

Becoming A Fisher of Men

Matthew 4:19-22

A. The Soul Winner's Motivation

1. To glorify God.
 - a. Acts 5:41-42 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.
2. Witnessing demonstrates our love for the Lord.
 - a. Psalms 51:12-15 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
3. People are delivered from Hell to a relationship with God.
 - a. Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

B. Why Many Christians Are Not Winning Souls

1. They are not going after lost souls
 - a. Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
 - b. Acts 5:42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.
2. Many do not present the Gospel.
 - a. Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
 - b. Many do not invite the sinner to make a decision for Christ.

C. The Soul Winner's Message

1. Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
 - a. Step #1: Opening Conversation
 - 1) ask about church background
 - 2) Practice talking to people... being friendly.
 - b. Step #2: Qualifying Question
 - 1) "Are you absolutely sure that you will go to Heaven when you die?"
 - (i) If "yes", why?

- 2) Or, “If you were to die and stand before God and He asked you, ‘Why should I let you into Heaven?’, how would you answer?”
 - 3) The basic plan outlined: Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:13
 - (i) For most people, it is best to make it simple. Theological discussions will prohibit a decision for Christ. The spiritually dead need the Bread of Life and cannot discern the meat of the Word.
- c. Step #3: Personal Testimony
- 1) Keep it brief and emphasize similarities of their condition.
- d. Step #4: Teach Romans 3:23
- 1) ask, “Would you agree that everyone in this world has sinned?”
 - 2) ask, “Would that include me? You?”
 - 3) The real problem is *who* we are and not just *what* we have done.
 - 4) examples: a murderer murders; a cheater cheats; a liar lies and a sinner sins
 - 5) We are sinners by nature and in rebellion to God. – Romans 5:10
 - (i) The best example is Adam and Eve’s rebellion.
- e. Step #5: Teach Romans 6:23
- 1) What we earn for our sins is “death”; eternal separation from God.
 - 2) God’s holiness demands this separation
 - (i) We are spiritually dead in relationship to God
 - (ii) Ephesians 2:1-5 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
 - (iii) We will be eternally dead (separated) as well
 - (iv) Revelation 20:12-15 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.
 - 3) We deserve to pay for our sin debt. We have broken God’s law.
 - (i) example: If I robbed a bank, who deserves to go to jail?
 - (ii) If I am a sinner, who deserves to be punished? Where are sinners sentenced?

- (iii) Can church membership, baptism, good works, etc. pay our debt?
 - (a) Those are all good, but they don't pay for what was done wrong.
- f. Step #6: Teach Romans 5:8
 - 1) Teach them that Jesus is the only solution to our sin problem.
 - (i) John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
 - 2) Ask: "Would going to church, baptism, tithing, etc. pay for your sin debt?"
 - 3) Ask: "What is the deserved and only payment acceptable for our sins?"
 - 4) Ask: "What is it that Jesus did to pay for our sins?"
 - 5) Teach: Because Jesus was without sin, He alone could do what He did.
 - (i) Illustration: Show transfer of sins by using Bible.
 - 6) Ask: "Because Jesus died, does that mean all will go to Heaven?"
- g. Step #7: Teach Romans 10:13
 - 1) Ask them who "whosoever" is. – anybody
 - 2) Ask them what "the name of the Lord" is. – Jesus
 - 3) Ask them: "Saved" from what? - sin
 - 4) With that accomplished, replace "whosoever" with their name and "Lord" with Jesus and read it to them again.
 - 5) Also... teach them verses 9 & 10.
 - (i) you must believe that Christ is risen.
 - (ii) believing means wholly trusting.
 - (a) Illustration: chair supporting your weight when you place yourself in it, not supporting yourself
- h. Step #8: The Sinner's Prayer
 - 1) Review
 - (i) "Do you admit before God that you are a sinner?"
 - (ii) "Do you understand that the penalty for sin is death, and eternal punishment and separation from God in Hell?"
 - (iii) "Do you understand that Jesus paid your penalty on the cross?"
 - (iv) "Do you believe that the only way of forgiveness is to completely trust Jesus to save you by calling upon Him?"
 - 2) Ask if he would like to be saved right now.
 - (i) If "yes," ask if he would like you to help him pray.
 - (a) Have him pray the sinner's prayer sincerely from his heart, either on his own or with help.
 - (b) EXAMPLE: "Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner; and that I deserve to go to Hell because of my sins; but I know that you love me and died to pay for my sins. Dear Lord please forgive me and save me from my sins and live with me forever. Thank you Lord. Thank you for

giving me eternal life so that I always will be with you. In Jesus' name, Amen!

(i) Basically, you are praying the plan of salvation.

(c) Then ask if he truly meant it with all his heart. If "yes," rejoice with them and pray again to thank God for what He has done.

(ii) If "no," ask them if they have any questions at all.

(a) Then thank them for their time and pray asking God to bless their home and bring salvation into it.

(b) Leave a tract and invite them to visit the church.

i. Step #9: Give them assurance of salvation.

1) review and Romans 10:13

(i) Ask, "Did Jesus promise to save you if you called upon Him?"

(ii) Ask, "According to His Word, did He save you?"

(iii) Ask, "Does God ever lie or go back on His promises?"

(iv) Ask, Then, according to the Bible, where will you go when you die?"

2) teach them John 10:27-30:

(i) My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.

(ii) Ask, "How long is eternity?"

(iii) Ask, "When did God say you would perish (separated from Him)?"

(iv) Ask, "Who can take you out of God's hand?"

(a) That includes all upon the earth, the Devil, and yourself?"

(i) John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

3) Instruct them that the Devil will try to discourage them from serving the Lord by tempting them to doubt their salvation and thus stealing their joy.

4) Teach them that they will not be perfect, but grow as a child grows and need to daily confess their sin to grow more like Christ and stay in close fellowship with God. Their relationship is sealed!

(i) 1 John 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

(ii) 1 John 2:1-6 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with

the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

5) Write the day of their salvation in their Bible or on a tract so that they will always have assurance that the Lord has saved them when they doubt.

D. The Soul Winner's Objectives

1. Befriend and win the prospect's trust.
2. Discern the prospect's spiritual condition.
3. Plant and / or sow the Gospel Seed.
4. Bring them to a decision.
 - a. John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
 - b. Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.
5. Bring them to Sunday School
6. Lead them to a public profession of their faith in Christ
 - a. Romans 10:10-11 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.
 - b. Matthew 10:32-33 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.
 - c. Have them make a commitment to come and seal it with prayer.
7. Within 24 hours, have the pastor call them.
8. Within the week teach them the importance of following the Lord in baptism and faithfulness to His Word and church.

E. Practical & Helpful Instruction

1. The importance of having a soul-winning partner:
 - a. having a partner means someone is always praying
 - b. partners can encourage one another
 - c. the partner can help control diversions (there will be diversions!)
 - d. the "partner" should remain silent while the other witnesses
 - e. be sensitive the Holy Spirit's leading as to which should speak and which should pray
2. Approach the house quickly and quietly. Be careful not to startle.
 - a. Be careful about speaking to children outside while parents are inside.
3. Knock loudly
4. Be respectful and courteous
5. Get the television turned off when in the house.

- a. Try the direct approach: “Would you mind if we turn the TV off? I am having a hard time hearing you.
- 6. Introduce yourself. Make general conversation. Be friendly!
 - a. Assess the situation. Many times you will only be able to give them a Gospel tract. Do not press yourself on people that are clearly uninterested or are ready to leave or have company. Invite them to church, ask them to read the tract at their convenience and leave the door open for another time.
 - a. Proverbs 25:17 Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee.
- 7. Be careful of entering a house alone when the prospect is of the opposite sex.
- 8. Avoid plucking green fruit.
 - a. Do not be mechanical in your Gospel presentation. Be personable and caring.
 - b. Do not go too fast in your presentation. Make sure of their understanding and belief in what the Bible teaches... step by step.
 - 1) This is especially true when dealing with their sinful condition.
- 9. Some don't's:
 - a. Don't argue
 - b. Don't talk over their heads or down to them
 - c. Don't chase rabbits or enter theological discussions.
 - 1) Divert kindly and subtly. You do not have to give your opinion on all that you believe.
 - d. Don't talk about their religion, talk about their relationship.
 - e. Don't rush him into a decision he is not sincerely ready to make.
 - f. Don't embarrass him.
 - g. Don't make light of sin or let him forget he is a sinner in need of Christ.
 - h. Don't be guilty of bad odors or a messy appearance.
 - 1) Carry mints
 - 2) Take a shower, use deodorant, etc.
 - 3) Comb your hair.
 - 4) Clean and neat attire.
 - 5) Clean shoes.
 - i. Don't accept their excuses for not accepting Christ.
 - j. Don't do the job of the Holy Spirit in convicting.
 - k. Don't let the sinner believe particular sins will keep him from making a decision for Christ. Jesus does the saving and sanctifying.
 - l. Don't let them make a decision to please their mother, father or spouse, etc.
 - m. Don't believe anyone is too hard to reach.
 - n. Don't go without prayer and trusting God's leading.
 - o. Don't run out of literature.
 - p. Don't forget your Bible!

F. The Soul Winner's Preparation

- 1. A Changed Life
 - a. 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
- 2. A Clean Life

- a. 2 Timothy 2:19-21 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.
 - 3. A Surrendered Life
 - a. Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
 - 4. A Burdened Life
 - a. Romans 9:1-3 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:
 - 5. A Compassionate Life
 - a. Matthew 9:36-38 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.
 - 6. A Stirred Life
 - a. 1 Corinthians 9:22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.
 - 7. A Determined Life
 - a. 1 Corinthians 2:1-2 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.
 - 8. A Praying Life
 - a. Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.
 - 9. A Spirit Controlled Life
 - a. Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- G. Three Suggestions For Winning Relatives
- 1. Let them see Christ in you.
 - a. Do not waver in your testimony or faithfulness.
 - 2. Do deeds of kindness for them.
 - 3. Do not nag or condemn them.
- H. Three Suggestions For Winning Co-Workers
- 1. Be joyful.
 - 2. Do your job “as unto the Lord”
 - 3. Have a humble attitude.