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# Compelled By Love

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## Part 5 - Kingdom Ways #2

### Demonstrate and Declare

#### **Embrace 'both and' not 'either or'**

Have we let this worldly idea of choosing sides, this either-or thinking creep into our understanding of scripture?

Jesus modelled how we are to GO, and when it came to 'declaration' and 'demonstration' He did not engage with either-or thinking.

Have you heard this clever and popular quote:

*Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.*

It is always attributed to St Francis of Assisi—founder of the Franciscan Order—and is quoted for the purpose of saying that 'demonstrating' the Gospel, by deed, is more virtuous than actually proclaiming or declaring it with voice. Essentially, what St Francis did suggest, which comes from his Rule of 1221, Chapter XII on how the Franciscans should always put into practice their preaching!

*No brother should preach contrary to the form and regulations of the holy Church ... All the Friars ... should preach by their deeds.  
Their words and actions should align.*

#### **Jesus' Way....**

Jesus didn't separate words and actions when it came to the Holy Spirit's witness of the reality of God.

#### **Hebrews 2:1-4**

As the power of God broke into the reality of people's lives, Jesus instructed the disciples to explain that the person had just experienced the reality of God's everlasting spiritual Kingdom arriving here and now.

The demonstration and declaration of the goodness of God is a BOTH AND spirit empowered activity!

## **Reflect the Love of God on our Frontline**

Did you know in Brisbane alone, there are over 120,000 International Students from nations all around the world, coming to us, here in Brisbane. What an incredibly exciting frontline, right here in our City of Brisbane!

What is your response to Holy Spirit when He reveals an opportunity to co-labour with Him? There is always a choice to make...

*Do you want to be comfortable -  
or do you want to partner with what I'm about to do?*

It is interesting to see just how many times declaration came after the demonstration. Jesus' instructions to the first disciples and followers were simple. Through my Holy Spirit working in and through you, do the miraculous work of God! Heal, deliver, restore, save – that is what my Kingdom looks like.

**Luke 10:9**

**Matthew 25:31-40**

**Mark 5:19**

Lost people matter to God and we need to ask ourselves, how much do they matter to us? Jesus was known to look on the crowds with compassion... Can we?

## **Going Beyond Good Intentions... What will our Point of Difference be?**

*"Whatever gets put at the centre of the program during its lifetime, will tend to be what the community puts faith in at the end..." Jayakumar Christian*

Declare and Demonstrate – Demonstrate and Declare – It is a 'Both-And' not an 'Either-Or'!

**Acts 3:3-9 (AMP)**

Deeds (acts of kindness, charity, service, mercy) are not a believer's point of difference. Good people do good things. Our point of difference is the presence of God!

As Leslie Newbigin puts it – *Something has to happen which make people aware of a different reality – that triggers a question arising ‘What is this?’ The declaring of the Good News of the Gospel is simply answering that question!*

Part of our responsibility as Kingdom Ambassadors, is to boldly step into ‘sense-making’ moments... these teachable moments where there has been an experience, an encounter, a supernatural or even spectacular sign – that made someone wonder, that drew out the question ... to which the answer was Jesus and in this moment, His Kingdom has come near to you!

#### **Luke 10:9**

*In a world tormented and oppressed, held captive by so many problems, tempted by pessimism – the one who proclaims the Good News MUST be a person who has found true hope in Christ! Pope John Paul II*

#### **Isaiah 41:12**

Something pretty exciting happens when we are ready and looking for the opportunities the Holy Spirit is unlocking, and doors Holy Spirit is opening!

### **People want to hear about Jesus**

The people God has placed on your frontline, need to hear the reason you found hope in Jesus. God’s greatest hope lies in our hands – we need to ensure His last command is our first priority – that we would declare and demonstrate His Kingdom. But we cannot hope to have Spirit empowered conversations, if we are not empowered by and abiding with His Spirit!

#### **John 15:5**

### **Abiding = Shining**

When you shine with His hope, joy, light, love from the inside, it draws people!

#### **2 Corinthians 3:18**

Are you prepared for a Kingdom conversation, prepared to give an answer that takes general chit-chat into radical demonstration of His love? Let's make sure we are – because we don't want to miss the opportunity!

## **Prayer**

*Jesus, show us how you see each person within the crowd, on our frontline, in our closest relationships, within our families... Please show us what you want to declare over them. Let us catch a glimpse of the destiny you have designed for them! Show us how to love those you have entrusted to us, the way you love them, Jesus! Thank you Jesus that through your incredible sacrifice on the cross and through the work of the outpouring of your Holy Spirit, you are drawing the orphans and those who don't yet know you – back into your incredible Kingdom family. Show us how to steward faithfully every opportunity you put in front of us, with deep compassion and your love overflowing. Amen*

## **Application**

1. Read Luke 10: 1-10. In light of the list of things Jesus instructs the disciples to do in Luke 10, how would you now understand and apply the 'tell the Good News' aspect?
2. Is there a difference in your reliance on the Spirit to 'tell the Good News' compared to your reliance on the Spirit for healings or salvation?
3. Read Romans 15:18-19. How does Paul connect the two aspects of 'declaring' and 'demonstrating' the work of Christ?
4. What does Isaiah 41:12, John 15:5, Luke 12:12 say to us about following and leaning back into the Holy Spirit to give us His words and ways?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5. Why does Paul use 'ambassador' language? Would anything change about the way we approach our day to day, and our frontline, if we fully grasped our role as Christ's ambassador?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. Come before God asking what needs to be transformed within, to enable a truer reflection of Him in our lives. Spend time upholding in prayer, those you have identified on your frontline; asking for Holy Spirit to help you identify opportunities to declare and demonstrate Jesus' Good News to them this week.