

Winning Souls

Introduction:

1. Throughout the Scriptures a number of great themes are emphasized.
2. We have been studying a series of lessons based on 13 of these themes.
3. In Proverbs 11:30 Solomon mentioned our 13th great Bible theme: "winning souls."

Discussion:

- I. IN THE BIBLE WE READ ABOUT MANY PEOPLE WHO WERE SOUL WINNERS
 - A. Some were able to influence great crowds, including:
 1. Jonah (Jonah 3:4-5)
 2. Peter (Acts 2:37-41)
 3. Philip (Acts 8:12).
 - B. Some were able to lead one soul to the Lord, including:
 1. Andrew (John 1:40-42)
 2. Philip (John 1:43-46).
 - C. After examining these Bible characters, we see that the Lord:
 1. is able to use people from different backgrounds to win souls
 2. needs soul winners who can influence great crowds, and He needs soul winners who can teach 1 person -- BOTH ARE IMPORTANT!
- II. TO BE EFFECTIVE, SOUL WINNERS MUST POSSESS CERTAIN CHARACTERISTICS
 - A. Soul winners must first be devoted followers of Christ (Matthew 4:18-20).
 - B. Soul winners must have hearts of compassion (Matthew 9:36).
 - C. Soul winners must maintain a positive outlook for the harvest (John 4:35).
 - D. Soul winners must be willing to become all things to all men (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).
 - E. Soul winners must have convictions about the eternal destiny of the soul.
 1. Those who do not obey the Gospel will be lost (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).
 2. Those who fall away will be lost (2 Peter 2:20-22).
- III. WHAT INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS CAN DO TO BE SOUL WINNERS
 - A. We can try teaching someone ourselves.
 - B. We can invite someone to worship services.
 - C. We can influence someone through good works (Matthew 5:16).
 - D. We can try to persuade someone who has wandered away from the Lord to return to Him (James 5:19-20).
 - E. By being faithful, wives can have a tremendous influence upon their husbands (1 Peter 3:1-2).
 - F. Fathers can teach their children as Abraham did (Genesis 18:19; Ephesians 6:4).