

Witnessing to Muslims Chapter 20

Bridging the Barriers

As a natural bridge forms the pathway between two land masses, it is our desire to form a bridge that Christians can use to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Muslim people. This chapter is meant to provide a method by which we may share the wonderful news of the gospel of Jesus Christ to Muslim people.

Acts 17:22-24

"Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Therefore, the one whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:"

NKJV

The Muslim people do revere and love the Jesus Christ of the Qur'an. They believe that they honor Him more than Christians because of the fact that they do not believe that He was crucified. They don't feel that God would have subjected Him to the humiliation and pain! However, even the Qur'an addresses the fact that Jesus prophesied his death and resurrection. In fact, many of the references in the Qur'an speak of Him as being the Word, the Messiah, the one Nearest to God, and the Spirit of God. But even as the men of Areopagus worshipped the unknown God, many Muslim people honor Jesus, yet their minds and hearts have been blinded from the truth of His mission.

Acts 17:27

"so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us"

NKJV

The bridge we need to apply in order to connect with the Muslim faith is the mighty name of Jesus Christ. The challenge is in trusting that the Holy Spirit will remove the blindness as we begin to speak about the things that we may readily agree upon. Most Muslims will agree with the statements that Jesus is the Messiah, as well as the Word of God. However, they are left with the conclusion that He was just a prophet!

Philippians 2:9-11

"Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

NKJV

The truth is that the name of Jesus Christ is the only name by which one may be saved! Paul, in the book of Acts, said that there is no other name by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

NKJV

Josh McDowell, in his book "More than a Carpenter," wrote that there was only three options of who Jesus Christ could be: either He is Lord, Liar, or a Lunatic. The truth is Jesus claimed that He was the Son of God, He was clear about His mission! He was the lamb that would take away the sins of the world with His sacrifice! The approach to take in witnessing to Muslims is very similar to the approach Jesus took with His disciples in Matthew 16:13-18.

He first asks them, "Who do men say that I the Son of man am?" He then asks them "Who do you say that I am?" Our question to the Muslim people is, "Who does the Qur'an say that Jesus Christ is? And who do you say that Jesus Christ is?" Our approach should be to have friendly dialogue about who Jesus Christ is. We should discuss Jesus from the Qur'an perspective as well as the perspective of individual we are speaking to, without shutting them down. This focuses the conversation on Jesus and allows the individual to really question their true beliefs and perspectives. This will allow the Holy Spirit to start working.

Matthew 16:16-18

"Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

NKJV

Revelation is brought through the Lord, as Jesus revealed to Peter. The Jesus that the Muslim people worship without knowing will be revealed through our sharing and love .It is our earnest prayer that as you read this chapter, you will gain reliance and trust when speaking the name of Jesus Christ. We pray that all men will be drawn to the knowledge of what He has done for each and everyone of us.

Let's pray:

Lord, we ask that as we begin this journey, You would give us Your heart for the Muslim people. We pray that we would walk in boldness knowing that in speaking the name of Jesus Christ, sinners are brought to repentance and signs and wonders are done in Your name! Lord give us opportunities to speak Your name to the Muslim people, Amen!

General Information

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world today, nearly 1 out of every 5 people is a Muslim. According to Scholastic Update, Islam is the fastest growing religion in the United States. Of the eleven hundred mosques in America, 80% have been built in the last 12 years.

Since 1900, the Muslim religion has doubled every 24 years. From 1944 to 1979 the number doubled from 400 million to 800 million. It doubled again in 2003 to around 1.6 billion.

Sadly, Christianity only doubles on average every 47 years based on this same study.

This article appeared in Time Magazine on April 16, 1979:

"Islam is the world's youngest universal faith, and second largest, with 750 million Adherents, to about 985 million for Christianity. Across the eastern hemisphere but primarily in that strategic crescent that straddles the crossroads of three continents, Muslims are rediscovering their spiritual roots and reasserting the political power of the Islamic way of life. Repelled by the bitter fruits of modernization and fired by a zealous pride in its ancient heritage, the Emma (world community) of Islam is stirring with revival.... The West can no longer afford to ignore or dismiss the living power of the Prophets message."

Definitions

Allah: The word for God in Arabic.

Arab: A person whose native tongue is Arabic or who identifies with other Arabs of an ethnic group. Arab is defined independent of religious identity.

Islam: Submission to God or total commitment to the authority and power of God. It is the faith, submission, and practice of the Muslim people.

Jihad: Struggle or effort in the path of God. It can be used to describe a personal internal struggle, but it is usually used to describe a defensive "Just War" to protect or spread Islam. They call it "Holy War."

Muslim: One who is submitted to God, one whose religion is Islam

Qur'an: Recitation in Arabic; they believe that this book contains a message from God recited by Muhammad and recorded by his followers.

Did you know that 6 out of every 7 Muslims are not Arab!