

Day 17

TAKEOUT: Sharing Christ with the Spiritually Hungry

We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard. (Acts 4:20)

Many years ago in St. Louis, a lawyer visited a Christian to transact some business. Before the two parted, his client said to him, "I've often wanted to ask you a question, but I've been afraid to do so." "What do you want to know?" asked the lawyer. The man replied, "I've wondered why you're not a Christian." The man hung his head, "I know enough about the Bible to realize that it says no drunkard can enter the kingdom of God; and you know my weakness!" "You're avoiding my questions," continued the believer. "Well, truthfully, I can't recall anyone ever explaining how to become a Christian."

Picking up a Bible, the client read some passages showing that all are under condemnation, but that Christ came to save the lost by dying on the cross for their sins. "By receiving Him as your Substitute and Redeemer," he said, "you can be forgiven. If you're willing to receive Jesus, let's pray together." The lawyer agreed, and when it was his turn he exclaimed, "O Jesus, I am a slave to drink. One of your servants has shown me how to be saved. O God, forgive my sins and help me overcome the power of this terrible habit in my life." Right there he was converted. That lawyer was C.I. Scofield, who later edited the reference Bible that bears his name.

I ran across this story and I have used it several times. It is a great example of how we individually come across people in our lives that need to hear the message of Christ and what can happen as a result of our obedience.

In Acts 4:20, Peter and John are standing before a council. The council was upset that Peter had healed the crippled beggar and they were preaching and teaching the good news of Jesus and the number of believers was growing. In verse 7, they asked Peter and John, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, reply by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. The council wanted to stop the spread of the message so they asked them to speak of Jesus' name no more. And they replied, "**We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard. (Acts 4:20)**

The disciples had spent much time with Jesus, observing and learning from his ministry. When Jesus left them he sent back the Holy Spirit to give them the power to further the ministry he started. They had spent the time with Jesus therefore they were filled up enough to allow blessings to flow out. Are you spending time with Jesus? How often are you reading the word of God? When was the last time you were in a bible study? Do you pray often and listen for God's instructions?

Eric Rees states,

“He (God) wants us to both drink deeply of his truths in the quiet of our favorite places and then take them out to the world around us. Sharing the bread of life with those around us is not strictly a verbal exercise. Our lives are constantly shouting out messages to other: either positive messages of Christ’s love for them or negative messages that will sour people on us and, maybe, our God.

Eric suggests that the best way to get ready to share God’s love is to write our own story. Asking yourself: How has God made a difference in your life? When has he met you in a way that changed you forever or delivered you from an “impossible” circumstance? He says to reflect on your story and look for occasions to bless others with your actions or your words.

Prayer: *Father, help me to be someone who’s ready to offer your bread of life to the spiritually hungry. Give me eyes to see them, a heart to love them, hands to help them, and your words to feed them. Whether or not I am ever sent out on a mission trip, help me to see myself as “on mission” for you every day and in every place you put me. Thank you for helping me to understand this essential purpose of my life. Amen*