

From Where I Sit . . .

“On Bringing This Generation To Jesus”

The late Charles Coil, past president of International Bible College visited our campus at Oklahoma Christian College in the late 60's for the annual lectureship and told of this sobering incident in his Lectureship address:

A young man came to IBC as a student having been raised in a denominational background. In fact one of his aunts was a preacher in that faith. Over the months the young man (who we'll call George for the sake of our reporting) learned more of the precious Gospel and was convinced he had not obeyed the will of the Lord. George became a New Testament Christian during that semester, and could hardly wait for the first break to return home and announce his new found faith to his entire family. The homecoming wasn't met with great excitement as he had hoped. His aunt was in shock and said, "George, tell me you've joined any church besides the Church of Christ. George, you're an evangelist, and your people are evangelists. George, the Church of Christ is not made up of an evangelistic people!"

Brother Coil relates that George dropped his head momentarily, and then with confidence declared, "They may not be, but by the grace of God they're going to be!!!"

Brethren, by the grace of God we've got to be evangelistic! The world around us is dying lost, and the Lord is depending on us to share the good news of His saving grace. We have a mission, a reason for being the church of the Lord. The Lord has sent us into our generation to "make known the manifold wisdom of God according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 3:10). We are not merely a saved fraternity, and we are indeed saved with a commission to share that Word of salvation with others.

The task before us is enormous. Instead of blowing us away with statistics which are so depressing we would merely wag our heads and despair of where to begin, may I suggest it begins with just one. That's right. World evangelism begins with one person who is saved being willing to tell another and persuade him first to obey the Lord, and then to be sure and tell yet another. Certainly at some point some will have to travel to other cities in other lands to share that message, but for most of us that's purely academic. Unless we're willing to start right here at home, we're still not evangelistic people.

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is in II Kings 7:1-9. There were four lepers at the gate of Samaria during a time of severe famine. Additionally, the enemy camp of Syrians was just down the way. They reasoned among themselves that if they just sat there they would die. If they went into Samaria, the people would dispose of them. So they might as well go and throw themselves on the mercy of the Syrian army. God went before them and the Syrians had fled in the night leaving behind all their food and wealth. These four found riches beyond their ability to dream and were totally immersed in the joy of it all until they remembered their brethren back in Samaria. They challenge us with these sobering words: "***We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household***" (II Kings 7:9). Brethren, we dare not hold our peace.

. . . Terry Broome

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