

## **Summer sermon series – What are people talking about – Beginning a conversation about Jesus**

### **The screaming evangelist?**

... might mean people do not always like you or respond to you well BUT it has nothing to do with shouting, being obnoxious, or pestering people.

***Penn Jillette “I’ve always said that I don’t respect people who don’t proselytize. I don’t respect that at all. If you believe that there’s a heaven and a hell, and people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life, and you think that it’s not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward—and atheists who think people shouldn’t proselytize and who say just leave me alone and keep your religion to yourself—how much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?”***

***“I mean, if I believed, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that a truck was coming at you, and you didn’t believe that truck was bearing down on you, there is a certain point where I tackle you. And this is more important than that.”***

### **Paul in Athens**

He cared for them and their eternity.

... he reasoned with them in the synagogues

He simply presented the gospel.

He was winsome

Col 4:5-6 ... be wise in the way we act towards outsiders ... make the most of every opportunity ... conversations that are full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that we might know how to answer everyone.

1) Have the right heart

... a heart for the lost.

2) Be prepared

1 Peter 3:15 “always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have.”

### **2 options**

- GOD. MAN. GOD. DO? DON'T?
- 2W2L verses (show pictures)

### **A third option**

- **Share your story**

**3) Pray (continually)**

**‘Speak to God about people before we speak to people about God’.**

**4) Discover their world (worldview)**

**Firstly, Paul connects with them in a way they understand the world**

**Ask questions about stuff.**

**... to discover what they think, what they value and how they make life’s big decisions.**

**... discover WHY they think like this?**

**Secondly ... be an inviter.**

**A word of caution.**

**You can meet people in their world but you might need to be different in that world not just one of the crowd.**

**1 Peter 2:12, “Live such good lives among the pagans that though they accuse you of doing wrong they will see your good works and glorify God on the day he visits us”.**

**Qu: Without preaching your world view to people how do you discover the world view of your friends who do not know Jesus and how they formed their world view?**

**5) Be winsome – Col 4:5-6**

**Col 4:5-6 ..be wise in the way we speak**

**1 Peter 3:15 ... be gentle and show respect, keeping a clear conscience.**

**6) Work out how to bring the conversation around to Jesus (not the first conversation 😊)**

**Where to from here...**

- **Keep loving people**
- **Keep asking questions**
- **Keep praying**
- **Be wise in how you act and be prepared to share Jesus**

**Want to get better equipped? Speak to me!**