

"WEEKLY WISDOM"
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For The Week of 04.05.10

"CAN I GET A WITNESS"!

Luke 24:46 And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah must suffer and die and rise again from the dead on the third day.

Luke 24:47 With my authority, take this message of repentance to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to me.'

Luke 24:48 You are witnesses of all these things.

As we have just finished celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ it always reminds me of the significance of what Christ did for us. Imagine if you were told you had a disease that would take your life if you did not receive the antidote necessary to get rid of this life threatening ailment. Grateful that this antidote was made known to you, you receive it and have your life spared. How terrible it would be to know others with the same disease, but not share with them where they could get the same antidote that will save them as well.

People all around us have the very same disease that everyone who is now born again once had. That disease leading to death is sin. Jesus Christ is the antidote for every sinner. Even though many may reject the very thing that will deliver them from sin and ultimately death, we need to do all we can in these last days to help people know the only truth that will set them free from sin. Jesus in going to the cross has fulfilled His part, now it's our turn. We need to have such an appreciation for what He did for us that we are compelled with the love of God to be a witness every chance we get. We must get beyond the fear of self, and what others may think, knowing that we have the solution to deliver people from death.

Luke 14:16 Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many,

Luke 14:17 and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, "Come, for all things are now ready.'

Luke 14:18 But they all with one *accord* began to make excuses. The first said to him, "I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.'

Luke 14:19 And another said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.'

Luke 14:20 Still another said, "I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

Luke 14:21 So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his

servant, "Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here *the* poor and *the* maimed and *the* lame and *the* blind.' Luke 14:22 And the servant said, "Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.'

Luke 14:23 Then the master said to the servant, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and **compel them to come in**, that my house may be filled.

Jesus here gives us a parable of the great supper and God's desire to see His house filled. Notice that those who were initially invited all gave excuses as to why they could not come. They are the same excuses people use today for not coming to God's house. One had a piece of ground he bought and he said he had to go see it. This excuse today is like those who have other activities they are too busy with such as fishing, golfing, shopping, sports, hobbies, etc., that are more important to them. The second one said they had five yoke of oxen they must go and test. This represents those today who are too busy with work to come and worship God. Last the third said he had just gotten married, which today people claim their family time is more important than coming to worship God.

Then these servants came back and report this to their master in which he was not happy, and he tells them to go get the poor, maimed, and the lame and the blind. They did and there was still room. Last the master told them to go back out again and **COMPEL THEM TO COME IN**. I share this teaching of Jesus to tell you that we should not give up sharing the gospel just because people we have talked to in the past have not come. We are in the last days and it is time to compel them to come in. Simply put, don't lose heart in sharing the gospel just because others didn't want to receive it. As long as you have breath on this earth and are born again the Lord's will for every believer is to keep sharing the antidote so that we can lead people from death to life.

One reason many don't share their faith is because they have not taken ownership of the gospel that has been entrusted to them. Just as with anything you do in life you must practice if you are going to get good at it. Think about the countless hours and dollars that are invested into people's lives in practicing things that we want to be good at that have no eternal reward. But winning souls and making disciples does. There is nothing greater in life than helping someone who through the disease of sin is needing the cure to bring them life, and you help them to receive that cure. Jesus said He would make us fishers of men, which indicates it is a learned process. May we who know the truth no longer remain silent. Let's look at four simple steps to begin with when sharing the good news.

Reveal Their Sin

The first thing that a person needs to understand is the fact that they are a sinner. I know that there are some modern approaches that don't want

to address this issue, but it is how Jesus and the disciples witnessed to people. One cannot turn from what they do not know to turn from. Realize that there are people who do understand that they are a sinner, but there are many more who think they are a "good person" and therefore won't go to hell. But when Jesus was asked by a rich young ruler what one must do to enter the kingdom of heaven Jesus told him there is none good but one, God.

Rom. 3:20 For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

Jesus used the law, the Ten Commandments in conversation with others to reveal their sinful nature. The purpose in doing so is that you must find out if the person you are speaking to has godly sorrow or not. In 2 Corinthians 7:10 we are told that godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. We must find out if they have godly sorrow. You do so by revealing the sin nature that lies within and the outcome is eternal damnation if they don't accept the payment Christ made. If this concerns them they probably have godly sorrow.

Reveal Christ's Solution For Sin

If they have godly sorrow then you want to let them know the "good news", that Christ has paid the fine for their sin. This is what He accomplished for all of humanity in going to the cross. We often speak of this first before establishing whether or not if they have godly sorrow. Remember if they do Paul said it will produce repentance. Even though there are churches who will no longer use the word repent Jesus did, and He commissioned us to tell people about repentance which simply means to turn from sin and turn to God.

Reveal Faith In Christ

Once you establish what Christ has done then you must find out if they believe that Jesus died for their sin, and then was raised from the dead. In Romans 10:9 we are told that one must believe in their heart Christ was raised from the dead. It is what makes Christianity the only answer for sin for He was the only one to be raised from the dead after having paid the price for our sin and the punishment that comes with sin. God is no longer angry with us; Jesus took the very wrath of God upon Himself. That wrath will not be seen again until the time of tribulation. Many people today think God is mad at them, but Jesus said if you have seen me you have seen the Father. They need to understand that Jesus' death was God demonstrating His love to us.

Reveal Accepting Jesus As Lord

In Romans 10:13 the Word of God tells us that all who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. What this says is we must invoke His Lordship over our life. Simply put, we surrender our lives unto Him. Without doing so one has not received what Jesus is offering. Acceptance

of His Lordship is how we receive the payment He made to free us from our sin. We accept Him as Lord over our life.

My challenge to every believer in Christ is to win as many souls to the Lord as we can and make disciples out of them in these last days. Get them into church with you where they can grow in God and learn how to walk in all that Christ paid for, and then go out themselves reaching more with the only antidote for sin. As Jesus said of His part, "It is finished". Time for us to be His witnesses until the trumpet blows. Don't allow fear to stop you. Can I get a witness!