**The Greatest Mission on Earth**

Talk 3: Our Great Fear

**Introduction**

**Why are we slow to speak about our Lord Jesus?**

1. We’re not sure what to say

2 Corinthians 4:13 It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, 14 because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. (NIV 2011)

1. We’re afraid of standing out

2:11    Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

3:9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

4:3 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. 4 They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. 5 But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

Discussion: how will people respond when Christians live and speak for Jesus?

“I believe that in all men’s lives at certain periods, and in many men’s lives at all periods between infancy and extreme old age, one of the most dominant elements is the desire to be inside the local Ring and the terror of being left outside.” (C S Lewis, *The Inner Ring*)

1. We’re still holding on to our idols
* *What is an idol?*

“You shall have no other gods before me.” (Exodus 20:2, ESV)

“The human mind…is a perpetual forge of idols.” (John Calvin, *Institutes*, 1.11.8)

* *What are my idols?*
1. Status
2. Comfort
3. Self

“We protect our pride at the cost of other people’s souls.” Mark Dever, *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism, p27*

“If we are to share Christ, we need to first love Christ.” Rico Tice, *Honest Evangelism, p46*

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.” 1 Peter 3:15, NIV

**Recommended Books**

*Honest Evangelism*, Rico Tice

*The Gospel and Personal Evangelism*, Mark Dever

*Counterfeit Gods,* Tim Keller