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**SHARE THE GOOD NEWS: THE VOICE OF TOM WYCLIFFE**

Jesus said, *Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven* (Matthew 10:32).

Tom Wycliffe didn’t start out acknowledging Jesus. In fact, he was on the slippery slope to hell. Missionary E. E. Guenther commented, “When he was young he was a bad man. He drank much, gambled and did many evil things.” That changed in 1918. The missionary proclaimed the Law and Gospel. Tom heard it. The Holy Spirit worked faith in Tom’s heart. His whole life changed 180 degrees. He was baptized as was his family. In time he became an interpreter for the missionary, and in 1922 when Alchesay unlocked the door of the Whiteriver church for the first time, Wycliffe was one of three Apaches who addressed the Apaches in their own language (W. Kessel 1994).

Every day Tom would show up at the missionary’s home and ask the pastor which camp he could visit that day and share Jesus. When asked why he was so eager to spread the glad tidings of the gospel of the crucified and risen Savior, Tom replied, **I feel just like a ditch running over with water** (Frey 1921). Tom simply could not help himself. He was so filled with the love of Jesus that it had to bubble forth. This is exactly what Jesus promised when he said, “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him” (John 7:38).

Tom’s days on this earth were numbered. He was dying of tuberculosis. He asked the missionary for Holy Communion and added, **I know that Communion is no medicine for my body. But I know that it will make my soul strong, so that the devil will have no power over me**. Six days later, on August 27, 1923, his breathing was labored. Between strained breaths he told Missionary Guenther and Apache evangelist, Lon Bullis, **I think I am going to Heaven today**.He asked to hear the Creed and Psalm 23 over and over again. E. E. Guenther (1923) recalled, “And he wanted to hear Christian songs. We sang one after another of his favorites. The last song we sang was ‘I Love to Tell the Story.’” That night he died. Tom’s was the first church funeral held at the East Fork mission. He was buried in the nearby cemetery. He was a strong Christian Apache evangelist who died in the arms of the Lord. And THE WORD OF THE LORD GROWS.

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED**

1. What parallels can you find between the life of King David and that of Tom Wycliffe?

2 How do you explain Tom Wycliffe’s words, **I feel just like a ditch running over with water**?

3. Why were the Lord’s Supper, the Apostle’s Creed, the 23rd Psalm, and the hymn “I Love to Tell the Story” the last things on Tom’s mind?

**LOST AND FOUND**

In the hymn “Amazing Grace” we sing, “I once was lost but now am found.”

Lost

1. Read Psalm 51:5 and Ephesians 2:3. When does a person become a sinner? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Genesis 8:21 and Romans 8:7. Is a baby innocent or partly good? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Read Romans 6:23. What is the consequence of sin? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Read Romans 3:23. Who, then should be damned? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. In the Second Article of Luther’s Small Catechism we admit to being “a lost and condemned creature.” What does it mean to be lost?

a. Read Ephesians 2:1-2. To be lost means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. Read Luke 13:27. To be lost means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Found

1. Read Luke 19:10. Who is credited with finding the lost and providing salvation? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Romans 6:23. Salvation (being found) should be considered a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. How does God save a person?

a. Read Romans 10:17. God brings salvation to us in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

b. Read 1 Peter 3:21. God brings salvation to us in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**EVANGELISM**

1. The word “evangelism” comes from the word “evangel” which means “Gospel.” So an evangelist is someone who shares the Gospel.

2. Read Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-16. Who commanded evangelism? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Read Acts 1:8. You might say that evangelism begins at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and radiates

out from there.

4. The Bible outlines the chain of events which marked King David’s journey and led to his joy in sharing the Gospel.

a. Review 2 Samuel 11. What were some of the sins David committed? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. Review 2 Samuel 12. How did David’s sin come to the forefront? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c. Read Psalm 51:3-4. Did David acknowledge his sinfulness? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

d. Read 2 Samuel 12:13. What did God do then? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

e. Read Psalm 51:12-13. How did David respond to God’s love? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. Read John 1:40-42 and 4:28-29.

a. Does a person have to be theologically trained to share Christ with others? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. Can and should someone share Christ in his/her own backyard? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-22. Paul was both a missionary and an evangelist. Does the

evangelist sometimes take culture into consideration as he/she goes about the task at hand? \_\_\_\_\_\_. Does a “local,” therefore, often make a good evangelist working in his/her

own backyard? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED**

1. Questions. What parallels can you find between the life of King David and that of Tom Wycliffe?

a. What were some of the sins that Tom committed? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. Speculate. How did Tom’s sin come to the forefront? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c. Speculate. Did Tom acknowledge his sinfulness? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

d. What did God do then? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

e. How did Tom respond to God’s love? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2 Question. How do you explain Tom Wycliffe’s words, **I feel just like a ditch running over with water**?

a. Read 2 Corinthians 4:13. Evangelism starts with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. Read John 4:14 and 7:38. What is the “living water” spoken of here? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c. Tom Wycliffe was very familiar with the irrigation ditches that carried water from the East

Fork River to the Apache fields. Knowing this, explain Tom’s understanding of evangelism.

1) What is the river? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2) Who or what is the irrigation ditch? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3) Who is the field? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4) What is the work of the evangelist? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Question. Why were the Lord’s Supper, the Apostle’s Creed, the 23rd Psalm, and the hymn “I Love to Tell the Story” the last thing on Tom’s mind?

a. The Lord’s Supper gives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. The Apostle’s Creed teaches \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c. The 23rd Psalm provides \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

d. “I Love to Tell the Story” defines \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I love to tell the story Of unseen things above, Of Jesus and his glory, Of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story Because I know it’s true; It satisfies my longings As nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story, For those who know it best Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest.

And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song, ‘Twill be the old, old story That I have loved so long. (Christian Worship, Hymn 562)

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