

## "Soul Winning"

Text: Luke 5:18-20

### Introduction:

- From our passage we want to learn three things about soul winning.
- First - The Method of Soul Winning.
- Second - The Means of Soul Winning.
- Third - The Manner of Soul Winning.

### **I. THE METHOD OF SOUL WINNING**

- Verse 18 - "And, behold, men brought in a bed a man\*..."
- \* The man in our passage with palsy, a physical ailment, unable to walk is a picture or type of a sinner's spiritual condition, "dead in trespasses and sin".
- God uses men to bring other men to Jesus.
- This has been God's method since time began.
- God doesn't use machines. He uses men!!!
- What kind of men does he use?
- He uses ordinary men.
- Notice in verse 18, what it doesn't say.
- It does not give us any special description of the men that brought this man with the palsy to Christ.
- You see the emphasis is not on the men but on their activity.
- It does not say that these men had any specific extraordinary talents or abilities.
- It does not say that they were great orators.
- It does not say that they were well-educated.
- It does not say that they were wealthy and powerful.
- It does not say that they were pastors.
- It does not say that they were deacons.
- It does not say that they were evangelists or great teachers.
- It does not say that they were graduates of some great soul-winning seminar.
- No, it simply says - "And, behold, men brought in a bed a man..."
- In other words, they were just ordinary men. Amen!
- If you think about it most of the Apostles were rough, tough, unlearned commercial fishermen.
- Matthew was a tax-collector, white collar worker worked for the IRS.
- The Apostles were just ordinary men.
- The Prophet, Amos was a herdsman, but God used him.
- The Prophet Jeremiah described himself as a child.

-He said in Jeremiah 1:4-10: "**4 ¶ Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. 6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. 7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. 8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. 9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. 10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.**"

-Paul, the Apostle, probably the greatest Christian that ever lived, before he was saved had some impressive credentials according to Philippians 3:4-7.

**"4 ¶ Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ."**

-God could not use Paul, until he broke Paul.

-Until, he made Paul an ordinary man.

-We see Paul's testimony of this in 2 Corinthians 12:9-11.

**"9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. 11 ¶ I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing."**

-Notice in verse 11, Paul said "though I be nothing".

-When you get to the point where you can say, "though I be nothing", then God can use you.

-The Bible tells us that Moses was slow of speech.

-But in spite of this God used him.

-You see, the principle of who God uses to preach the gospel of grace is found in 1 Corinthians 1:17-18 - "**17 ¶ For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. 18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."**

-God uses the foolishness of preaching to get the job done.

-God uses ordinary men and women like you and I to bring men to Christ according to 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 - "**26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.**"

-The only abilities that you need to be used of God to bring men to Christ is - "Desirability", "Availability", and "Dependability".

-God continues to use men to sow the seed and and draw the net.

-Also, under the method we want to notice in verse 18 - "And, behold, men...".

-Notice it says "men" plural not a man, singular.

-In fact, the account of the same incident found in Mark 2:3, tells us the man with the palsy was "borne by four".

-This shows us usually it takes more than one individual to win a lost soul to Christ.

-We must remember that we are not in a competition to win souls, it is not a game.

-It is serious business. Amen!

-See in this case one man could not do the job alone.

-One man could not carry this man alone.

-This particular lost soul needed four.

-We must remember the winning of souls is a team effort.

-We must encourage and exhort one another to win souls.

-Soul winning can be discouraging at times and the flesh hates to do it.

-i.e., Door slammed in your face; gospel tract ripped up and thrown on the ground; Profanity shouted at you; Rejection experienced at its best.

-In soul winning there must be cooperation and the right spirit must exist.

-Paul talked about this in 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 - "**6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. 8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.**

**9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."**

- "Laborers Together"

-The reason the man with the palsy was brought to Jesus, was because the four that carried him were "laborers together", Amen!!!

## II. THE MEANS TO SOUL WINNING

-Notice verse 18, "...and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him."

-Notice, the word "means" is plural.

-They sought to bring this man to Jesus by more than fashion.

-They probably tried first to bring him through the front door but to crowded.

-Maybe next they tried the window, but that didn't work.

-Finally, they broke up the roof and lowered him down.

-They did not given up after the first means or way available.

-They tried one way and found it wasn't open and then tried another until accomplish their objective.

-This is also true in soul winning.

-There is only one way for a person to be saved by grace through faith in the blood atonement of Jesus Christ.

However, many means to bring men to Christ.

i.e.,

-Preaching service

-Sunday School Program

-Cable Ministry

-Radio Ministry

-Gospel Tract Distribution

-Supporting Missionaries

-Personal Witnessing

-Nursing Home

-Prison Ministry

-Important to remember we are to use whatever means available to bring the lost to Christ as long as we do not compromise on the Word of God.

-In other words, I do not believe that we should "save the lost at any cost."

-We must follow the examples given in the scriptures.

i.e. - Jesus in John 4, did one on one witnessing with the woman at the well using ordinary conversation about water and turning the conversation into a discussion on spiritual matters.

-Paul, the Apostle - witnessed by giving his personal testimony of his conversation to individuals like King Agrippa, and the Philippian jailer and preaching the gospel of the grace of God to the crowd.

-Jesus sent out the disciples two by two.

-We don't need to buy people with give aways, clowns, balloons, hamburgers and hot dogs, etc., Amen!!!

### III. THE MANNER OF SOUL WINNING

-Notice verse 19, **"And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus."**

-What we want to see is how the men that carried the man with the palsy were persistent in their endeavor.

-They tried to get the man one way to Jesus but were blocked.

-They tried another way but were blocked again, but didn't quit.

-Finally, they tore the roof off the house and lowered the man down to Jesus.

-Why, were they so persistent?

-Because they knew that Jesus was the only one who could help this man.

-So too, are we as Christians to be persistent in soul winning.

-Don't give up.

-Try every door.

-Be persistent! Why?

-Because only Jesus can save the sinner.

-The Bible tells us in Acts 4:12 - **"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."**

-Don't give up - remember the promises found in the Word of God.

-Psalm 126:5-6 - **"5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.**

**6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."**

-Galatians 6:9 - **"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."**

#### Conclusion:

-Don't let rejection stop you from witnessing.

-Remember, probably the person you are witnessing to is hearing the truth about his or her soul for the first time.

-And it hurts.

-The Bible is a two-edged sword and cuts sometimes as well as heals.

-It is better to risk rejection (a door slammed in the face, gospel tract ripped up, etc.) then for a person to spend eternity in hell. Amen!!!

-Remember, you may be that person's only roadblock to hell.

-We have seen today:

1)The Method of Soul Winning - God still uses men to bring other men to Christ .

2)The Means of Soul Winning - Use anyway available as long as it doesn't compromise on the Word of God.

3)Manner of Soul Winning - Be Persistent.

-Don't quit.

-Because God promises "we shall reap if we faint not"