

How to be an Effective Ambassador for Christ **2 Samuel 10**

Introduction:

1. Last week, we studied the touching story of how David showed great kindness and grace towards a lame man by the name of Mephibosheth.
2. Here, in chapter 10, David continued his deeds of kindness. David heard that the king of the Ammonites had died, and that his son was reigning in his father's stead. vs. 1
3. Obviously, at some time in the past, the former king had showed kindness unto David, so David desired to return the favor. He sent a group of ambassadors to the land of Ammon to comfort and probably bring gifts to the son of the former king. vs. 2
4. The new king did not appreciate or value David's kindness and grace. He openly spurned it and rejected it. They took David's ambassadors, treated them with disrespect and sent them on their way. vs. 3-4
 - He didn't exactly roll out the red carpet. Even today, in certain cultures, shaving off a man's beard is regarded as a great insult and indignity.
5. Just as David had ambassadors that he sent out, did you know that God has ambassadors to this world today? Turn to 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. If you are **in** Christ, you are an ambassador **for** Christ. An ambassador is a representative.
6. The question is, "How are you doing representing the King of heaven on earth?"

How can you be an effective ambassador for Christ to this world?

First, understand clearly your position as an ambassador.

1. These men were ambassadors for David. These men were representing David. If our country sends ambassadors to Mexico, they speak and act on behalf of our government.
2. Being an ambassador for King David was a high and noble calling. But, this morning, if you are a believer, you have a much higher and nobler calling. You hold the distinct honor, privilege, and position of being an ambassador for the King of kings, Jesus Christ. Many people don't understand their position and its importance.
3. Jesus Christ is not here on this earth any longer. He ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of God the Father. Today, Christ is speaking His Word through His appointed ambassadors. For good or bad – we're it! What a calling! There is no "plan B."
4. Do you realize that you are Christ's representative on earth? When you speak His Word to others, you are speaking in Christ's stead (place). 2 Corinthians 5:20
5. Do you know people that do not know Christ as their Savior? You are Christ's representative to them. This is your spiritual position on earth. You speak His Word and you live out His Word in your daily life. Ephesians 5:8, 11; Philippians 2:15

6. People say, "I'm just an old sinner saved by grace." You are more than just that. You are now a saint of God in Christ, called to be Christ's ambassador on earth!

Second, understand clearly your message as an ambassador.

1. These ambassadors were not sent without a message. They were sent with a message of comfort and kindness. In sending these ambassadors, David was sending a message of comfort, love, and peace.
2. As ambassadors for Christ, did you know that Christ has given to us a glorious message to take to this world? It is the message of reconciliation.
2 Corinthians 5:18-19
 - To "reconcile" simply means to "restore two parties to union or agreement after being previously alienated."
 - Biblically, it means "restoration to divine favor."
3. This is our message that we have been commissioned to share as ambassadors. It's the good news that individuals anywhere can be restored to God's favor. God is no respecter of persons.
4. Christ appeared to and saved His chief enemy, Saul of Tarsus. At that point in history, the entire world deserved the wrath of God. Instead, Christ saved Paul and revealed to him a message of grace to share with the whole world.
1 Timothy 1:11, 13-15
5. Those of us who were alienated from God by wicked works (Colossians 1:21), and without hope (Ephesians 2:12), could now be reconciled to God through the cross work of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:13). What a message we have been given!
6. No matter who you are, what you have done, what your cultural or ethnic background may be, through simple faith in Jesus Christ, you can have an eternal position of reconciliation with the God of heaven!
7. As ambassadors, it is our privilege and responsibility to take this glorious message to those who need it (your neighbor, co-worker, friend, relative, waitress, etc.).

Third, understand clearly your strategy as an ambassador.

1. Notice in verse 2, David sent these ambassadors out and they "*came into the land.*" They carried the message to them. They didn't wait for the Ammonites to come to them; they took the message of grace from their king to the Ammonites.
2. We employ the same strategy as ambassadors for Christ. The strategy is not "Wait for people to come and knock down our door trying to hear the gospel of Christ." We may be waiting a long time for that to happen. The strategy is for us to go to them!
3. A great example of this is the local church at Thessalonica. They were once idolatrous Gentiles that had heard the gospel from Paul and had gotten saved. As ambassadors for Christ, what did they do? Did they put up a sign that said, "Come and see us some time."
4. No, 1 Thessalonians 1:8 explains their strategy. They sounded out the Word of the Lord and spread their faith everywhere. This is God's plan for us.

Illustration of Christ: He didn't camp out in a cave waiting for needy people to come to Him. He went where the needy people were and ministered and taught!

Fourth, understand clearly your mission as an ambassador.

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2. Did they fulfill their mission? Absolutely! Their mission was not to **force** the king of Ammon to accept their message. It was simply to take it and offer it. He wasn't rejecting **them**. He was rejecting the King of Israel (David) that sent the message of grace. vs. 3
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4. Our mission is to take Christ's message to them. At that point, the responsibility is now theirs. They have a free will to accept or reject the message. Acts 18:6
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