

Maintaining Our Focus

(Luke 2:42-50)

- Introduction:
1. Civil War Illustration.
 - a. 1861-1865 - Dates of the Civil War.
 - b. Seven southern states succeeded from the United States of America to form the Confederate States of America.
 - c. During these five years, it is estimated 850,000 men were killed.
 - d. Men from all walks of life were drafted in both armies.
 - e. One watchmaker was drafted, and he took his tool kit with him.
 - f. He found himself in great demand, and had quite a business going.
 - g. However, the day arrived when orders were to pack up, and march.
 - h. This soldier argued with his orders stating that he had a backlog of more than a dozen watches that he promised to have fixed by the end of the week.
 - i. Clearly this man had lost his focus and forgotten his purpose.
 2. Jesus never lost focus. From the age of 12 (Luke 2:49) to his dying breath (John 19:30) he was focused on saving the lost (Luke 19:10).
 3. However, we sometimes find it difficult to maintain our focus, and we find ourselves behaving like that Civil War soldier.
 4. How can we maintain our focus?

I. By Serving In The Name Of Jesus

- A. In becoming servants, we make ourselves tools in God's providence.
- B. God has always used people to reach people
 1. (Genesis 50:19-20).
 2. (Acts 9:10-18).
- C. (Psalm 14:1) Don't say "no" to God. Rather be one who is available (Isaiah 6:8).

II. By Sharing In The Name Of Jesus

- A. (Acts 4:32-37; 5:13-14).
- B. Acts of kindness done in the name of Jesus can melt a person's heart and give one the opportunity to speak to them about Jesus.
 1. (John 11:1-45).
 2. (Luke 8:26-39).
 3. (Mark 9:17-24).

III. By Saving Through The Name Of Jesus

- A. What joy can compare with knowing you made an eternal difference in someone's life?
- B. (John 1:41-42).
- C. (John 4:1-32).
- D. (Acts 17:22-34).

- Conclusion:
1. As we go about our daily activities, may we be more cognizant of our purpose.
 2. Let's not lose focus and get distracted, rather let us serve, share, and save the lost in the name of Jesus!