactly what he says before he gives us the commission. But it's not just the command to be obeyed. It's the reality it's a promise of what will happen. When you put your trust in Jesus as it is in second Corinthians, we will become new creations with a-a new ministry, the ministry of reconciliation, one of my favorite expressions and all the Scripture. It's like a gift you like gifts at Christmas time.

Lizzie Burke 28:22

Oh, 100%.

Ben Jack 28:24

Now let's see if I gave you some gifts at Christmas time. And I put them under the tree. How long after the 25th of December? Would it be until those got opened?

Lizzie Burke 28:33

Well, is it a problem but my family opens all the gifts on Christmas Eve?

Ben Jack 28:38

Well, there you go. You see even before you get to the 25th they're already been open. Can you imagine if those gifts were still under the tree? On like June, the 25th. That would be crazy. No one's waiting until June. And it's like God has given us a gift. And it's a gift to the ministry and ministry of reconciliation. There's so many people in the church that haven't opened, that gift is still sat there under the tree of God's goodness and grace and love. Actually, if you really want to double down on the on the powerful metaphor, under the tree, the word, the cross itself, where we come and we find a whole identity, we become new creations and as part of being new creations, we've become as ministers of reconciliation. And so how amazing is that? And yet, the problem with understanding the myth of its the pastor's job is, we lose that out something crucial about our new identity in God.

Lizzie Burke 29:25

Yeah, you know, and I know you mentioned this, this passage, Second Corinthians five, but it's, you know, Paul says, Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come, you have been given the ministry of reconciliation, anyone, whether you're a pastor, an extrovert, introvert, whatever, you have been given this ministry of reconciliation, and it's a gift because if you have seen someone's life transformed, that you know in love, that is the biggest gift that is the biggest miracle you could ever experience. And I don't think God wants any of us to miss out on seeing that right before Our eyes. And



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so that's the gift of seeing lives transformed by the power of Jesus and by, you know, the gospel message. And we just want all listeners to know like that is the gift you've been given. You've been given front row seat to see God at work transforming lives. So where do we go from here? Ben you talk about positioning is the only thing that matters with evangelism, our position before God, which shows Hey, God, I'm on my knees, I'm willing and available. I may not be super eloquent, but I'm willing, I may not be an extrovert, but I'm here so position before God, I'm willing, and then position before other people it's recognizing there are friends and co-workers and neighbors and family members who God has strategically, lovingly, graciously placed me in contact with in my life, how do I become aware of these connections? And then let people know my story how God saved me and leave the results up to God!-

Ben Jack 30:56

Yeah.

Lizzie Burke 30:57

but ultimately recognize I have been strategically placed and God's going to use me in these relationships.

Ben Jack 31:04

100% like position before go to another word posture before God is-is the Christian life what posture Are you going to adopt before God Are you going to have the posture of my back is kind of turned to you? What, isn't that the whole point of repentance to-to turn back to God, but turning back to God to posture ourselves before him with our with our hands, opening our face looking to him is-is not just that we are set free from sin and running away in rebelliousness. It's also making ourselves available for him to use us as he sees fit. Are you willing? Are you available?

Lizzie Burke 31:36

Good. Okay, second problem. Personality cults of pastors and professionals create insecurity and apathy, personality cults of pastors and professionals creates insecurity and apathy. Okay, so essentially, if you see a pastor who is featured in on all these blogs on all these podcasts, he has 300,000 followers on Instagram, you're thinking, Okay, I will never be as good as that, I'll never have a platform like that. I'll never be as eloquent as them. So, it increases insecurity when we elevate pastors an extra level, right. But then on the flip side of it, it creates apathy. So, it says, Oh, well, I mean, 300,000 followers on Instagram, they got it covered. Why would I share with my relatives, you know, like, leave it to the professionals. But that insecurity and apathy is not helpful. Because again, right? We're all given this ministry of reconciliation. It's not just for like the celebrity pastor. It's not just for the extrovert. It's for all of us.

Ben Jack 32:33

Yeah, I mean, think about it this way. Like, if you want to get fit, you're gonna go to the gym. But what could stop you from going to the gym, you're looking at the gym window, and you know, you're thinking,



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Man, there's some guys in there that can press more weight than I can. And they can run on the track further than I can run. So I'm not gonna go because there's people in the gym who can do it better than me. But that that's fine, but it's not going to help me to get fit, is it? And so if we want to take seriously the fact that our friends, our colleagues, or family members don't yet know Jesus, and in many examples, we might be the only Christian that they come into contact with? Are we going to look around the world and say, ah, but there's other people that do it better than us. Of course, there's people that do it better than you, there people that will do everything better. There's always a bigger fish out there somewhere in some way, shape, or form. But the question is, has God positioned you in that place for such a time as this? And will you adopt the posture that says, alright, I'm going to go in the gym and I'm going to lift the weights that I can lift and actually suddenly realize you lifting more weight or pushing more weight or pressing more weight than you thought you could? Why? Because suddenly you realize it's not even you lifting it is God this lifting it with you and for you!

Lizzie Burke 33:39

Yeah, it's like watching workout videos isn't gonna make you fit, you actually got to do them. It's like go out like practice it, share the gospel.

Ben Jack 33:46

Exactly. And I'm also sad that this podcast, people couldn't see the actions I was just doing there.

Lizzie Burke 33:51

He's pumping his fist!

Ben Jack 33:52

I was pumping-

Lizzie Burke 33:53

like air lifting right now.

Ben Jack 33:56

Exactly. I get sick because I'm getting into it. I'm excited about this. This idea of us going not pushing weight, but getting into the world and people not being disenfranchised or disqualifying themselves, just like no Gods' got such a precious gift for you. Don't get sidetracked by other people. Yeah, like, just go, be used by Him for His glory.

Lizzie Burke 34:13

Yeah, you know, you got to sit down with Andrew Palau, who is Luis Palau's' son, and he is an evangelist speaking around the world. But you had some really interesting questions to ask because he is an evangelist. He's this professional, Christian, you know, like, quote, unquote, but I think he had some pretty relatable things to say.



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Ben Jack 34:32

When you first meet people, a question that will come up is so what do you do for a living? What-what job do you have now for you as an evangelist? That must be a fun question. How do you respond to people and help them to understand what it is that you do?

Andrew Palau 34:44

Well, I love it. I love people. So, I hate to see him put on the spot. We live in a part of the United States. It's one of the least church-ed parts of America so going to church doesn't happen on accident. It's not like cultural Christianity prevails out here so most people in my neighborhood once they find out I'm a Christian at all, let alone a preacher or an evangelist or what have you. They'll say, Oh, I don't I don't know anybody who is a churchgoer or a Christian, or they'll say like, are you a born again? And you're like, yeah, yeah, that's exactly right. And you try to work it through them, I always want to, like, ease them into it, so they don't feel awkward or, and I, you just got to give people credit. I mean, people are not morons, they, they know how to handle conversations. And if, if it's a little awkward for them, just you'd be surprised how well people respond. And they're very curious. And they will ask me a 1000 questions. And often, immediately, they'll say, I've always wanted to ask someone like you, and then they open up, they talk about their past experience, some situation they they've had or question that's burning in their hearts, and they don't have anyone to talk to you about it. And I know, there's a lot of believers around here, even if it's not as many as some places. And they'll say I've have never had a chance to ask someone, or maybe it'll come around like in a subsequent conversation in the neighborhood. So, I'm always looking-you know, the Bible says that our testimony are walking with Christ, Christ in us, to people around us is one of two things. It's either the scent of death, or it's the scent of life. And I'm just watching to see like, are they kind of repulsed by what I'm telling them right now. And am I going to give a little space, or you'd be amazed at who it is that quickly begins to come around and ask questions and inquiries. So be aware that that's your role.

Ben Jack 36:36

When was the moment that you came to an understanding of what an evangelist is? you're in a unique position in that your dad is a world-renowned evangelist was that a frame of reference that helps you to understand whether other factors?

Andrew Palau 36:46

I think I probably had a little bit of a different experience than most I had dad. And he was an amazing example, the authenticity of how he and mom lived their life in the neighborhood. And, you know, their concern about the neighbor, if we're in a hotel, Dad was equally concerned with the person cleaning the room as he was to get to the stadium and to the preach the crowd. So, I had that great example, I just had a rebellious heart. And I didn't walk with the Lord for 27 years. So, you know, often we think of evangelists as people that really just want the mic. They want to be up in front of the crowd. The just give me a platform. And there are people like that, and they're amazing. I just don't happen to be like that. So there was a time where I just thought, Oh, I love the Gospel, Jesus transformed my life, so radically just rescued me snatched me out of the kingdom of darkness, 27 years of alcohol and drugs



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and all those relationships of that party lifestyle was my story. And then at the preaching of the gospel through my dad at a Luis Palau, mission. Joke's on me, God, chose mysteriously to radically transformed my life in a moment. So all I cared about was like, if this can happen to people, and the way it happens is someone sharing the gospel with them. That's what life is all about. I don't care. I'm working in a shop, I'll probably work in a shop all my life, but I need to tell people about Jesus. That was my attitude at the time. But God began to show me that he had another season for me. And that would be to be a preaching evangelist. And I began to realize, get over yourself, you know, let God move through you and share your story and, and be involved as he calls us to be fellow workers. Second Corinthians six says, as God's fellow workers, we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. And I ran the risk of that, like, I got all this great reality for myself, eternal life, the forgiveness of sins, the power of the Holy Spirit. And that's not going away. But-but am I going to utilize it for my calling to draw others into the kingdom? And once I saw that, that's how he liked to do it. I said, Okay, well, I guess I do qualify, because I'm petrified. I don't think I speak that. Well. I get confused with my words. But-but God seems to have other plans.

Ben Jack 39:08

What would you want to say to people that were listening? Who were thinking I'm not I'm not an evangelist, I'm never going to be called to be an evangelist or anything like that. How could you like help them to relate to you and the things that go through your mind when you're trying to reach people for Christ?

Andrew Palau 39:22

Yeah, I mean, I think you just need to realize that we're all in the same boat. I mean, I have this role, but I have to get on my knees before the Lord every single time. Because my, my insecurities just overwhelm me time after time. I just say to myself, what are you doing? Are you insane? And I have to go back to the reality. It's like, well, don't you remember, when you were lost and your sin and all that, that pit you're in and God rescued you? And now he's asked you to do it. Like, are you going to do it or not? I'd have to just say yes. But I'm driven to my knees to say like, well, what was it? What is the gospel? How did it work in my life, and I just go through this process of remembering, and God says in the word over and over, remember, remember, remember, don't forget. So that process of just remembering, like, think of how far he's taken you think of how unworthy you were how the Holy Spirit intervened to do that work in your life, he's going to do the same through you, if you're just willing to do your part, you get the joy of participating, but you know, it's not reliant upon you. In that sense. You know, you want to do your best with it. be as prepared as you can. Don't be foolish, but just expect God to show up. He's already gone before you all those things, I have to remind myself like, okay, okay, okay. I remember that. That's great. And that gives me the enthusiasm. Say, I'm just going to push it aside all this great fear, and proclaim the gospel and watch what God does.

Ben Jack 40:47

It was great to talk to Andrew and actually, he's helped us to identify the third problem. We've looked at an overemphasis on personality types, distracting from our biblical identity and this personality cults of



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pastors and professionals creating insecurity and apathy. But the third problem is that when we defer only to the professional, it actually brings the personality of the church into threat. Because by putting qualifiers around evangelism, we ultimately disqualify the rest of the church. And what we just heard talking about there is someone who had a journey of understanding that God wanted to use him in his weakness, and because of his sinful past, and all these things, there were issues that he had, that he wasn't sure if he could be used, even though his dad's a world famous advantages, but ultimately got to a point of what I keep going on about over and over again of saying, ultimately, Lord, I'm going to position myself before you and say, I'm willing, and I'm available. And when we do that, as a whole church, we can actually find that the personality of the church comes into focus, not just a few special people, but the whole church going as the whole glory of God into the world for His glory.

Lizzie Burke 41:52

So good. Yeah, we're not disqualifying the role of the evangelist and the pastor we definitely need those, but we can't disqualify them. Nobody's disqualified from sharing the gospel. So okay-

Ben Jack 42:03

And what I love about Andrew there as well is that he's showing what actually an evangelist should do, which is his whole talk, if you were listening carefully was actually just to encourage everybody to get involved. And that's what evangelists and pastors, you know, really ought to be doing is encouraging and equipping, and then trusting the Holy Spirit to empower.

Lizzie Burke 42:20

So good, okay. SparkNotes version of the entire episode, if you're like, Okay, what are the quick notes? Right?

Ben Jack 42:26

Let's go. Come on.

Lizzie Burke 42:27

Yeah, let's go. Why does this myth exist, that evangelism is best done by pastors and extroverts? Well, we like to relegate things we're uncomfortable with to the professionals and to just anybody else except for us. What's true about this idea, pastors usually do have, you know, some professional training, they've gone to seminary. And we typically do put unnecessary weight on pastors to do kind of be the jack of all trades. But what's the problem? What's the problem with this myth is that we are disqualifying the body of Christ from doing what Jesus has commissioned the body of Christ to do, which is to share the gospel. And so, it no more disqualifying the body of Christ. God has given us all the ministry of reconciliation. So hopefully this reframes your paradigm for evangelism is best done by pastors and extroverts. Hopefully, we gave you some new thoughts to think about.

Kaedyn Lashway 43:16



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Hey, this is Kaedyn Lashway. From the City Gospel Movement team, we create a discussion questions for each episode for personal reflection, or to use with a small group. You can download this guide for free at evangelismmyths.com or click the link in the episode description.

Kevin Palau 43:35

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Lizzie Burke 43:54

We'd like to give a special thanks to the Luis Palau Association team to Joy Bongiorno for producing this episode. Kevin Palau for your radio voice intro Stephanie Wieber You're the boss. No literally, Spencer Reed for listening to hours of interviews and being a Google Doc ninja and Kaedyn Lashway for running the show and telling us what sounds good and what doesn't. From the message trust. Shout out to Peter Thompson for responding to emails quicker than Ben jack and for not getting fired. And finally, this series would have not happened without our interviewees, Charlie, Jonathan, Caitlin, Paul, Christine, Jim, Rob, Marissa, Lydia, Manny, Sally and Bruce. Thank you.

