

The Method of Evangelizing Jesus: Application of Ellen G. White's Statement in John 4:1-42

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ABSTRACT

Humans have fallen into a slump of sin resulting in extraordinary effects in various aspects so that happiness and prosperity are difficult to obtain. If sin is allowed to continue to run rampant then all humans will perish as a result of sin. God provides a solution to get out of sin, which is to come to Jesus Christ. The problem is that not everyone is aware of their sinfulness which leads to destruction, for this reason evangelism is needed to win their souls to salvation. And the best method of evangelism is the method practiced by Jesus Christ. The purpose of this research is for every follower of Jesus to understand his responsibility for the mission of salvation and know a good method of evangelism, by reconstructing the evangelism method in John 4:1-42 based on what Ellen White wrote about Jesus' evangelism method. This research method uses qualitative methods through a review of literature studies. Evangelism is the Great Commission that Jesus conveyed to His disciples and people before ascending to heaven. Evangelism is the responsibility of every Christian, to bring everyone to Christ. Evangelism is the mission of salvation that Jesus declared to lead people to receive His grace.

Keywords: *Great Commission, Methods of Evangelism, Jesus, John 4:1-42*

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INTRODUCTION

We live in the midst of an "evil epidemic" that is crippling wise and righteous people everywhere. The rampant deception cannot be explained with a human pen. Political discord, bribery and fraud surface every day. Every day there are horrific reports of violence and lawlessness, indifference to human suffering, brutality, and the horrific destruction of human life. Madness, murders and suicides increase every day. Who can doubt that Satan's servants work among people by multiplying their activities which corrupt and confuse the spirits and pollute and corrupt the body? conscience and life. They long for the power to give victory over sin, the power to break free from the shackles of sin, the power to give health, life and peace.

Many people who know the power of God's word live in places where God is dishonored and yearn for God's presence. (Ellen G.White, 2005, p. 122) Sin has existed in the world since the first man fell to temptation. So that in the days of Noah due to rampant sin, God had to bring a flood as a form of human disbelief in God. But since that event, God will not punish sinful humans in this way. Indeed, Allah is more concerned with saving mankind than destroying him. (Ellen G.White, 2005, p. 122) God gives an opportunity for humans to repent, in this case it is necessary to call for repentance which can be done through evangelism so that humans can be saved. For solving the problem of sin, everyone only needs Jesus as Lord and Savior who is able to forgive and solve the problem of sin. (Lusiana Sinambela et al., 2023)

Throughout history, mankind's primary struggle has been one of salvation or eternal life. From the Bible, humans can only understand the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). There is evidence that Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom of God throughout his earthly life and dedicated his life to the center of the gospel message. Because the church is a pioneer in global evangelism, local church leaders are executors of the great mission of Jesus Christ. The content of that great mission is to make disciples of all nations by preaching the Gospel to all nations, classes and tribes in the world. (Frans Wonatorei, 2020)

The task of evangelism must not break the spirit of evangelists, let alone stop evangelism. Whatever the difficulties, obstacles, or reasons, there must be an urge to surrender to God when evangelists or God's people are looking for a suitable model to exist in evangelism. The spirit of winning souls for Jesus Christ, which was created by the Holy Spirit, is the power to remain passionate in evangelism. (Hannas & Rinawaty, 2019)

There are also believers who want to share the gospel but don't know how to do it or how to do it successfully. For this reason, we encourage believers to choose to stay in their comfort zone by engaging in ministry activities that focus solely on the church and not on evangelism. (John et al., 2012) There are several factors that prevent Christians from being involved in ministry, namely: First, lack of ability in terms of education and formal knowledge of the Bible (false humility). Second, the yields are so high that the effort spent (wasted) is not enough. Third, fear of being rejected and humiliated where they testify. Fourth, isolation (closed), Christian association and contact alone makes it difficult to win souls. Fifth, insufficiency, lack of time and motivation for evangelism. Sixth, mental immaturity. For example, discord and no evangelism." Some people are reluctant, unenthusiastic about sharing the gospel, and even lazy to participate in evangelism. Some of the causes include: Indifference to the poor condition of fellow human beings, and there is a tendency to be afraid of fellow human beings. (Sinaga, Sinambela, et al., 2021) Through the evangelism method used by Jesus, it can become a model of evangelism that can be carried out by all of His people, because the best method is Jesus' method.

Evangelism is an effort to proclaim: Jesus Christ as Savior. It makes it possible for everyone who is evangelized to receive, follow, serve, and live in fellowship with Jesus Christ. Evangelism is a communication carried out by Christians as God's spokesmen to bring God's message of forgiveness to sinners. (Hannas & Rinawaty, 2019)

The Christian Church carries out various methods of evangelism that can be carried out, on this occasion the researcher specifically describes the verses contained in John 4:1-42 which are study material to find out about evangelism methods. In her writings, Ellen White once noted about Jesus' method of evangelizing when He was in the world. This is a form of emphasis on what Jesus had done in his conversation with the Samaritan woman (John 4:1-42). Jesus came into personal relationships with people. He never stood aloof from those who needed his help. He went to people's homes, comforted those who mourned, healed the sick, raised the weak, always did good wherever He went. To follow in the footsteps of Jesus, everyone must do what Jesus did. (Ellen G. White,

2005, p. 58) Only Jesus' method will bring true success in reaching people. The Savior interacted with people as someone who wished them happiness. He showed them compassion, met their needs, and earned their trust. Then he called them: "Follow Me". (Ellen G. White, 2005, p. 123) Evangelism is the duty of every Christian, but doing evangelism requires the right method like what Jesus did. The purpose of this research is for every follower of Jesus to understand his responsibility for the mission of salvation and to know good methods of evangelism. This can be done through what the researcher explained by reconstructing the evangelism method in John 4:1-42 based on what Ellen White wrote about Jesus' evangelism method.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research method is a scientific way to obtain data with specific interests and objectives, where the results can be used in solving the problem being studied. (Sugiyono, 2005, p. 1) Research methodology is also the way researchers explain that research can be carried out so that a research hypothesis can be tested scientifically, and can be accepted rationally. (Iskandar, 2009, pp. 176–177) This study uses a qualitative research method of literature study by exploring library sources through the Bible, books, and scientific journals (Zaluchu, 2021) relating to research and the results of the analysis are presented in the discussion of this study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Background Of the Gospel John

Writer

The author is a Jew. He was clearly familiar with the Old Testament, as if he had absorbed the spirit of the prophets. The author is a Palestinian Jew. He clearly shows that he is in the Jewish world. He was well versed in Jewish customs, religious practices, and legal regulations, and easily integrated into the world of Jewish thought. The author is an eyewitness to the events he tells. He clearly states: The author is the Apostle John. In his Gospels, he often mentions a disciple he never mentions, but he always refers to him as "another disciple" or "the disciple whom Jesus loved." (Mike Omoasegun, Raja Mitch, 2021, p. 5)

Writing Time

There are several expert theories about when the Gospel of John was written. Clement of Alexandria (150-215 AD), a famous Alexandrian theologian in the second century AD, theorized that this Gospel was written in AD 85. But the most widely accepted theory is that this Gospel was written, the time between Paul's death in 68 AD and the fall of Israel in AD 70. A word, is that in the Gospel 5: 2 it says: "In Jerusalem near the gate of the Sheep there is a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda." It says "there is" written in the present tense. "If the Gospel of John was written before the fall of Israel, the Pool of Bethesda would have been destroyed along with the rest of the City of Jerusalem and the words "there would have been a thing would have been written in the last tense" (formerly, there was a). So, it seems likely that the Gospel was written sometime after Mark's Gospel, probably between A.D. 68 and 70. (Thomas Hwang, 2021, p. 142)

Writing Purpose

The Purpose and Importance of the Gospel of John In his Gospel, John clearly wrote the purpose of his writings. "However, everything that is listed here has been recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (Jn 20:31). Wherever in the Gospel of John

we read, we must remember John's intention in writing the book. The theme of the entire Gospel of John, is that Jesus is the Son of God and the Christ. (Thomas Hwang, 2021, p. 150)

Background of John 4

Jesus came to a city called Sychar. The city is at a crossroads, one branch leading to Capernaum and the other to Nazareth. Jacob's Well is 1.5 miles from town. This area is full of reminders of the past history that took place there. There was land that Jacob had bought long ago (Genesis 33:8-19). When he was dying, Jacob left the land to Joseph (Gen 48:22). When Joseph died in Egypt, his body was brought back to Palestine and buried in this land (Josh 24:32). So, this place has many events that Jews will always remember. There were many important events for the Jews in this area, but Jesus continued on his way until he came to Jacob's well and stopped. Sitting by the well, in Verse 6: "There was Jacob's well, Jesus was tired from his journey and sat down by the well. It was about 12 o'clock." (Laia, 2021)

The Samaritan woman in this context is a bad woman, disliked by people, so she comes to the well when no one is around. This is seen in John 4:17-18. The woman said: "I have no husband". Jesus said to her: You are right in saying that you have no husband. In this case you are telling the truth. I don't want to talk to women like that, but the Lord Jesus knows the needs of women's souls, so He wants to talk to women. (Laia, 2021)

Jesus' Method In Evangelism

The word Gospel (Evangelism) is translated from the Greek word Euangelizo. In its original context, it was used in the Greek military world. In the New Testament, the word "evangelist" occurs more than 50 times in Greek, meaning "herald of good news." In the Christian world, the term was used to mean "message" and was quickly adopted as a Christian term relating to Christ's sacrifice (work). That is why Christ and His work on earth is called the "good news." Evangelism is part of the Great Commission given more than 2000 years ago. This term is often used in Jesus' ministry of preaching by teaching (Matthew 10:7-15; Luke 10:4-12). The word Martureo occurs 76 times in the New Testament. This word has the meaning of giving testimony, being a witness, proving, saying good, proving good. In other words, martureo means giving testimony based on testimony about what is experienced and believed (John 15:26-27; Acts 1:8, 2:32, 10:39, 22:15, 26:6; 1 Cor. 11 :26, 15:1-4). (Sinaga et al., 2022)

Evangelism is the responsibility of every Christian in the form of service given by God to individuals and the church, (Sinaga, Sagala, et al., 2021) without evangelism the church will not grow or even die. (Panjaitan et al., 2023) In this case every Christian is expected to carry out his responsibilities properly. Jesus during his lifetime directs every soul who does not know God well to know Him well and calls every soul for those who have no hope because they fall into deep sin. This Jesus practiced in reaching out to a Samaritan woman in her meeting at Jacob's well. Indirectly Jesus made an approach/method in winning the Samaritan woman.

Building Friendship (Associating)

The approach is the method of evangelism that Jesus did to the Samaritan woman. Evangelism used by Jesus Christ in a society with complex social and cultural problems as faced by the Samaritan woman in the text of John 4:1-22. Jesus filled the gap by giving them a new understanding that the most important thing is to hear the gospel of salvation. This approach is still relevant for believers who are burdened with evangelism. (Hannas & Rinawaty, 2019)

When Jesus was in Samaria and started a conversation with a Samaritan woman, with the aim of making friends with strangers before. The friendship that Jesus built began with humility, namely asking the woman for help. Jesus did not come as someone teaching or dictating what to say, but put himself so low that this woman was shocked, because normally a Jew would not associate with Samaritans and instead hate them. Christ knew it, therefore He put Himself in need of help, so that the Samaritan woman would not feel threatened or rejected, for He was a Jew and it was known that it was not unusual for a Jew to ask a Samaritan for a drink. Jesus did this because he wanted to show a different attitude, namely to come as a peacemaker.(Harming, 2017)

Humans essentially undeniably need each other, need love, a helping hand and also acceptance by others.(Siswanto et al., 2022) In this friendship we will find opportunities to proclaim the Gospel, because through friendship we can discover the special needs of friends for mutual openness, there are ways in conversation to proclaim the Gospel. Before Jesus evangelized this Samaritan woman, He first built a friendship. Through friendship there is an open attitude, so that the Samaritan woman is even more amazed and wants to know more about what Jesus wants to say to her.(Harming, 2017)

Culture regulates that humans can understand how they should act, act, determine their attitudes when they interact with other people and also as the identity and image of a society.(Pane et al., 2022) In multicultural ministry we discuss how one person can help another even though they have a different culture. Intercultural service is also a form of service with servants serving people from different cultures. Thus it can be understood that intercultural service is a form of service that fulfills the physical and spiritual needs of individuals and groups from different cultures.(Rimon et al., 2022) Jesus Christ exemplified the Samaritan woman in intercultural or multicultural evangelism. Jesus was successful in evangelizing people who were culturally different from him. This friendship model can be used as a way of evangelizing to reach souls for Jesus Christ.(Hannas & Rinawaty, 2019) In order to reach souls in evangelism, the cultural barrier between the minister and those being served needs to be set aside because there is no higher culture that hinders the ministry from making an approach.

Show Sympathy

Jesus said to her: "Go, call your husband, and come here with him." The woman froze in shock. In fact, she was so shocked that she suddenly had a vision of herself. Seeing such an imposing demeanor and hearing Jesus' words, the woman was ready to talk about their life. True, he is not married. She was even more amazed when Jesus detailed her present and past and mentioned that she had been in contact with six men.(Laia, 2021) Jesus sympathized with the Samaritan woman, there was something wrong in her life, by stating that there were six men in her life who were not legally married. Jesus wanted to provide a way out for him, by showing his sympathy rather than simply stating his sin. Perhaps his current situation has been full of shortcomings, weaknesses, suffering, which can be seen when he deliberately goes out to fetch water from the well when there are no people (avoiding crowds).

Jesus turned his attention to people's suffering, need, sorrow, hunger, disease, and even death. In Luke 6:17-26 Jesus taught and healed many people. Simultaneously with the healing of Capernaum's centurion's servants (7:1-9). Raising the youth of Nain (7:11-17), Healing the demon-possessed at Gerasa (8:26-38). Jesus healed them, comforted them, and raised the dead. The Lord Jesus healed the sick individually on His mission journey. Jesus dealt with the person of the sinner. He takes care of all human needs. He was in constant personal connection in his ministry. Jesus did many miracles for those who were sick. The message of the kingdom of God that Jesus

taught was not just a verbal message, but the fact that Jesus healed the sick, comforted the suffering, and freed the demon-possessed.(Frans Wonatorei, 2020)

The community service evangelism model can be carried out through hospital visits, education, and providing natural disaster assistance. Worship is not an act of Christianization, but building a bridge of communication that expresses love, a very distinctive teaching of Jesus Christ. Love must be exercised for all as a Christian witness to the teachings of Jesus Christ. The World Harvest Center (Yayasan Tuaian Dunia) located in Tangerang has started social services through Harvest Community Development and Harvest Care. Harvest Community Development is a department that specifically deals with people who need capital assistance and granting scholarships, and health. Peduli is a “vehicle” used to provide natural disaster relief both in Indonesia and abroad. Through this community service, bridges are opened for evangelism. Of course, it must be done with perfect wisdom and faith in Jesus Christ. (Hannas & Rinawaty, 2019) Show concern for someone's needs as a form of showing sympathy.

Serving Needs

In evangelizing, it is not an easy thing to do, it requires a calling and a burden that God gives to those He chooses, but this task is the duty and burden of every believer who already understands the Great Commission, but most believers unaware of the duty for souls in the world. This task is physically tough, where you have to approach people from different regions, cultures, and even their way of life.(Tarore, n.d.)

The church faces a ministry that touches all aspects of human life. That is, the presence of the church in social services must be able to touch physical and spiritual aspects. So don't just think about the material without worrying about the spiritual side. And vice versa. "The existence of the whole church is consolation and healing, not only spiritual healing but also physical healing of the congregation, the two cannot be separated but form a unified whole.(Wijaya, 2017) The church does not only pray, preach from the pulpit, and proclaim the good news through the word, but on the contrary, takes the right attitude and actions so that those who experience suffering can experience true salvation. This would be a true program.(Tarore, 2020)

Doing good to others is a commandment of the Lord Jesus.(Siswanto et al., 2022) Humans are social creatures, social humans. Humans need each other and need each other. They complement each other and this is where social service is formed. Social services are urgently needed because problems affect the human dignity of many people and are very dangerous if this problem is not addressed and a solution is found. Talking about social care and the mission of evangelization in the context of Christian ministry today is very urgent.(Alfrets Lantu et al., 2021)

Win Trust

Jesus said the time has come for those who worship with a pure heart in the sense that they are purified to worship God in spirit and in truth. Unlike hypocrites, true worshipers are good Christians. Everyone must and will worship God in spirit and in truth. In order to evangelize, we need a one-sided understanding of people, which is the goal of evangelism, that is, a biblical understanding. This is because a wrong understanding will affect one's way of life and practice. Therefore, efforts should be made to reconstruct the misunderstandings so that the messages conveyed are correctly understood and the person enjoys the right way of life.(Laia, 2021)

There may be people who are sincere and pure in heart in the midst of a community that has not been reached by the gospel. Basically, they are unreached, do not know the truth or the gospel. However, when the Bible

is revealed, their hearts may be open. This breaks the perception that there are still opportunities for evangelization for people or communities that we consider to be bad or sinners. What is needed is how to reach out and proclaim the gospel to them with the same approach as Jesus did. They may be more easily convinced than the hypocrites.

Declare Jesus as the Messiah

In Verses 25-26, "The woman answered Jesus. When she comes, she will tell us everything. Jesus said to her: I will tell you. Judaism and a prophet, being an important point. The woman said "I know that the Messiah is coming", John said that Messiah is "also called Christ". He continued "When he comes, he will tell us everything."(John et al., 2012) Jesus was declaring that the promised messiah was facing him. Seeing the Omniscient Jesus proves that He is a divine person, this makes him more confident in those who speak to him.

Call to Follow Jesus

At the beginning of their conversation, he said to Jesus: "Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob?" (4:12). He then draws the conclusion: "Now I understand that you are a prophet" (4:19). And now he expresses his speculation that Jesus is the Messiah who is called Christ. This expression is in accordance with the hope of the Samaritans for the coming of the Physician (Messiah) who will preach the truth and act as a prophet like Moses with the words "I am the one who speaks to you." The Synoptic Gospels often record such reluctance, but today Jesus does not hesitate to admit that he is the Messiah. When Jesus was with the Samaritans, he was not worried about political consequences as he was with the Jews. This is enough to describe the different approaches. This is the personal revelation of the Messiah to those who have hope and are therefore willing to receive such revelation. The woman opened her heart, and finally the Lord Jesus confessed with all tenderness that He was the Messiah. This special and noble confession is made in a very gentle tone. His love for women and for the whole village of Shichar is evident in these words. Perhaps women don't understand the connection between the words "I am He" and the name of God, but those who have read the Gospel of John many times will know that this verse publicly reveals the Lord Jesus as the Messiah. This is a statement that He showed Himself to be God.(John et al., 2012)

The Samaritan woman's response to Jesus' words was that the Messiah would come and tell them all. So, the Samaritan woman had the idea of an all-speaking Messiah. Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, with these words, Jesus told the Samaritan woman that he was the Messiah. This woman's faith development deepened because she knew that Jesus was not only a Jew and a prophet, but also a Messiah or Christ.(Sukendar, 2019)

Very little in the Bible is a real statement from Jesus emphasizing that He is the promised Messiah, but to convince this Samaritan woman Jesus said it, and it turns out that the woman believed it. Jesus' approach made it easier for Him to win the trust of a sinful woman and a Samaritan. This experience becomes an inspiration for evangelism for people or communities that are difficult to reach.

CONCLUSION

Evangelism is the Great Commission that Jesus conveyed to His disciples and people before ascending to heaven. Evangelism is the responsibility of every Christian, to bring everyone to Christ. The good news must be conveyed, in the midst of a world that has fallen into sin, otherwise they will perish. Only Jesus is the way of salvation, for that everyone is preached this way of salvation so that they can be saved.

Actually there are many methods that can be done in evangelism, but not all methods are appropriate in a place or situation. But there is the best method of evangelism, which is the method of Jesus himself. During his life on earth, Jesus did not just die as a sacrifice, but also evangelized (the good news) that everyone can obtain

salvation, regardless of ethnicity and nation. Through the approach and evangelism that Jesus did to the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, Jesus showed His concern for saving this sinful woman.

The Samaritans had no contact with the Jews, but Jesus was able to break down the dividing wall so he could reach the Samaritan woman, and most importantly Jesus succeeded in winning the Samaritan woman's soul. What Jesus did was build friendships (get along), show sympathy, serve his needs, win his trust, and call to follow Him (Jesus). This method worked, the woman believed and followed Jesus, and she invited people from her village to believe in Jesus. Here it seems that the method is very simple, but if you pay attention to the simple evangelism of one sinful woman it can lead a community (sampung) to come to believe in Jesus.

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