

The Simple Plan of Teaching Others By Kent Heaton

There is a story told of a community of fishermen that loved to get together to talk about fishing. They met once a week and spent hours pouring over the different ways to catch fish, the newest instruments, and the most up-to-date information on the habits of fish. They met during the week to have another meeting to study fishing. Twice a year (sometimes more) grand meetings would be held inviting neighboring fishing communities to come and learn more about fishing and the importance of fishing. Speeches filled the assembly halls with examples of those who fished in days past and the great numbers of fish caught (one such story told of catching 3,000 fish in one day). Flyers were printed with all the information on how to catch fish, where to catch fish and the need to catch more fish. One could say that this community of fishermen were busy about the need of fishing and had all the resources to catch fish daily. Sadly with all the energy put into the science of fishing, few fish were ever caught and sometimes a few years would go by before even one fish was caught.

The problem in this fishing community was very simple. While everyone agreed on the need to catch fish, only a few (if any) ever took the time to put a hook in the water and make an effort to catch fish. They knew just about everything there was to know about fishing but no one wanted to take the time to go to the river or the lake to catch fish. Some communities would hire a man to come in and do their fishing for them. Others were content to read about it but no one should expect them to do any fishing. Remarkably there were many who thought the fish would just jump out of the water and into the boat – why should they do anything – let the fish come to them.

With all the great evangelism plans and gospel meetings about teaching others, the words of Jesus still ring true today: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:19-20). The emphasis should be made of the need to "GO" and the only way to "MAKE" disciples of all the nations is to have someone sit down with someone and teach them the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord further admonishes the need of "TEACHING THEM" and that takes individuals teaching individuals. All of this requires 'putting a hook in the water' but you can't put a hook in the water unless you GO to the water.

"Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them" (Acts 8:5). "Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to [the eunuch]" (Acts 8:35). Cornelius tells Peter "So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord" (Acts 10:33). Paul found Lydia at the riverside in Philippi (Acts 16:11-15) and then taught the jailor and all his family (Acts 16:25-34). People taught people the gospel in the First Century.

The great need of the church today is for its citizens to realize that all the talk of saving souls is only as good as those who are willing to lay aside the busy affairs of life and spend time gleaning the fields ready for harvest. "Lift up your eyes and look on the

fields, that they are white for harvest” (John 4:35). Jesus admonishes still today, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few” (Matt. 9:37).

Taking the Slums Out of People

“The Lord works from the inside out. The world works from the outside in. The world would take people out of the slums. Christ takes the slums out of people, and then they take themselves out of the slums. The world would mould men by changing their environment. Christ changes men, who then change their environment. The world would shape human behavior, but Christ can change human nature” (Ezra Taft Benson).

Counting God’s Promises

Two little girls were counting their pennies. One said, "I have ten pennies."
"No," said the first little girl, "You have just five pennies, the same as I."
"But," the second child quickly responded, "My father said that when he got home tonight he would give me five more pennies; so I have ten pennies."

Trustfully, she counted as hers what her father had promised. That's exactly how a Christian can be poor in the estimation of the world, and at the same time, be rich in the things of God. A Christian counts as his whatever his heavenly Father has promised.

The Heaviest Artillery

“And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings” (Acts 17:26).

God rules in the kingdoms of men. Napoleon, at the height of his career, is reported to have given this cynical answer to someone who asked if God was on the side of France: “God is on the side that has the heaviest artillery.” Then came the Battle of Waterloo, where Napoleon lost both the battle and his empire. Years later, in exile on the island of St. Helena, chastened and humbled, Napoleon is reported to have quoted the words of Thomas à Kempis: “Man proposes, God disposes.” Indeed, God is able to work His sovereign will, despite what man may purpose.

“The Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses” (Dan. 4:32).

A Moments Wisdom

Some folks aren’t interested in anything unless it is none of their business.

If revenge is so sweet, why does it leave such a bitter taste?

Patience is the ability to count down before blasting off.

A modern bathing suit is the difference between not very much and nothing at all.

If fifty million people say a foolish thing over and over, it is still a foolish thing.

A lie may take care of the present, but it has no future.

We should be more concerned about making our years count than in counting our years.

The way to worry about nothing is to pray about everything.

A groundless rumor often covers a lot of ground.

Faults are thick where love is thin.

A tongue three inches long can ruin a man six feet tall.

The chains of habit are generally too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.

If your neck isn't in God's yoke, it is in the Devil's noose.

Brief pleasures lead to long regrets.

When you get mad, you've been had.

Don't let yesterday use up too much of today.

Make your life a challenge, not a compromise.

Those who can -- do; those who can't -- find fault.

Love Vs Bitterness

Bitterness imprisons life;

Love releases it.

Bitterness paralyzes life;

Love empowers it.

Bitterness sickens life;

Love heals it.

Bitterness blinds life;

Love anoints its eyes.