

I Heard it Through the Grapevine

I bet you're wonderin' how I knew
 'Bout your plans to make me blue
 With some other guy you knew before
 Between the two of us guys
 You know I loved you more
 It took me by surprise I must say
 When I found out yesterday
 Don't you know that I heard it through the grapevine
 Not much longer would you be mine
 Oh I heard it through the grapevine
 Oh I'm just about to lose my mind

There's an old joke about spreading news that goes like this:

The fastest ways for news to travel are:

- Telegraph
- Telephone
- Tell a friend (sometimes a friends name would be inserted there referring to someone who likes to gossip or spread rumors)

It's called "Word of Mouth" communication or advertising:

- "Informal Communication"
- "The Grapevine"

The simple truth that, if you get people talking about something, word will spread, and people will be informed!!

If you think about it, most of us would rather get a recommendation from a friend, rather than looking online or the phone book for things like

- Plumbers
- Heat/Air repairman
- Mechanic
- Doctor/dentist

Word of mouth is the original means of mass communication, and even with all of our modern technology, it is still the greatest form of advertising there is...

The phrase “Word of Mouth” is dated back to 1545,

- But I’m going to show you the importance of this in both The Bible and in your life today...

Last week, I tried to prepare you a little for this by bringing up our personal responsibilities in “The Great Commission”

Mark 16:15-18

15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Jesus was basically saying:

- Tell people about Me wherever you go
- Tell people about the miracles
- Tell people about Grace
- Tell people about My Blood
- Tell people about salvation
- Tell people about Holy Ghost power

He was telling them to use “Word of Mouth” Communication

- Activate “The Grapevine”
- He is telling us the same thing today!!

How do you think people learned about Jesus while He was alive?

- There was no newspaper
- No TV
- No Radio
- No Internet
- But there was a “Grapevine”!!
- And Jesus knew how to work it!!

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus Comes to Zacchaeus’ House

19 Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. 2 Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 **And he sought**

to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” 6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. 7 But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.”

8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”

9 And Jesus said to him, “**Today salvation has come to this house**, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Zacchaeus had heard through the grapevine about Jesus and heard that he was coming through his town...

- It was because someone was talking about Jesus...
- Word of mouth advertising that Jesus was coming to this town
- **He knew when and where** he could experience Jesus firsthand...
- Because of this, a sinner was saved

Mark 10:46-52

Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus

46 Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, **blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging.**

47 **And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth,** he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

48 Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

49 So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called.

Then they called the blind man, saying to him, “Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you.”

50 And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

51 So Jesus answered and said to him, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

The blind man said to Him, “Rabboni, that I may receive my sight.”

52 Then Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” **And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.**

Again, Bartimaeus had heard it through the grapevine....

- So he was able to be at the **right place at the right time**
- All because people were talking about Jesus
- All because people **shared** the news of when and where to experience Him
- This man's life was changed
- This man received his healing!!

Matthew 4:23-25

Jesus Heals a Great Multitude

23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. 24 **Then His fame went throughout all Syria**; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. 25 Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

As Jesus went about preaching and performing miracles, people started talking...

- **The “Grapevine” was activated**
- This is how His fame was spread...

As people talked about Jesus, news spread about where He would be and when people could see Him...

So people started coming from everywhere to see Him, experience Him...

It says here “great multitudes” followed Him

Later in The Bible we see Jesus “Feeding the multitude”

- **5,000 men, plus women and children**
- **Some scholars say as many as 30,000 people were in these multitudes...**
- **All there because they “Heard it through the Grapevine”**

We flip the page in The Bible and see:

Matthew 5:1-2

The Beatitudes

5 **And seeing the multitudes**, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

Jesus saw this multitude of people who had come from all over to experience Him; He sat down and preached the greatest Sermon ever!!!

- **He poured out His blessings on these people!!!**

And this was made possible by “The Grapevine”

- People using “Word of Mouth”
- Telling people about Jesus
- And **when and where** they could personally experience Him!!!

Wow!!! Think about it...

- Do you want to see people saved?
- Do you want to see people healed?
- Do you want to see people restored?
- Do you want to see people experience Jesus in a personal way?

It’s time to activate “The Grapevine”!!

We already know that every believer has a personal responsibility to help share The Gospel...Right?

And we already know a place and time that people can have a personal encounter with Jesus every week... Right?

- Right here, every Sunday at 11am
- Tell somebody!!
- Invite someone!!

I want to **share** a special word with you that will help you with this...

- **Share**

Almost everyone in here uses Facebook...

- Use it as a “Great Commission platform”
- To help people have a personal experience with Jesus

Hit “Share”

- Share our Sunday Facebook Live post on your page
- Share post about our church on your page
- Check in at church when you get here on Sunday mornings
- Comment on the service
- Share events

Sure, you can:

- Share your testimony with people
- Share Bible verses and devotions
- But this is an easy way for anyone to share The Gospel!!

My final thought is this

The Samaritan woman at the well

- She had a life changing personal experience with Jesus
- Then she **shared** it with the people in town
- She invited them to have a personal experience with Jesus
- And told them **when and where** that could happen
- Many lives were changed that day!!
- Because they “Heard it through the grapevine”

You can do that with the click of a button...

- Share!!
- Activate the grapevine

Altar call:

- Maybe you came seeking that personal encounter with Jesus today...
- Come let us pray with you!!
- Maybe you heard something that urged you to move forward today
- Share it!!

Closing prayer: