

View

A Publication of the Folsom Point church of Christ. 900 E. Natoma, Folsom, CA

July 20, 2008

Lead Me to Some Soul Today

by Larry Rouse

One of the first thoughts bursting from the heart of a new Christian is how he might personally reach others for the Lord. Words cannot fully express the joy of salvation and the impact that joy has in creating a crystal clear sight of the real condition of this world. Just as our Lord did 2,000 years ago, anyone today can see this world as lost, dying and desperately in need of the gospel of Jesus Christ. "Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together." (John 4:34-36)

One of my favorite songs is "Lead Me To Some Soul Today." This song reflects the thoughts of every Christian who sees these white fields. "Lead me to some soul today; O teach me, Lord, just what to say; Friends of mine are lost in sin, And cannot find their way. Few there are who seem to care, And few there are who pray; Melt my heart and

fill my life; Give me one soul today." How are you doing in this great work of harvest? Is your sight clear to see what this careless world cannot?

When I first became a Christian, I was blessed to be associated with a young

man of great faith. Immediately after my baptism I was placed in a class he was teaching on evangelism. That class met three times each week and every student was expected to memorize 10 passages of scripture before the next week. We practiced together how to teach the lost. Within two weeks I was off and running. That semester a good friend obeyed the gospel. Within a few months my brother took the great step of putting the Lord on in baptism. These first steps led me

to a life of talking with others with the goal of getting hearts opened around the word of God.

How can we today accomplish having more Christians involved in this great work? The answer is found in the ministry of Christ and that answer may disturb you.

Jesus had just encountered a man who was possessed by such a great number of demons that when Jesus asked the name of the demon they replied: "My name is Legion; for we are many" (Mark 5:9). The people of that area knew this man as one who "had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones" (Mark 5:3-5). Jesus has mercy on this man and cast out the demons that afterwards went into a nearby herd of swine who immediately ran into the water and drowned.



The people of this area, having heard these things, immediately went to Jesus and begged Him to leave. They did this because they did not know Jesus and now they feared Him (Mark 5:17). How was Jesus ever going to reach this community?

The formerly demon-possessed man, was now “in his right mind” and very thankful to our Lord. This man seemed to have no future here, having a reputation that surely would keep him from having any significant relationship. He naturally began to beg that Jesus would let him into the same boat that He was departing on. Jesus had a plan for this man, a plan that you or I would have thought ridiculous and unworkable. Jesus instructed him, “Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you. (Mark 5:19)” Did this man not need further instruction? How would he be effective without special classes on speaking, overcoming objections and the many other possible challenges that such a work might bring? How could a man with this little ability and with such a bad reputation accomplish anything? Who would hear this man? “And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled (Mark 5:20).” Did these men need to hear more than this new convert could give? They did, and when Jesus returned He had an audience that was ready to hear Him. “So it was, when Jesus returned, that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him (Luke 8:40).”

There are some disturbing conclusions for us to draw from this account. First, the driving force behind one who is effective in evangelism is the realization of “what great things the Lord has done for you.” A genuine understanding of that will melt the heart, put our bodies in motion and give us a message that

will be effective. When these things are lacking in a Christian, you can rest assured that his heart is not filled with the joy and love of what Christ has done for him. One of the hard lessons I have learned over the years is that most of those who have their names on the church roles have become cold and stale. They are like the tongue-tied preacher who, while trying to quote Matthew 20:16 which reads “many are called, but few chosen,” instead said “many are cold, but few frozen.” Sadly, I have discovered that there is no point in even mentioning evangelism to these people. They need to be converted themselves!

How about you? Do you have a clear view of what the Lord has done for you? It is time to get to work. By the way, remember to pray for more laborers!

-Charlottesville Beacon-

The Illusion of Knowledge

Gary Henry

In his book, *The Discoverers*, Daniel Boorstin wrote, “The greatest obstacle to discovering the shape of the earth, the continents and the ocean was not ignorance but the illusion of knowledge.” Many of the great discoveries about the world we live in would have come sooner had not those who had erroneous theories been so reluctant to take a fresh look at the situation. And in our own lives as well, the growth of our knowledge is hindered by the “illusion of knowledge,” the conviction that we know something when, in fact, what we know is inaccurate.

Will Rogers seems to have understood this when he said, “I’m not worried his present knowledge is all-sufficient.

about what folks don’t know — it’s just that so much of what they do know ain’t so!”

There is nothing that will more surely block out new knowledge than the closed-mindedness of the man who thinks he already has all the information he needs. It’s hard to impart new facts to a person if he is immutably satisfied that his present knowledge is all-sufficient.

Published by
The church of Christ
Meeting at 900 E. Natoma
PO Box 492
Folsom, CA 95630
916/608-4866

Elders
Forrest Brown: 530/295-9230
Randy Clark: 916/939-5066
Rich Ladd: 916/774-9048
David Posey: 530/676-9514
Dennis Reagan: 916/797-5539

Deacons
Brent Agee: 916/786-0436
Bryan Byrd: 916/351-9320
David Byrd: 916/985-6564
Michael Caisse: 530/672-2902
Jeff Clark: 916/985-8689
John Daniels: 916/985-3090
Jerry Deschler: 916/285-9115
Steve Dickey: 916/983-1071
Steven Doty: 916/933-5004
Eric Fields: 916/817-6495
David Main: 650/292-5417
Terry Raposa: 916/782-1140
Dane Scott: 916/631-7221
Russ Tarrant: 530/672-1748
Steve Thompson: 916/983-4170
Jeff Warshaw: 916/933-9399

Evangelist/Editor
David Posey: 530/676-9514
dp@folsomchurch.com
dpose@pacbell.net

Services
Sunday Morning Assembly
9:30AM
Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM
Classes for all ages.
Private classes arranged at your
convenience.

For more information,
visit our web site at:
www.folsomchurch.com

Agenda

The Lord's Day, July 20, 2008

9:30 AM: Worship: Singing, Lord's Supper, Preaching
Preaching: David Posey / The Story

5:00 PM: Lord's Supper, Preaching

Bible Classes @ 5:30 PM

Auditorium: Christ's Last Week

Teacher: Grant Mulligan (Ron Byrd assisting)

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

7:30 PM, Bible Classes

Auditorium: Christ's Last Week

Teacher: Grant Mulligan (Ron Byrd assisting)

Notes

Sermons and Power Point charts are available on our website (www.folsomchurch.com) or on CD (see a deacon)

Since omniscient people make poor students, the know-it-all's attitude will keep him from ever really knowing much of anything. In regard to spiritual matters, Paul wrote, "And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know" (1 Cor. 8:2). And he described certain ones this way: "Professing to be wise, they became fools" (Rom. 1:22). The wiser we think we are, the more foolish we truly are, and our foolishness is probably obvious to everybody but us!

In the wisdom literature of the Old Testament, one of the main differences between wisdom and folly is that the wise person is teachable, while the fool is not. No matter how much he thinks he knows, the wise individual has the humility to be corrected, to learn, and to improve the accuracy of his understanding. The fool, on the other hand, never advances beyond the limitations of his present thinking because he thinks he's right about everything already. "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise" (Prov. 12:15). "A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart" (Prov. 18:2).

In the wisdom literature of the Old Testament, one of the main differences between wisdom and folly is that the wise person is teachable, while the fool is not. No matter how much he thinks he knows, the wise individual has the humility to be corrected, to learn, and

to improve the accuracy of his understanding. The fool, on the other hand, never advances beyond the limitations of his present thinking because he thinks he's right about everything already. "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise" (Prov. 12:15). "A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart" (Prov. 18:2).

These truths in the Old Testament are consistent with what is taught in the New about the need for us to be more ready to hear than to speak: "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, etc." (Jas. 1:19). We learn so much less than we could learn because our mouths are in motion when our ears should be operating. Too much of the time, our communication apparatus is set to "transmit" when it should be set to "receive."

What is needed in life generally, and especially in spiritual matters, is the humility to recognize how little any of us do know. We need to guard against the "illusion" of knowledge — the false impression that we know much when really we know only little. We need to be suspicious of any of our ideas that *may* be mistaken. If not, we will never correct those which are.

There is, of course, a problem in the opposite direction. If our idea of open-mindedness requires us to put a question

mark over *everything* we know, then we've simply exchanged one kind of foolishness for another. Unfortunately, thinkers in our age often seem to do exactly this. In a day when respectable philosophers can say they're not "sure" even of their own existence, the worst sin a person can commit on any subject is to be "dogmatic" about it. The words "truth" and "knowledge" have acquired condescending little quotation marks, and we're told that we can believe anything we want...as long as we're not sure of any it.

Certainly, it would be dangerous to give in to this skepticism about knowledge in general. But it would be equally dangerous *never* to re-evaluate *any* notion once we have accepted it as true. There are times to honestly reconsider what we have believed and there are other times to stand firm for what is assuredly true. Common sense can usually tell the difference.

Paul wrote, "Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise" (1 Cor. 3:18). Real knowledge and wisdom are always accompanied by humility. It is the person who is willing to learn who will learn. Admitting that one is yet uninformed about many things is a painful, pride-destroying step, but it is one that must be taken around nearly every bend on the road to true wisdom.

-Charlottesville Beacon-