The Business of Soul Winning

Proverbs 11:30

Synopsis

Today we discuss the idea of soul winning, coming alongside an individual in order to help them develop and/or strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. While many consider this work to be some kind of an option in Christianity, something reserved only for a few, God's Word instructs us that it wisdom to busy ourselves with this labor of love. In this sermon we'll examine what it means to be a soul-winner, and we'll consider practical tools to assist us in our pursuit of others.

Sermon Outline

***Primary Proverb**: "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise."*

1. Exposition
    a. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life: root, trunk, leaves, and fruit
    b. Whoever captures souls is wise
2. Application
    a. Why is it wise to win souls?
        i. We take an apprenticeship under the Almighty
        ii. We gain untold joy in heaven
        iii. We concern ourselves with the most valuable resource, a soul
        iv. We grow in Christian maturity
        v. We train ourselves in love and compassion
    b. How do we win souls?
        i. Interceding prayer
        ii. Right faith
        iii. Intentionality

Reflection & Discussion Questions

1. **Observing the Text**: First, make sure to have your group spend time looking at the text, and observing the text without reflecting on the sermon. You want the group to get familiar with the text, and the words, and the flow of thought. Keep making observations until you feel the group has a solid grasp of the entire text.

a. Include the following verses in your discussion: Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Matthew 5:16

2. Part A of this Proverbs states that the "fruit of the righteous is a tree of life." Four aspects of the Tree of Life were described in the sermon: roots (steeped in the Word of God), trunk (stable, stead, immovable in storms), leaves (abounding providing shade and shelter for others), fruit (deep sense of joy and contentedness in Christ).

    a. Which of those four seem to be healthy in your life?
    b. Which of those four may have seeds of unhealth?

3. Part B of this Proverb speaks about "capturing souls" or "winning souls."

    a. Why is a heart of evangelism so often neglected when we think about spiritual maturity?
    b. Does your heart beat hard to help those who don't know Christ personally, know Him? If so, what does this look in your life?

4. We spoke about the difference between 'Winning From' and 'Winning To'. A soul is 'won from' Hell. But a soul is 'won to' life abounding in Christ! How does this dynamic affect the way you think about evangelism?

5. Discuss as a group what it might look like to stir each other up to grow collectively in your heart and practice of evangelism. Remember, this can look like "hitting the streets in cold-turkey evangelism." There are opportunities for that. However, it can also look like a daily intentionality in many other spaces. Is this an area your group might consider holding each other accountable?

6. The danger in evangelistic efforts is that we turn people into projects. How can we avoid this trap in our intentionality around evangelism? How can we make sure that our love for people is genuine?

For Family Discipleship

This is a great week to talk to your child about the blessings of a righteous life, and how our life should be a Tree of Life, producing abundant blessing. Tell your child a story from your own life of when you were worried about something, and how your own faith in Jesus truly brought abundance into your life during that season.

For Men and Women

Part of evangelism is meeting people where they're at. Remember Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 9:20-22 "*To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some*."

For Men: Are there any unique spaces as men where you can have a particular influence of guiding men towards Christ?

For Women: Are there any unique spaces as women where you can have a particular influence of guiding women towards Christ?