

In Reference to Personal Evangelism

Christians are to be lights in the world (Matt. 5:14-16)



Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

In Reference to Personal Evangelism

Churches are to sound forth the word of the Lord (1 Thess. 1:8)



1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. 8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

In Reference to Personal Evangelism

Our question is, “Why is so little of it done?”

Why a Lack of Personal Evangelism?

A Lack of Personal Effort

Ignorance of the fact it is our duty

- It is not an optional thing but a matter of duty to all Christians
 - Matt. 28:18-20. “Go...make disciples...teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you...”
 - 2 Tim. 2:2. Faithful men are to teach others.
 - Heb. 5:11-14. “...by this time you ought to be teachers...”
 - Matt. 25:14-30. In the parable of the talents the master dealt with the servants individually not as a group

Why a Lack of Personal Evangelism?

A Lack of Personal Effort

No interest in the lost

- As seeking and saving the lost was the primary concern of Jesus (Luke 19:10), it is to be our primary focus

Why a Lack of Personal Evangelism?

A Lack of Personal Effort

An improper attitude toward the lost. Some “Christians:”

- Reflect the self-righteousness of the Pharisees (Luke 18:9-14)
- Have the attitude of the prodigal son’s older brother (Luke 15:25-32)

Why a Lack of Personal Evangelism?

A Lack of Personal Effort

Waiting for the church to organize a program

- Every local church needs to be greatly concerned with the task of reaching the lost but, as individuals, we have the responsibility to seek out and teach lost souls whether or not the church ever organizes a program

Why a Lack of Personal Evangelism?

A Lack of Personal Effort

Spending all our time talking about it

- While personal evangelism needs to be considered and discussed among brethren, merely talking about it will not accomplish anything

Why a Lack of Personal Evangelism?

Inadequacies in Our Effort

Being overly cautious

- This is being afraid to offend anyone
- This attitude causes one to soften and compromise the message of the gospel

Why a Lack of Personal Evangelism?

Inadequacies in Our Effort

Being overly anxious

- This causes one to want action right away and will often cause one to resort to “high pressure” tactics in their teaching

Why a Lack of Personal Evangelism?

Inadequacies in Our Effort

Ungodliness in our own lives

- To be a positive influence for good, you must live a godly life (Rom. 2:21)

Why a Lack of Personal Evangelism?

Inadequacies in Our Effort

Improper tactics

- Bluntness or harshness
- Approaching a person at an inappropriate time

Why a Lack of Personal Evangelism?

Inadequacies in Our Effort

Deficiency in our knowledge of the Bible

- God's worker is to study so that he/she might properly use the word (2 Tim. 2:15)

A Lesson on Personal Evangelism

In this lesson we are going to travel back to a well in Samaria in order to learn how we can be proper personal evangelists

- We will consider the three examples of those who were at Jacob's well in Sychar
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At a Well in Samaria




A Lesson on Personal Evangelism

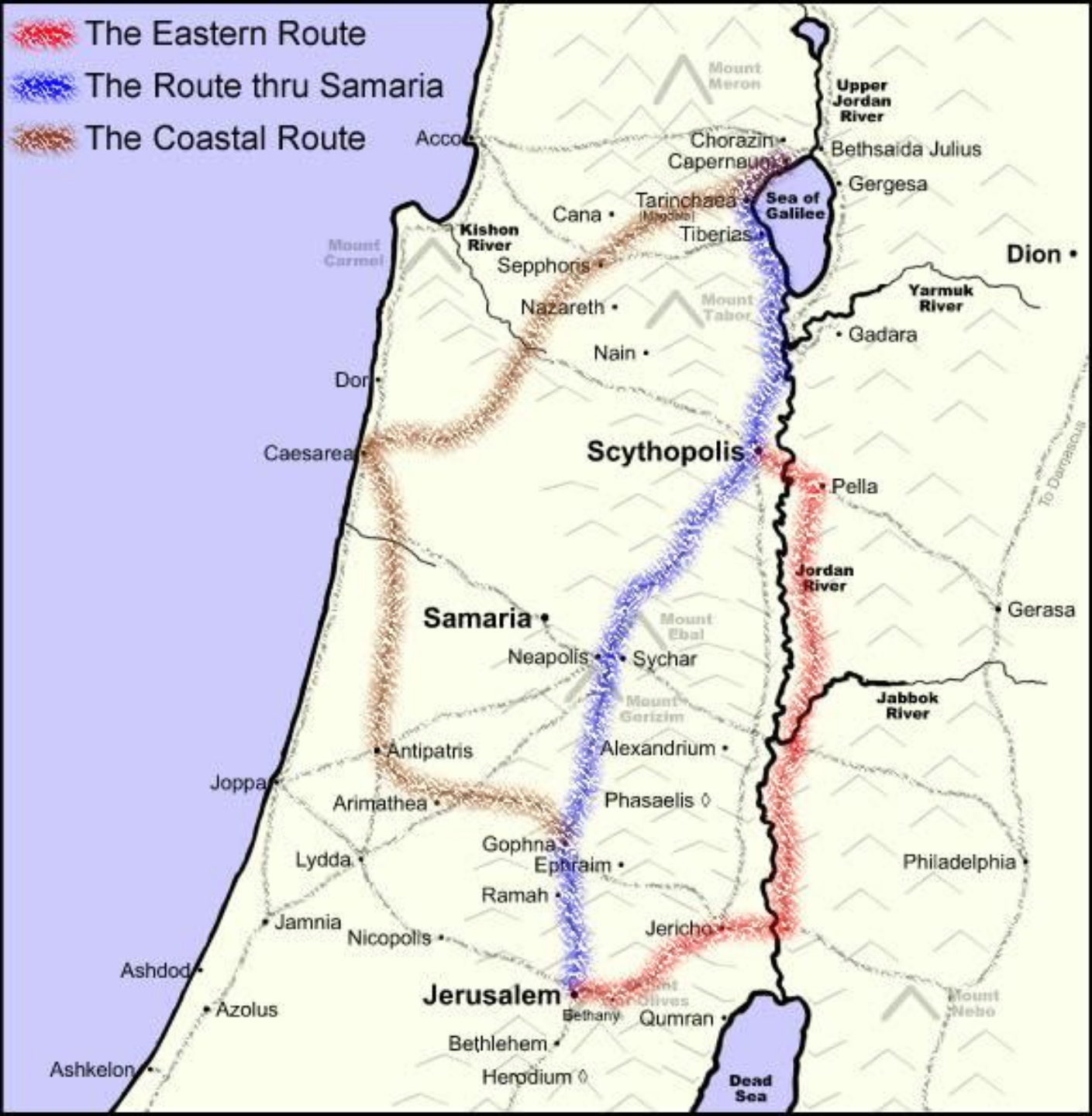




John 4:1-42

Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John 2 (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), 3 He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. 4 But He needed to go through Samaria. ↓

-  The Eastern Route
-  The Route thru Samaria
-  The Coastal Route





John 4:1-42

5 So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.





John 4:1-42

7 A woman of Samaria came 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 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. ↓



John 4:1-42

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 The woman said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? 12 Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?” ↓



John 4:1-42

15 The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.” 16 Jesus 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 well said, ‘I have no husband,’ 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.” ↓



John 4:1-42

19 The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.
20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that
in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.” 21 Jesus
said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will
neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ↓



John 4:1-42

22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” ↓



John 4:1-42

25 The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” 26 Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.” ↓



John 4:1-42

27 And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why are You talking with her?” ↓



John 4:1-42

28 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, 29 “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” 30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him. ↓



John 4:1-42

31 In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” 32 But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” 33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?” ↓



John 4:1-42

34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. 35 Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! 36 And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ 38 I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors” ↓



John 4:1-42

39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.” 40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of His own word. ↓



John 4:1-42

42 Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”

A man in a grey robe and white head covering sits on a stone well in a dry, hilly landscape with a large tree in the background.

At a Well in Samaria

A Lesson on Personal Evangelism




The Example of Jesus

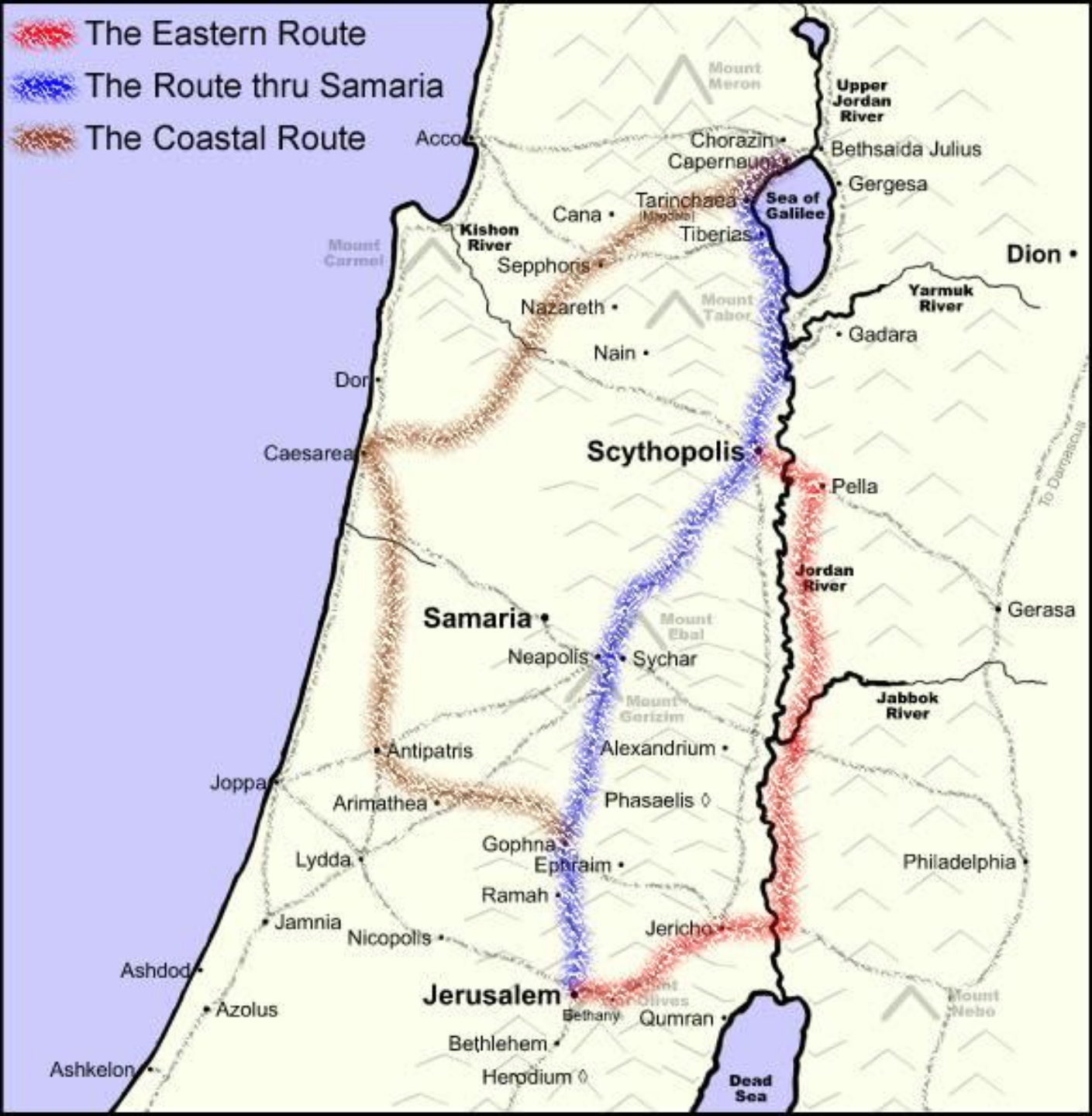


The Example of Jesus

He set out with a purpose

- “But He needed to go through Samaria”

-  The Eastern Route
-  The Route thru Samaria
-  The Coastal Route





The Example of Jesus

Though wearied, He took advantage of the opportunity

- He did not allow being tired to keep Him from acting



The Example of Jesus

He initiated the conversation

- He took the first step to engage the woman in conversation



The Example of Jesus

He showed no prejudice

- He violated social protocol by speaking to a woman in public
- “For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans”



The Example of Jesus

He directed the conversation to spiritual matters

- “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.”



The Example of Jesus

He used what was at hand – water – to teach great spiritual truths

- He was able to take that which was familiar and elevate it to illustrate the truth of God



The Example of Jesus

He was not afraid to make the conversation personal

- “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”
- He was not afraid to be truthful



The Example of Jesus

He revealed that which she needed to know

- That He was the Christ, the Messiah



The Example of Jesus

He understood He only had a limited time to teach

A man in a grey robe and white head covering sits on a stone well in a dry, hilly landscape with a large tree in the background.

At a Well in Samaria

A Lesson on Personal Evangelism

The Example of
the Woman



The Example of the Woman

She forgot herself and her shame

- Most likely she was at the well at noon so she would not be under the scrutiny of her fellow citizens
- She leaves her waterpot and returns boldly to the city



The Example of the Woman

She thought to tell others of the Messiah

- As Andrew told Peter, “We have found the Messiah” (John 1:41)



The Example of the Woman

She was willing to have her life come under scrutiny in an effort to reach others

- “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”
- She made herself an open example
- The difference Christ made in her life could be seen



The Example of the Woman

Her statement to her fellow Samaritans was a statement of belief

- Her question, “Could this be the Christ?” was rhetorical



The Example of the Woman

She caused many to believe – to come to Jesus for themselves

- Though she did not know all there was to know about the Christ, she related what she did know and that was sufficient to impress others

A man in a hooded robe is sitting on a stone well in a dry, hilly landscape. The well is constructed from stacked stones and is surrounded by a dirt path. In the background, there is a large, leafy tree and a clear blue sky. The foreground is filled with dry, yellowish grass and some small green plants.

At a Well in Samaria

A Lesson on Personal Evangelism

The Example of
the Disciples



The Example of the Disciples

Sadly, most of the time we are more like the disciples than we are like Jesus or the Samaritan woman



The Example of the Disciples

Their focus was on material things – the “here and now”

- While Jesus was intently focused on things spiritual, they seemed only mindful of the present



The Example of the Disciples

They were self-absorbed

- Having been to the city to buy food, that's all they could think about when they returned



The Example of the Disciples

They were arrogantly prejudiced and selective

- “They marveled that He talked with a woman”
- Did you notice how close their attitude was to that of the woman before she believed?



The Example of the Disciples

Even when considering spiritual things they focused on trivialities and closed their eyes to what was really important

- Jesus told them, “Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”

A man in a grey robe and white head covering sits on a stone well in a dry, hilly landscape. A large, leafy tree stands behind the well. The ground is covered in dry, yellowish grass. The sky is clear and blue.

At a Well in Samaria

A Lesson on Personal Evangelism

Conclusion



Conclusion

The statement of Jesus in Matthew 9:37-38 still rings true



Matthew 9:37-38

Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”



Conclusion

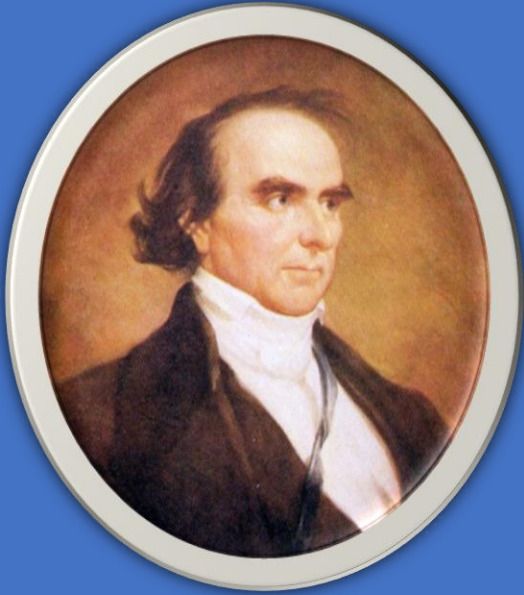
We are *all* to be laborers who “go out into the harvest”

- We *all* have the responsibility to share the gospel with others



Conclusion

The question is, “Are you and I doing our part?”



Daniel
Webster

“If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon the immortal minds, if we imbue them with principles, with the just fear of God and love of our fellowman, we engrave on those tablets something that will brighten to all eternity.”
