



<b>DATE</b>	March 26, 2017
<b>SPEAKER</b>	Jared Petty
<b>TITLE</b>	Let's Not Make It Difficult
<b>SERIES</b>	The gospel's message is simple. Its promises are clear. And Jesus calls us to go into the world and share His message of hope. So why can it feel so hard to share our faith with those around us? Let's talk about how to effectively reach the people in our lives and make an eternal difference.

When your life has been transformed by God's grace, it's hard to keep that transformative experience to yourself. Unfortunately, we often make discussing the good news far more difficult than it should be. To effectively witness to others, we need to make sure we're not over-complicating things.

1. Pastor Jared began his lesson with a story about when he used an illustrative tool to explain the good news to non-believers and how the message was obscured in translation. What are some effective and ineffective methods of witnessing that you've seen in action?
2. Just like the New Testament church did in Acts 18, so do we struggle with being too legalistic with the gospel. What forms of legalism do we add to the path of salvation that complicates it? Are there extra hurdles or constraints we establish that make following God difficult or unappealing?
3. Sharing your faith with others can be intimidating, especially if you know people who see Christians as narrow-minded and judgmental. What scares or inhibits you from sharing the news of God's salvation? Read 2 Timothy 1:17 and Ephesians 2:4-5. What do you learn from these verses that encourage you to share your faith? What do these verses teach you about the work of the Holy Spirit?
4. Pastor Jared pointed out the importance of godly actions in living out your witness to others. Read Matthew 5:14-16, Romans 13:11-14, and Romans 12:1-2. Why is Christ-like behavior important in how you interact with non-believers? Do you have any habits in your life that hinder your witness?
5. While we recognize the importance of godly living in the life of a Christian, it's also important to not be judgmental of those who are unbelievers and aren't followers of Christ. How can you exemplify God's grace in your life? What are some practical ways that you can interact with and reach out to people who are behaving in a way that you disagree with?
6. It's unlikely that any Christians would disagree that evangelism is a fundamental aspect of abiding by Jesus' teaching. Yet, we rarely stop and consider why converting non-believers is so important—and thus may resort to unsympathetic, abrasive, or “any means necessary” tactics. Take some time to list reasons why salvation is important. Is it simply to keep people from going to hell? If someone were to ask you, what would you tell them is the point of being a Christian?

Take some time to share the names of friends and family you know who you'd like to bring to church; pray as a group that God will reveal situations in which you can start a simple conversation with them.