

Unsolved Mysteries: A Strategy for Reaching the Lost

(Luke 15:1-7)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. Of the missing flower arrangement.
 2. There are a few topics that when we preach about them, people zone out.
 3. The reason they zone out is because they know the “what,” but don’t know the “how.”
 4. And what we frequently do is preach the “what” and not the “how.”
 - a. (Mt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47; John 20:21).
 5. I think this is the case with reference to evangelism.
 6. Ills. Of dropping paint in church building.
 7. In this lesson, I am going to assume we know what we are to do, so I am going to focus on the “why” and the “how.”

I. Why We Should Seek the Lost

- A. Because there are lost!
1. Every congregation can point to empty pews.
 2. Luke 15 – Can’t blame the coin, or the sheep, but we can blame the son.
 - a. “He got what he deserved.”
 - b. They’re playing childish, immature games...but that’s why they need our help.
 - c. Ills. Of Anne Marie crying – what if adults acted like children?
- B. Because they are lost!
1. (2 Peter 2:20-22).
 2. (Hebrews 10:26-31).
 3. (2 Corinthians 4:13).
 4. Our task is urgent!
 - a. Ills. – Higgy, I’m dying.
 - b. Ills of man who came to church for the first time.
 - c. Ills. Of preacher who got back from gospel meeting.

II. How to Seek the Lost

- A. Quit talking about it and do it!
1. Classes, seminars, training sessions, etc.
 2. Ills. Classes for grandparents?
 3. The key is love.
 4. Ills. Of no one responses alone.
- B. Stop worrying about saying the wrong thing and speak!
1. Tact is good, but contact is what is needed.
 2. Do you worry about how you say to your neighbor, “Your house is on fire?”
 3. (Jude 23).

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4. Ills. Of text to wrong number and them thanking me.
- C. Follow this practical model.
1. (Acts 8:26-39).
 2. He made himself available (8:26).
 3. He had initiative (8:27-30).
 4. He started where the Eunuch was (8:35).
 5. He had tact (8:30-35).
 6. He had courage (8:30).
 7. He preached Jesus (8:35).
- Conclusion:
1. Souls hang in the balance.
 2. Our task is urgent!
 3. Remember, evangelism isn't a talent, it's a command!