

Finding Courage To Teach The Lost

Introduction. It might be said that one of the hardest parts of being a Christian is teaching the lost (Matthew 4:19). Why would this task be considered so difficult? For some, it may be the fear of rejection. For others, it might be the fear of not having enough knowledge. There are also those who are simply afraid of messing up something that is so important and carries such a great responsibility.

As soldiers of Christ, Christians must recognize that they have nothing to fear. Just as the apostles preached the word with all boldness, so Christians can do the same today. There is no more urgent need in the church today than for Christians who can and will talk to people about their soul's need and about Christ who satisfies that need. No greater and more enduring work can be undertaken than winning souls for the Master. It is a work that endures for eternity. It is the purpose of this lesson to show how Christians can find strength to teach the lost.

I. ***Begin With A Firm Foundation***

- A. Remember your charge as a Christian.
 - 1. We should always be ready to make a defense (1 Samuel 12:7; Proverbs 22:20-21).
 - 2. Nothing takes away fear better than preparation.
- B. Remember to demonstrate the proper demeanor.
 - 1. People can see if you enjoy being a Christian. They can see if you have true joy (Romans 5:11; Philippians 4:4).
 - 2. Promote yourself as someone who is trying to remove religious error and promote the way of Jesus Christ. Show them true love and kindness.
- C. Remember that it is God's word that possesses power.
 - 1. Conviction of sin and error must begin from within the individual. God has designed conversion to begin with the heart, because it was from a personal searching of the Bible that truth is discovered about sin and salvation (Acts 8:27-28).
 - 2. The word of the Lord has the power to cause that conversion (Isaiah 55:11). God's word is a mirror for us to see our own life (James 1:22). Any other way will make a person a converter to a religion and not the Lord.

II. ***Make Use Of Suggestions***

- A. Pray for people and for opportunities.
 - 1. Pray for an "open door" of opportunities (Colossians 4:2-4).
 - 2. Pray for specific people you wish to convert.

- B. Use an indirect teaching method.
 - 1. Several methods do not require you to stand face to face with your prospect.
 - a) Tracts are short and to the point. They can be left almost anywhere.
 - b) CDs of sermons and DVDs of prerecorded material can also be given.
 - c) Offer to mail someone a Bible correspondence course.
 - 2. Ask someone what they think about a topic and then use it to discuss the Bible. Never let someone with whom you have a good religious conversation just drop. If they refuse a Bible study, do not give up. Ask for a Bible study at a later date.
- C. Work with other Christians.
 - 1. Ask other Christians to pray for you (2 Thessalonians 3:1; James 5:16).
 - 2. Talk to other Christians about your efforts to teach the lost. They might be able to offer suggestions or words of encouragement to help you. You will spur them on too.
 - 3. Try going out "two by two" (Luke 10:1). With this method, you and your partner can supplement each other's abilities.
- D. Invite people to services.
 - 1. This may be much easier for you to and very effective as well.
 - 2. Request a sermon on a subject of interest or listen for announced sermon topics. You can then invite your friend to come to that assembly.
 - 3. Sometimes this may have to be done multiple times, but do not give up! If someone visits because of your invitation, encourage them to attend again.
- E. Identify yourself with Christ.
 - 1. Remember to pray before eating while in public.
 - 2. Carry your Bible with you and do not be afraid to read it in public.
 - 3. Do not withhold statements pertaining to religious matters from your conversations with others. These can serve as great door openers to a Bible discussion.
 - a) "I'll pray for you."
 - b) "Lord willing, I will be go here or there tomorrow."
 - c) "I'm thankful to the Lord for what He has done for me."
 - d) "This past Sunday, our preacher was talking about that very subject."
 - 4. Never speak of the Lord's church in denominational terms -- the church is distinctive.

F. Anticipate objections and excuses.

1. Some may offer objections when approaching them to study. For example, how would you answer the following?
 - a) "I'm not interested in changing churches."
 - b) "My parent's church is good enough for me."
 - c) "I'm not ready to study now -- maybe later."
 - d) "My soul is just fine."
 - e) "You people believe you're the only ones going to heaven."
2. Some may offer excuses when asked to obey the gospel. Find the cause of refusal and try to remove it. For example, how would you answer the following?
 - a) "I will when I learn more."
 - b) "The Christian life is too hard."
 - c) "That is the way you interpret it."
 - d) "I think I've already made the right decision."
 - e) "I think all these other churches are right too."

Conclusion. We must have enough faith in the Lord to take the first step into the waters of personal evangelism. We must have enough courage to step forward and to let people see our allegiance to Jesus and His word. Are you doing your part in teaching the lost? If not, then make the necessary changes today in order to accomplish what God expects of you (Proverbs 11:30). Do what you can to show men and women the way to eternal life.