**51ST BIENNIAL PNW DISTRICT CONVENTION**

Evergreen Lutheran High School, Tacoma, Washington

June 12-13, 2018

Presenter: E. Allen Sorum

**“Silver Bullets for Successful Urban, Cross-Cultural Gospel Outreach in the Booming Pacific Northwest”**

**Silver Bullet #1: *Adopt the Person-ality of Urban, Cross-Cultural Mission***

**(June 12, 11:40-12:40)**

Topic Objective: By the end of this first topic, we will have:

* chosen critical components of (urban, cross-cultural) outreach
* experimented with using them in this session.

Topic Scripture: Mark 1:35-39

35Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. 36Simon and his companions went to look for him, 37and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!”

38Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” 39So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. [[1]](#footnote-1)

Topic Content: (Comments on Mark 1:35-39)

Today’s Personal Application: Imagine that on a table before you are all the priceless spiritual treasures that Jesus has given to you. Choose one that you cherish. Explain to a person near you why you cherish this treasure. Invite this person to treasure it also.

Tomorrow’s Transfer to Urban Cross-Cultural Mission: Imagine your own ministry setting back home. Walk through it in your mind. What reservations do you have about sharing your spiritual treasures with all the people you see?

**Silver Bullet #2:** ***Preach the Critical Message of Urban, Cross-Cultural Mission***

**(June 12, 2:00-3:00)**

Topic Objective: By the end of this second topic, we will have:

* distinguished the deep and compelling message of the Christian faith and
* analyzed examples of recent preaching and teaching for that message and
* predicted how various audiences in our ministry settings might receive that message.

Topic Scripture: John 12:20-33

20 Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. 23 Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. 27 “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” 29 The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. 30 Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. 31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” 33 He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

Topic Content: (Comments on John 12:20-33)

Today’s Personal Application: Choose one of the two discussion questions below.

1. John 12:20-33 is a rich and powerful text. Which sentence especially moves you. Tell a person near you why you chose that sentence or verse. Listen to their sentence and why they chose it.
2. Share with a person sitting next to you a point you made in a sermon recently that clearly encouraged your listeners. Tell why you think it did so. Listen to your partner do the same.

Tomorrow’s Transfer to Urban Cross-Cultural Mission: Reflect again upon your ministry setting. Which world religions and worldviews present themselves? How might you discover ways to engage these various audiences with Christ’s core “cross” message? How might you assess their reaction to it?

**Silver Bullet #3:** ***Embrace the Peril of Urban, Cross-Cultural Mission***

**(June 12, 3:45-4:45)**

Topic Objective: By the end of this third topic, we will have decided on how we are going to respond to how people respond to Christian witness.

Topic Scripture: Revelation 16:8-9

8The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire. 9They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.

Topic Content: (Comments on Revelation 16:8-9)

Today’s Personal Application: Take a moment to identify the emotions you feel when you hear: “…but they refused to repent and glorify him.” Then, discuss with a person sitting near you this challenge: “What does God want me to feel when God tells me that while he sends plagues to turn the hearts of stubborn demon-worshippers to him he also sends me to call demon-worshippers to repentance and to trust in the Savior?

Tomorrow’s Transfer to Urban Cross-Cultural Mission: With a partner, describe mission motivations that come from both good places and bad places. Then compose a three-sentence mission plan that comes from a good place, i.e., from a spiritually mature perspective.

***Silver Bullet #4: Commit to the Vital Praxis of Urban Cross-Cultural Mission***

**(June 13, 9:00-10:00)**

Topic Objective: Objective: By the end of this final topic, we will have:

* experienced a Christ-aligned heart and
* formulated urban, cross-cultural “praxis” that such a heart will prompt.

Topic Scripture: Matthew 9:35–38 (ESV)

35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Topic Content (Comments on Matthew 9:35-38)

Today’s Personal Application: Take a moment in a prayer to beg God to cast out workers into the harvest field where you are harvesting. After praying your prayer, discuss with a person near you the insights or impulses this prayer has had on you.

Tomorrow’s Transfer to Urban Cross-Cultural Mission: Choose at least one challenge below to discuss with a person sitting near you.

1. Describe ways in which our discussion of urban cross-cultural mission will energize your outreach efforts.
2. Describe your doubts and reservations related to our topic.
3. Finish this sentence: That which I believe to be absolutely critical to urban cross-cultural outreach—to any kind of outreach anywhere by any church regardless of resources or context—is…

1. [*The New International Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/niv2011?ref=BibleNIV.Mk1.35&off=52&ctx=1:35%E2%80%9338pp%E2%80%94Lk+4:42%2c43~%0a35%C2%A0%E2%80%A2Very+early+in+t). (2011). (Mk 1:35–39). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. (All Scripture passages are from NIV2011 unless otherwise noted.) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)