

# One Reaching One

Matthew 13:45 – 46

## I. Intro

A. Want to speak today on number “one”; many of us think of that number as small and insignificant

i. Who wants one cookie, or even one plate of food? Value of just one dollar?

B. Three Dog Night song about number one:

*One is the loneliest number that you'll ever do*

*Two can be as bad as one*

*It's the loneliest number since the number one*

C. Babbie Mason song:

*But each one can reach one*

*As we follow after Christ we all can lead one*

*We can lead one to the Savior*

*And together we can tell the world that Jesus is the way*

D. God’s Word consistently speaks of one: one pearl of great price; one lost sheep (song “Reckless Love”); one prodigal son

E. **READ Matthew 13:45 – 46**

F. Heard it said whenever Jesus used parables that each character represented, symbolic of someone or something

i. merchant – people who are seeking after truth, specifically truth found in relationship with Christ – the Gospel

ii. pearl of great price – the truth; when merchant finds the one pearl of great price (the person who has found the truth in Christ), he sells all he has (surrenders old way of living, denies self), and purchases the highly valuable pearl (accept and believe the truth of Gospel of Christ)

G. Pearl is born out of suffering; tiny, minute speck of sand gets into an oyster’s shell – becomes an irritant; oyster secretes a substance called “mother of pearl” to coat the irritant gradually becoming a pearl; pearl is result of torment and pain

H. Same for a believer – born from suffering – result of suffering and death of Jesus Christ

I. **1 Peter 3:18 (NIV)**

18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,

J. **John 1:43-46 (NIV)**

43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.

45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.

- i. Philip could've gotten in debate with Nathanael about Nazareth, whether it was as bad as people said – no, Philip just told Nathanael, *"Come and see"*

- K. **Question:** Realize that 96% of people who come to faith in Jesus Christ are people that were just invited to "come and see"
- L. Read that only 20% of believers will invite another believer to church – 80% of believers won't even invite another believer to come to church; what's worse – only 2% of believers will ever invite an unbeliever to church – 98% believers will not invite an unbeliever
- M. In 2013, study showed 82 % of unchurched would likely attend a church if invited by friend, coworker, neighbor, family member
- N. **Question:** Anyone recognize, heard the name N.W. Pridgen? Probably haven't; Pridgen, years ago, invited a pool hall manager, pool hustler, to church; man later become Pastor of 24th largest church in state and also President of SBC – man's name Johnny Hunt
- O. **Question:** Hard question – how many today can name ONE person in your spiritual journey that has come to Christ through your invite or your witness?
- P. Three challenges this morning in order for all of us to be people that are committed to ONE – just ONE unsaved, unchurched person

## II. Commit to Being an Intentional Witness

- A. Definition of *intentional* - a determination to act
- B. Intentional – act of the will; requirement on your part – won't just happen
- C. One way to be intentional is find someone to be accountable to; people go on diets all the time, one of the ways people are held to their diets is by dieting with someone else – they become accountability partners for each other; we believers need to do the same when it comes to sharing the Gospel
- D. Also must be mature as a disciple-maker; **Question:** How do people grow, mature in anything? They first start by just doing it – the more they "do it" the better they get at "it"
- E. Johnny Hunt quote: *Leading others to Jesus is the greatest expression that we (disciples of Christ) really understand who He is*
- F. Suggestions (challenge); **1**) invite just one lost person to go out to eat this year – share your story, your testimony of what Christ has done in your

life; **2)** invite just one lost friend, neighbor to your home for a meal this year – share with them; **3)** invite someone who doesn't have a church to attend church with you this year

i. This isn't complicated so don't try to make it so

**G. First challenge – commit to being an intentional witness this year (BTW – there are about 40 weeks left)**

### **III. Go and Tell**

**A. Two simple questions with very simple answers:**

i. **Question:** Where do you go? Right where you go each and every day of the week

ii. **Question:** Who do you tell? Anyone, anytime, anywhere

**B. Babbie Mason's song earlier: *Each one can reach one as we follow after Christ we can lead one ...***

**C. Paul writes in second letter to believers in Corinth: 2 Corinthians 3:2-6 (NIV)**

2 You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody.

3 You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

4 Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God.

5 Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.

6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

**D. First challenge – be an intentional witness; second – go and tell**

### **IV. Recognize and Repent of Excuses**

**A. List of excuses:**

i. **Spiritual lethargy – happens when we fail to obey leading to lack of growth in our spiritual walk**

ii. **Growing inclusiveness – opinion, All religions lead to God; our attitude becomes, We don't want to offend anybody**

iii. **Disbelief in hell – undermines the urgency of sharing the Gospel when we ignore or disregard the reality of judgment**

iv. **Busyness – telling others about Jesus doesn't just need to be something else added to our "to-do" list, it needs to be on our "to pray about" list and then on all our "must-do" list**

v. **Fear of rejection – good news, research shows that only 25% of unchurched will be resistant to any faith conversation, that means 75% are open to having that conversation**

- vi. **Desire to be tolerant – realize the Gospel is in many ways “intolerant”; one true God insists there are to be no other gods, He is a jealous God; Jesus taught about a “narrow” way, no other name under heaven, He only was the way – no one could come to the Father but through Him**
  - vii. **Losing the habit of witnessing – just like any habit, once you stop you lose it, but it can be picked back up again**
  - viii. **Lack of accountability – when you have to answer for your actions you’re more likely to do the right thing**
  - ix. **Failure to invite – a very simple gesture (extending an invitation) can have a very significant outcome**
  - x. **Church not real enthusiastic about reaching the lost – been said it takes 85 church members to reach ONE unsaved person; Not sure what that does to your heart, but it breaks mine**
- B. First challenge – commit to being intentional; second – go and tell; third – recognize and repent of excuses**

## **V. Close**

### **A. JUST ONE**