

## How to Witness (Matthew 10:11-14)

While this particular passage of Scripture may have been for a specific time, place and group, I believe Jesus has given us, in the church today, some basic principles for witnessing.

1. We are to look for someone who is worthy (Matthew 10:11). William MacDonald defines “worthy” as “one who would receive them as disciples and who would be open to their message.”

Note: This means we are not to barge in or hammer away with the Gospel where someone is not open to listen & learn about Jesus and the salvation message.

2. When we find someone who is receptive to hearing about Jesus, we are to thank him/her/them for the opportunity (Matthew 10:12).

Note: We should always speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) as long as the door for witness is open. When the door closes, we are to stop talking about Jesus, change the subject and leave when the Spirit tells us to move on. Other helpful Scriptures for witnessing are: Galatians 4:5-6 and I Peter 3:13-16.

3. Before we leave, we are then to pronounce a blessing of the Lord’s peace on that person (s) we have been witnessing to and let them know we will be praying for them (Matthew 10:13).

Note: You might even ask how you can be praying for them and pray with them if they are open.

4. If the person is not receptive, then we are not to take it personally, leave their judgment to the Lord, move on, look for another opportunity for witness (Matthew 10:14) and follow the same steps as before.

Note: The apostle John in his Gospel (1:11), wrote of Jesus: “He came to His own (the Jews), and those who were His own did not receive Him.” Rejection is a common lot to those who belong to Jesus. Take courage with these words from the apostle Paul: “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord” (I Corinthians 15:58).

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