

WINNING SOULS FOR THE LORD'S SAKE

Luke 15:4-10

Introduction: Often church members ask why the unsaved people won't come to church. Today churches are trying all sorts of things trying to get unchurched people interested in their church. There is an answer to getting unsaved people in church and that is for Christians to become brokenhearted over the lost as they should be, if the Christian really cared about the unsaved as they could. Some ask why can't we have old fashioned revivals like we used to? Well, it's not T.V. or ball games or the lake that prevents those old time revivals from happening, it's because Christians don't mean business. All through the Bible we are told that the Gospel works WHEN the Christian does. When was the last time YOU had tears in your eyes and a lump in your throat when you thought or sang about the Old Rugged Cross?

I. WE OUGHT TO WIN SOULS FOR THE LOST SINNER'S SAKE

1. One of the reasons to win lost souls is for their own sake.
 - They are dead in their sins.
 - We ought not to feel that unbelievers, lost people MAY be lost. They are lost! They are already condemned and damned.
 - God's wrath is on them already.
 - If only we realized how terrible the wrath of God can be. If only we realized that every unbeliever, lost person is about to be struck down by God like lightning from the skies.
 - Unbelievers are not GOING TO BE lost. They are lost now. They are condemned now. They are doomed now. They are owned by the Devil now. They are guilty now.
2. Unbelievers are not "nice" in God's sight contrary to what we think about some unbelievers.
 - If a person is not saved, then that person is not on God's side.
 - If a person is not saved, then his heart is not right or pure.
 - If a person has not take Jesus Christ as his/her Savior, then he/she is an enemy of God and will suffer the wrath of God throughout all eternity.
3. The state of the unbeliever is as different as between darkness and light, as between the temple of God and the temple of the Devil.
 - It is not how "good" a person is living but what is not on the inside - Jesus is not there.
 - Every living person, child through adult who has not accept Jesus Christ as Savior is headed for Hell. They are already condemned.
 - So how concerned should we be about the present state of the unbeliever?
4. Christians ought to be burdened and concerned about the misery and unhappiness that will rest upon the unbeliever.
 - Have you been a Christian for a long time?
 - Many have been Christians so long that they have forgotten the condition of the unbeliever.
 - They have forgotten that the unbeliever is damned and doomed.
 - They have forgotten that the unbeliever will spend eternity in the fires of Hell.

5. Did you grow up in a Christian home?
 - Were you saved during your childhood?
 - If so, then you missed the heartaches and unhappiness that the unbeliever is suffering now.
 - If so, then you have missed the agony that many are going through in a non-Christian home.

II. WE OUGHT TO WIN THE LOST BECAUSE OF THEIR DESTINY

1. Do you believe that the rich man Jesus told about really went to Hell?
 - Do you believe that he died and was buried?
 - Do you believe that he went to hell and saw Lazarus in Heaven and cried out for a drop of water?
 - Do you believe that Jesus just made up this story to scare people? Or do you believe that the rich man is still in Hell?
2. How many have some relative, loved one or neighbor who is, as far as you know, unsaved?
 - Do you believe that that particular person could die today and do you believe that that relative, friend of yours who is unsaved would go to Hell if he/she died today?
 - Then if you believe it why haven't you led the relative or friend to the Lord Jesus Christ?
3. Many pastors can tell a story about a deacon, Sunday School teacher, choir member, pianist, organist, usher or other staff member who had been a church member for years, suddenly becoming aware that he/she had never been saved and was lost, therefore making a public profession of faith that shocked and stunned their fellow church members.
4. Do you believe in Hell?
 - So many believe the theory of Hell but it hasn't affected their lives.
 - If you as a Christian believed in your heart there is a hell, do you think you could leave here and go out the doors as if nothing is terribly wrong?
 - Do you think that you could sleep good tonight if you believed your unbelieving neighbor, friend or relative is doomed to Hell? Do you think you could go about your life as usual really believing this could actually happen?
 - Christians, how in the world are you excusing yourself for not winning souls to Jesus?
 - The plain simple, sad reason souls are not being won is the fact that the great majority of Christians do not mean business but are in all reality HYPOCRITES!
5. Christians think that what is needed today are more beautiful buildings, a family life center, a Christian rock band, a worship leader, everything projected upon a screen so there is no need to bring a Bible or use a hymnal. That is not what is needed at all.
 - What Churches need today is for it's members to believe that lost, unbelievers are actually going to hell. Churches need it's members to CARE.
 - Anywhere there are Christians staying awake at night worrying and praying over the lost, the lost will be staying awake too with the Holy Spirit convicting their hearts.
 - Anytime Christian family members become concerned over unbelieving family members and Christian friends become concerned over their unbelieving friends, then God can do something.

CONCLUSION:

1. Unbelievers, the lost may act just like a Christian on the outside or they may be rebellious, loud drinking, cursing, druggies but on the inside there is a hunger for the world cannot satisfy what their heart really needs and that is Jesus.
2. Christians remember that the unbeliever, the lost person is not going to come running up to you asking how they can be saved.
 - They are not going to come running to someone who acts just like they do.
 - They are not going to come running to someone who doesn't show concern and love.
 - They are not going to come running to someone who doesn't seem to know what to tell them.
3. There are plenty of people you know who want to be saved. Will you help them ask the question: "What must I do to be saved?"
4. Christian, is there somebody you know in Hell and you never told them how to be saved?