

#1 – Christlike Conversations: Introduction

Course Goals

1. Deepen understanding of how Jesus shared the Gospel in specific situations (Mt. 4:19)
2. Develop better perception of needs of people and how to help them (Mt. 9:36)
3. Cultivate a more robust, Christlike prayer life for Gospel ministry. (Mt. 11:25-30)
4. Imitate Christ by practicing Gospel ministry like Him. (Mt. 10:24-25)
5. Make disciples of all nations by the power of Christ for the honor of Christ (Mt 28:18-20)

Course Schedule:

Class	Text	Topic	Teacher
#1	Various	Introduction	RYAN
#2	Various	Jesus and the Crowd	RYAN
#3	Various	Jesus and the Outsiders	BEN
#4	John 4:1-26	Samaritan Woman: Jesus and the Thirsty	BEN
#5	John 4:1-26	Samaritan Woman: Jesus and the Thirsty Cont.	BEN
#6	Mark 5:1-20	Demoniac: Jesus and the Messed Up	RYAN
#7	Matthew 19:16-25	Rich Young Ruler: Jesus and the Really Good	RYAN
#8	Mark 2:1-13	Paralyzed Man: Jesus and the Determined	RYAN
#9	Mark 9:14-29	Demoniac's Father: Jesus and the Doubting	BEN
#10	John 3:1-21	Nicodemus: Jesus and the Curious	BEN
#11	Luke 5:1-11	Peter: Jesus and the Unworthy	BEN
#12	Various	Jesus and the Opposition	RYAN
#13	2 Corinthians 1-5	Conclusion: Ambassadors for Christ	BEN

Introduction Class Preparation

Throughout the Gospel accounts, much of the narrative surrounds Christ's interactions with all different peoples. These interactions are recorded and include specific dialogue, action, and even emotion of Christ Himself. We are called to teach as we follow in the footsteps of Christ:

Matt 10:32-33

32 "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

John 17:16-19

16 They are not of the world, just as I [Christ] am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Matt 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Be prepared to discuss the following thought questions in class Sunday:

1. What do you believe can be gained by studying from Jesus interactions with different people in the Gospel Narrative?
2. How do you expect this study to change your interactions with those around you as you seek to spread the Gospel?
3. What do you believe to be the main purpose in Jesus interactions with people in the first century?

#2 – Jesus and the Crowd

Read The Following Verses. Who is the audience?

1. Matt 15:10-11 -
2. Mark 5:21 and following –
3. Luke 5:1 –
4. Luke 6:17-18 –
5. Luke 7:2-9 –

Why were these great crowds following Jesus? (John 6:2)

Read Mark 9:14-27.

1. What role does the crowd play in Jesus interaction with the disciples and the unclean spirit?
2. Why does Jesus pay specific attention to the crowd in this instance?

What is recorded regarding Jesus Feelings towards the crowd in the Mark 6:34 and Matt 14:14? How did he respond?

On the following page, compare and contrast the listed teaches of Jesus to the crowd by considering the following:

- What does He do differently, and the same?
- What might have caused Him to take a different approach with the crowd at different times?
- Give a quick summary of the lesson, and/or type of lesson Jesus gives in each account.

Jesus Crowd Sermons:
Matt 5,6,7

John 6:24-40

Mark 4:1-12

List some areas where you can have an influence on a larger number of people:

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**

What specifically do struggle with in these atmospheres? What prayers should we be offering?

#3 – Jesus and the Outsiders

Who Jesus Came For

Read the following passages and list all the descriptions you find of the various types of people who are highlighted as being at the focus of Jesus’ ministry and Kingdom.

1. Luke 4:16-30 _____
2. Luke 7:18-23 _____
3. Luke 10:21-24 _____
4. Luke 14:12-24 _____
5. Luke 18:15-17 _____

What are some examples from the Gospels that show ‘insiders’ (strong, rich, respected, proud, etc.) who were in some way rejected or repulsed by Jesus?

Is being an outsider the only criteria that Jesus used(s) as the basis for entrance into his Kingdom? Explain your answer.

Loving Outsiders Like Jesus Did

Choose (at least) one passage from each category below and answer the following questions for each passage you select. (Note: Some of these passages contain stories of Jesus himself interacting with someone while others are parables that describe his love for the outsider. All references are from Luke’s Gospel account.)

1. Why might it have been difficult to compassionately reach out to this outsider?
2. What specific actions did Jesus take / describe to treat this outsider as someone significant?
3. How did the actions of Jesus toward this outsider impact his / her life?

Diseased	Sinners	Women	Ethnos
5:12-16	5:27-32	7:11-17	7:1-10
5:17-26	7:36-50	8:1-3	9:51-56
8:26-39	15:11-32	18:1-8	17:11-19
8:40-48	18:9-14	21:1-4	23:26
13:10-17	19:1-10	23:27-31	
18:35-43	23:32, 39-43	24:1-12	

Christlike Conversations:

The Ambassador's Prayer List

People: *Who are some outsiders I can and should influence with the Gospel?*

Knowledge: *What information am I missing to be able to influence outsiders?*

Wisdom: *What complications might arise for me in reaching outsiders?*

Courage: *What fears do I have in connecting with outsiders?*

Love: *Who do I struggle to care about?*

#4 – Samaritan Woman: Jesus and the Thirsty (John 4.1-42)

Read John 4.1-42 (esp. vs. 1-26, see right). As you read try to build a personality profile of the Samaritan Woman. Also pay attention to how Jesus dealt with her in unique ways. Consider people you know who are similar to this Woman and how you could interact with them in the same ways you see Jesus doing here.

1. What about Jesus' travel itinerary at the beginning of this chapter is interesting and potentially significant?

2. Write down every detail (explicit or implicit) about this Woman (life, character, personality, worldviews, etc.) that you see in the text.

3. Who do you know like this Woman? How are they similar?
4. Write down every detail of that you see in the text concerning how Jesus interacts with this Woman.

5. How does Jesus respond to this Woman in ways that seem strange or significant to you? What was his objective in the conversation? How did he drive toward that objective?
6. Jesus turns a casual interaction into an evangelistic opportunity? What are similar opportunities that you may have? Why do you not always capitalize on those opportunities?
7. What was the response of the Woman after her conversation with Jesus?
8. What lesson(s) did Jesus want his disciples to understand at the end of this encounter? (see 4:31-42)

John 4:1-26 (NASB)

Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), ³ He left Judea and went away again into Galilee. ⁴ And He had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; ⁶ and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷ There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." ⁸ For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. ⁹ Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." ¹¹ She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? ¹² You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" ¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw." ¹⁶ He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." ¹⁷ The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." ¹⁹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you *people* say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am *He*."

#6 – Legion: Jesus and the Messed Up (Mark 5)

1. How does Jesus meet the demon possessed man? What does the scripture tell us about his life that shows us his “messed up” condition?
2. Are there people today that live lives that are “messed up”? What might their lives look like (try and compare to how we see the demon possessed man)?
3. What was Jesus reaction to the demon possessed man?
4. How does this man identify himself? What does this tell us about the “messed up”?
5. What does Jesus do for the demon possessed man? What does the man look like after Jesus is does this?
6. What is the response of the people from the city who knew Legion?
7. Are we afraid to evangelize to the “messed up” sometimes? Why? What should we be praying about to strengthen ourselves to evangelize to the “messed up” like Jesus did?

#7 – The Rich Young Ruler: Jesus and the Really Good (Mark 10:17-22)

1. What question does the rich young ruler approach Jesus with? What does that tell us from the beginning about this man?

2. Jesus responds with a question and a statement outlined below. What does Jesus establish with each of these?
 - a. “Why do you call me good? No one is Good except God alone.”
 - b. “You know the commandments, ‘DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, Do not defraud, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.’”

3. Was the man perfect in keeping these laws? Was that enough? Why or why not?

4. What did the man lack? Was this part of the Law of Moses (explain)?

5. Why was the rich young ruler sad? What is the difference between the beginning of this story and the end?

#8 – The Paralytic: Jesus and the Determined (Mark 2:1-12)

1. Who brings the paralytic to Jesus? What problem do they encounter when they reach Jesus?
2. Who else is present at the house with Jesus? What are all of the people doing before the paralytic gets there?
3. How do they (paralytic + friends) get to Jesus? What does Jesus see? How does he respond?
4. Why did Jesus not begin with the miracle? How do their actions dictate the response of Jesus?
5. What part do the Scribes play in this interaction? What do their questions of Jesus (amongst themselves) end up proving? Why is this critical in the interaction with the paralytic and his friends?
6. What expectation can the determined have of Jesus because of this? How can we teach this? Who might we find that are determined today?

#9 – Demoniac’s Father: Jesus and the Doubting (Mark 9:14-29)

Read Mark 9:14-29. Key in on details given about 1) The Disciples, 2) The Demoniac’s Father, 3) The Demoniac Boy. Consider how these people relate to our work today. Note what Jesus did in this story, lessons we can learn, and how his example and teaching can help those who deal with Doubt today.

- At the beginning of this story, we see three groups of people who Jesus encounters. Use the chart below to note: who was at the foot of the mountain, what details we see in the text about their thoughts and actions, and how Jesus responded or effected them (if discussed in text).

Group	Details about Group	Response / Effect of Jesus

- Imagine being the Boy’s Father. What different things would be difficult and discouraging about this situation? How do people you know face similar challenges to faith today?
- In the following verses, what does Jesus do or demand to combat unbelief and causes for unbelief?
 - 19 _____
 - 20 _____
 - 21 _____
 - 23 _____
 - 25 _____
 - 25 _____
- What lessons do you learn about faith and doubt from 9:24?
- When Jesus healed the Boy did it look like it worked at first? How might this be useful for us to remember in our work of sharing the Gospel and helping others develop faith in Christ?
- What does Jesus say was the problem with the Disciples (v. 19)? What did they need in order to help people like this Boy and his Father (v. 29)? How does all of this help us understand our work in the Gospel?

Mark 9:14-29 (NASB)

When they came *back* to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and *some* scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵Immediately, when the entire crowd saw Him, they were amazed and *began* running up to greet Him. ¹⁶And He asked them, “What are you discussing with them?” ¹⁷And one of the crowd answered Him, “Teacher, I brought You my son, possessed with a spirit which makes him mute; ¹⁸and whenever it seizes him, it slams him *to the ground* and he foams *at the mouth*, and grinds his teeth and stiffens out. I told Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not *do it.*” ¹⁹And He answered them and said, “O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!” ²⁰They brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he *began* rolling around and foaming *at the mouth.* ²¹And He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. ²²It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!” ²³And Jesus said to him, “‘If You can?’ All things are possible to him who believes.” ²⁴Immediately the boy’s father cried out and said, “I do believe; help my unbelief.” ²⁵When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again.” ²⁶After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and *the boy* became so much like a corpse that most *of them* said, “He is dead!” ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up. ²⁸When He came into *the house*, His disciples *began* questioning Him privately, “Why could we not drive it out?” ²⁹And He said to them, “This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer.”

#10 – Nicodemus: Jesus and the Curious (John 3:1-21)

Read John 3:1-21. As you read try to build a personality profile of Nicodemus. Pay attention to how Jesus dealt with him in unique ways. Consider people you know who are similar to Nicodemus and how you could interact with them in similar ways you see Jesus doing here.

1. Based on the biographical details and conversation recorded, what do you think about Nicodemus' personality, mindset, heart? Who do you know like him?
2. What did Nicodemus say to start the conversation? What does his statement imply about what he wanted to talk about? What do you think was on his mind when he came to Jesus? Why did he come to Jesus?
3. What does Jesus want to talk about with Nicodemus? Why might Jesus have chosen this path to discuss the kingdom?
4. What can we learn from this concerning what Jesus is trying to do with people in the world? How can we communicate that with people today?
5. When Nicodemus still could not understand Jesus, how did Jesus respond? What problems does Jesus address? How important are these problems in our discussions with people today?
6. Why do you think Jesus closes this conversation as he does in 3.13-15? How could the lesson(s) of this last part of this conversation be helpful for us in our conversations with others?
7. How does 3.16-21 orient our approach to sharing the Gospel?

John 3:1-21 (NASB)

Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; ²this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

⁴Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'⁸The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony. ¹²If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. ¹⁴As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;¹⁵ so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

#11 – Peter: Jesus and the Unworthy (Luke 5:1-11)

Read Luke 5.1-11. As you read try to look into the heart and mind of Peter. Also pay attention to how Jesus dealt with him in unique ways. Consider people you know who are similar to Peter and how you could interact with them in a way that leads them to see Jesus as Peter did here.

1. What does this text teach us about Peter’s attitude toward and relationship with Jesus?
2. How does Peter describe himself in 5.8? What are some reasons people feel that way when they come in contact with Jesus and/or his people?
3. What causes feelings of unworthiness within people in their life in general? How do people often cope with feelings of unworthiness, emptiness, lack of value?
4. What led Peter to feel like he did before Jesus? Was it good or bad that he felt that way? Explain your answer.
5. How does Jesus handle Peter’s feelings of unworthiness? What is different about how Jesus handled someone who felt unworthy as opposed to how other people often handle those who feel/are unworthy? What can we learn from Jesus’ example for our interactions with the unworthy?

6. Read the stories found in 5.12-32 that follow this event. What do these stories teach us about how Jesus interacted with the unworthy? How can we apply his example in our lives?

Individual

Jesus Response

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Read Luke 7.36-50. What do we learn from this story about how Jesus views worthiness/unworthiness?

Luke 5:1-11 (NET)

Now Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing around him to hear the word of God. ²He saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” ⁵Simon answered, “Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing! But at your word I will lower the nets.” ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets started to tear. ⁷So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they were about to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” ⁹For Peter and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰and so were James and John, Zebedee’s sons, who were Simon’s business partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” ¹¹So when they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

#12 – Jesus and the Opposition

1. Read Mark 2:15-17 and answer the following:
 - a. What were the scribes and Pharisees accusing Jesus of doing? Was he doing this?
 - b. What (incorrect) mentality did the religious leaders have that caused them to ask this question?
 - c. How does Jesus answer hit the heart of the issue with the Scribes and Pharisees?

2. Read Mark 7:1-13 and answer the following:
 - a. What is Jesus tone with the Pharisees?
 - b. What issue does Jesus take with the accusations (and by extension, the lifestyle) of the Pharisees regarding the washing of hands?
 - c. Was the stance Jesus took with the Pharisees popular?

3. Read John 2:13-22 and answer the following:
 - a. How did Jesus handle those who were selling in the temple? Why do you think he was so “harsh”?
 - b. Why was what they were doing wrong?
 - c. When they asked for His authority, how did Jesus answer? Why did he answer with this statement?

4. Read Mark 12:13-17 and answer the following:
 - a. What does it say the Pharisees and Herodians were specifically trying to do to Jesus?
 - b. How could Jesus simply answering yes or no have caused an uproar?
 - c. What did Jesus do or not do that allowed him to give the best answer to their question?

5. What is different about the response Jesus gives to the scribe’s question in Mark 12:28-34?

#13 – Conclusion: Ambassadors for Christ (Lessons from 2nd Corinthians)

1. What are 3 of the biggest challenges you realize that you personally face in evangelism?

2. What are 3 major lessons you have learned from the ministry of Jesus that you want to adopt in the way you conduct yourself with other people to help reconcile them to God?

3. Read the following passages from 2 Corinthians. How does Paul describe his ministry (and the ministry we are part of)? What informed, grounded, motivated, gave perspective to Paul in his ministry?

Text	Description of Ministry (Or 'What Evangelism Is')	Motivating Perspective for Ministry (Or 'Why We Do Evangelism')
1:3-7	<i>Comfort those who are afflicted</i>	<i>We have received comfort from God</i>
2:14-17		
3:1-6		
3:12-4:6		
4:7-18		

4. What do the following verses in 2 Corinthians 5 teach are some of the fundamental principles that result in becoming "ambassadors for Christ" (5:20-21)?

5:1-5 _____

5:6-8 _____

5:9 _____

5:10-11 _____

5:12-15 _____

5:16 _____

5:17 _____

5:18-19 _____