

The Thriving Church, Part 4: Evangelism

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The Thriving Church Series / Luke 9:23–24

Luke 9:23–24 CEB

²³ Jesus said to everyone, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow me. ²⁴ All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will save them.

Core Commitment: Take Jesus’ Message Seriously

Jesus should be at the core and center of our evangelism and discipleship. Matt. 28:19-20

Jesus’ message is the Good News, the Gospel, about salvation through faith. Eph. 1:13; 2:4-5.

Belief systems that are missing Jesus’ message.

The dominant religious belief system today among young people is moralistic therapeutic deism.

It is moralistic, meaning that religious people equate faith with being a good, moral person.

It is therapeutic, so faith becomes a means of feeling better about themselves.

And it is deistic, meaning God exists, but this God is not involved in human affairs with any regularity.

Golden Rule Gospel: is more about right living than right believing.

Jesus is largely absent from these belief systems.

Churches that are thriving and growing young take Jesus’ message seriously by:

Talking more about Jesus. Acts 20:20

Focusing more on the story of redemption. Acts 2:14-41

More talk and action concerning transforming lives. Luke 9:23

Ideas for Action

Create space for taking questions, reflecting on scripture, to discovery the gospel story.

Challenge young and old to take up the cross and follow Him.

Tie Each Part of Scripture into the Grand Narrative of God.

Tell your story of redemption.