

- d. The fruit of the righteous: ^{NIV} **Proverbs 11:30** “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.” Through Jesus *we are righteous*; then, *as we care about others*, God uses us to help others be righteous through Jesus!

An Example: In 1933, Dawson Trotman began to extend his discipleship work among sailors in the U.S. Navy. Dawson taught sailor Les Spencer the principles of Christian growth. They spent many hours together praying, studying the Bible, and memorizing Scripture. When one of Spencer's shipmates asked him the secret of his changed life, Spencer brought the man to Trotman. “Teach him what you taught me,” Spencer said. “You teach him!” Trotman responded. And that was the beginning of The Navigators organization. Spencer did teach the sailor, and soon the two men were meeting with others. Eventually, 125 men on their ship, the U.S.S. *West Virginia*, were growing in Christ and actively sharing their faith. By the end of World War II, thousands of men on ships and bases around the world were learning the principles of spiritual multiplication.¹

Conclusion: God wants us to always †be sorry for our sins, †trust in Christ alone as our Savior, and †know for certain that we are forgiven! Then, *filled with joy*, He wants us to grow into *all-around disciples* who faithfully: →focus, →read, →pray, →receive, →give, →serve, and →care throughout our earthly lives! And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

See the insert: **Care** → *About the spiritual needs of others!*

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Let’s Be Disciples of Jesus Christ – Part 8

Care → *About the spiritual needs of others!*

Disciples want everyone to know Jesus as Savior!



Disciples of Jesus:

- Focus → *Spiritual things first!*
- Read → *Daily spiritual nourishment!*
- Pray → *Daily Communication w/ God!*
- Receive → *Weekly served by God!*
- Give → *First, in proportion, cheerfully!*
- Serve → *As God has gifted & planned!*
- Care → *About others spiritual needs!*

All Saints Day (observed) – 2010

November 7 → 8:15 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, You are probably hearing (*or reading*) this sermon because SOMEONE cared about your spiritual well being:

- Maybe Parents – who →had you baptized, →read to you from the Bible, →took you to Divine Service and Sunday School, and →consistently modeled what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ!
- Maybe a Friend or co-worker – who †sensed your lost condition, †wanted you to know Jesus as your Savior, and †took time to share God’s Word with you!

The point is this: As SOMEONE cared enough about us to point us to Jesus Christ, *so God wants to use US to do the same for others!* Today’s sermon will attempt to †take away some of our *common excuses* and †give us some much *needed encouragement!*

¹ <http://www.navigators.org/us/aboutus/items/missionvisionvalues/items/Our%20History%20-%20The%20Early%20Days>

1. **Spiritual Care – Some Common Excuses:**

- a. PASTORS should share the Word, NOT lay people: Logical, but false! ^{NIV} **Acts 8:1** “...On that day [the day Stephen was stoned to death] a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and **all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria...** ⁴ **Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.**” The scattered ones were NOT the apostles or pastors, **BUT LAY PEOPLE!** As Christians / disciples we know the way to heaven through Jesus, *so we are equipped to share that way with others!*
- b. I want to speak, but I have no ability: It’s true that of ourselves *we have no ability*; Jesus said: ^{NAS} **John 15:5** “...**apart from Me you can do nothing.**” But WITH GOD *nothing is impossible*; therefore, let us take the attitude of Paul: ^{NAS} **Philippians 4:13** “**I can do all things through Him [Christ] who strengthens me.**”
- c. Even if I speak, no one will listen: That could be true, *but notice what the Lord said to Ezekiel:* ^{NAS} **Ezekiel 3:11** “...go to the exiles, to the sons of your people, and **speak to them and tell them, whether they listen or not...**” God wants us to share His Word with others; *the results are up to Him!*
- d. Even if I wanted to speak, I don’t know what to say: If you are in Christ, *then you know the basics* (see the Roman Road brochure – in our tract rack, on our website):
- i. ^{NIV} **Romans 3:23** “...**all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God...” *No one can live a sinless life!*

- ii. ^{NIV} **Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death, but **the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**” *Through Jesus we are sinless in God’s sight!*

2. **Spiritual Care – Some Words of Encouragement:**

- a. The Word of God will do its work: ^{NIV} **Isaiah 55:10** “As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish... ¹¹ **so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.**” God’s Word is like seed: We sow it, *but GOD makes it grow!*
- b. Instruction for the wives of unbelieving husbands: ^{NIV} **1 Peter 3:1** “Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, **they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives,** ² **when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.**” To be useful to God, *our actions must be in harmony with our words!* Also, **actions usually speak much louder than words!**
- c. Through Jesus we are so blessed: ^{NAS} **1 Peter 2:9** “But **you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;** ¹⁰ for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” Therefore, *we should want others to receive the same blessings in Christ!*