

Becoming a Bridge for Others to Get to Jesus

Introduction:

1. When we look through history, the very earliest bridges were natural bridges. Men didn't build them. They were the result of God's marvelous creation.
2. This is a wonderful reminder that God Himself is a bridge builder. Last Sunday we talked about Jesus being the bridge for all mankind to get to God. **1 Timothy 2:5**
3. But here is the question for today, "How will people know about Jesus and the bridge He has provided for them to get to heaven?" In other words, how will they come to Jesus?
4. They need a bridge! They need somebody to be a bridge so they can get to **the** Bridge - Jesus Christ.
5. Did you know that God has left some natural bridges for people to cross to get to Jesus? They are the bridges of human relationships (**John 20:21**). Let me give you an example:
 - **John 1:6-8** - John the Baptist was a forerunner of Jesus Christ. God revealed to John that his own cousin (Jesus) was the Messiah, the Son of God. vs. 29-34
 - But now let's move on to verses 35-39. These are two men that are hanging out with John. They hear him say, "This is him!" and the next day they walk across the John the Baptist bridge to come to Jesus and become followers of Jesus. But it gets better.
 - One of them was Andrew (vs. 40). What does he do? He finds his brother, Simon Peter (vs. 41-42). Peter walks across the Andrew bridge and comes to Jesus. There is no fanfare, no tent or crusade or TV program - he simply walks across the Andrew bridge.
 - Now look at verse 43. How did this happen? Verse 44 - Philip walks across the Andrew and Peter bridge.
 - Verse 45 - Nathaniel walks across the Philip bridge and comes to Jesus.
6. This incredible story continues today - people reaching people with whom they have relationships. No technology will ever replace it. There is nothing more powerful than the natural bridge of human relationships.
7. The gospel of Jesus Christ and its power surges through the network of human relationships. It is so natural, so powerful, so effective, so life-changing, so simple, yet so timeless.
8. Believer, no matter who you are, or what your personality type or what your background, you are **someone's** bridge to Jesus.
9. We said last week that a people's lives will never find true meaning until they walk across the Jesus Bridge. But after you do this, do you want your life to really take on special meaning and have eternal impact? Become the bridge for others that God intended for you to be.
10. Let's look into God's Word and see how we can become bridges for others to get to Jesus.

First, you can become a bridge for your family.

1. Let's look at a few Bible examples of this:

- **John 4:53** - the ruler's son was healed and he became a bridge for his entire family.
 - **Acts 16:14-15** - Lydia, the first European convert, became a bridge for her entire household.
 - **Acts 16:30-34** - The Philippian jailor became a bridge for his entire family.
2. Think about not only your immediate family, but your extended family - brother, sister, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces, parents, etc.
 3. Are there some that do not know Christ as Savior? God desires to use you to be the bridge to bring them to Jesus, and you can be!

Second, you can become a bridge for your friends.

1. Let's look at a few Bible examples of this:
 - **Mark 5:19** - Jesus said, "Go and be a bridge." He wanted to hang out with Jesus, but Jesus said, "No, you have some bridge work to do."
 - When a person gets saved, they have, on average, 12 friends who are lost without Christ. After a few years that number drops to four. Why is this? We are like this guy. All we want to do is hang out with the Jesus crowd.
 - Remember, Jesus was a friend of sinners. He came to seek and to save that which was lost. He knew His job was to a bridge builder and now it is our job.
 - **Acts 10:24** - Cornelius was a bridge for all of his family and friends. They walked across the Cornelius bridge.
2. Do you have any friends that do not know Christ as Savior? God wants you to be their bridge to come to Christ.

Third, you can become a bridge for your associates.

1. What do I mean by this? They are those you associate with by virtue of work, the same ball team, the gym, beautician, college, school, club, etc. They are people you see and rub shoulders with regularly.
2. Who is going to be the bridge for them to cross to get to Jesus? Think about it - you know Jesus, and you know them. They are in your life for a reason.
3. A great Bible example is **Mark 2:14-17**.
 - Matthew comes to Jesus in verse 14. The next scene, they are eating in Matthew's house and he has invited all his co-workers to come and dine with Jesus. vs. 15
4. I know it may be more fun to have the L.I.F.E. Group over, but why not have a Matthew party? Invite some co-workers and church friends over to your house and let them rub shoulders. They may learn that Christians are not freaks of nature. We're real people.
5. You say, "One of them might cuss or say something inappropriate." The Pharisees were worried about this too (vs. 16). What was Jesus' answer? vs. 17
6. We need to put aside our sanctimonious attitude and be a friend of sinners like Jesus.

In Conclusion:

1. God created you in Christ Jesus to become a bridge for others to come to Jesus.

2. You don't have to memorize 50 verses of the Bible, or have perfect attendance for a year at church, or be a "perfect" Christian to be a bridge. You simply have to:
 - Care - Christ's love is communicated by your caring.
 - Be a friend - people that don't know Christ need a friend. Who better than somebody who knows the Lord?
 - Pray - **Romans 10:1**
 - Share with them honestly what Christ has done in your life.
3. Will you decide today to be that bridge for somebody else to come to Jesus?