

TITLE: SOUL WINNING – A BIBLICAL STRATEGY II **(Finding the House of Peace)**

Text: *Luke 10:1-9, After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.*

2 Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

3 "Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves.

4 "Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road.

5 "But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.'

6 "And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you.

7 "And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house.

8 "Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you.

9 "And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

Introduction: Yesterday, we looked at 4 of the 6 steps into the heart of a community. **Step 4** is finding the House of Peace.

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We are ambassadors of peace representing the Kingdom of Peace whose Sovereign is Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace. We are to bring peace to whatever

house we enter, we must not be confrontational, and judgmental, Say ‘Peace to this house,’ in other words- bless the house.

2Co 5:18&19 says; “all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

Jesus reconciled the world to the Father by making peace between the Father and the world through His blood on the cross. We have been committed with the awesome responsibility of reconciling the world to Jesus Christ through peace. You cannot reconcile through strife, it has to be through peace.

And Col 1:20 says; “having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.”

Reconciliation means to reunite, to bring together, to settle, to resolve, to put things right between man and God. So our message is that of proclaiming the good news of peace between God and man, made possible through the atonement of Jesus Christ.

Rom 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Isa 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Na 1:15 Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace!

Jesus said in **Luke 10:6**

"And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you."

This means we are looking for a certain kind of person or people, “Sons of peace”- They Are Key to the Whole Strategy. A “son of peace” can be either a male or female.

In the Jewish culture, a man who has any good or bad character is called the son of his character. For example, wise men are called the children of wisdom. So, a man is called the son of whatever he is doomed to. Those who fulfil the desires of the flesh and of the mind; were by nature called the children of wrath in **Eph 2:3**. And Judas is called the son of perdition;

***John 17:12:** While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.*

The Son of peace in the text not only means a peaceable, quiet person, but one also of good report and possibly the head of the household. The Son of Peace can also mean the house or family that is worthy, or disposed to receive you in peace and kindness. Jesus said in **Mt 10:13**;

“And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.”

The son of peace means a person or family that is disposed to peace, or peaceful and kind in disposition.

An example of a “person of peace” is the Samaritan Woman

(John 4:1- 42) 39 many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.”

40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.

41 And many more believed because of His own word.

It is probable that Jesus and His disciples stayed in her home those two days meeting and sharing with her family and friends. A person of peace may or may not already be Christian- Remember the seventy disciples were sent to Jews. And the events of **John 4** took place in Sychar a Samaritan town. A person of peace (spoken or unspoken) is willing to let you use their “house of peace” as a base for outreach.

Other Key Points to note is that it is possible to work from several of these “bases of operations” at the same time. Have Fellowship regularly with them and their friends and families. Jesus spent more time building relationship - eating and drinking with people than anything else! We need to follow His lead!

Be honest about being a Christian and don't start sharing the Gospel the first time you meet unless you are invited to do so. At the early stage, it's more important to make friends. Let them see the fruit of the Spirit in your life. **REMEMBER YOU KNOW WHERE THEY LIVE** and you want to be able to keep going back. Meet their friends and families and once they are comfortable with you, share the Gospel. You might be surprised how many come to Christ this way.

Ask permission to have a Bible study in the home and or their friend's homes as well. “Do not go from house to house” is an encouragement to build relationship, not a prohibition against door to door evangelism. It is a good idea to do “house to house” evangelism, but only to find the son of peace. This strategy can be adopted for planting house fellowship as it is very cost effective, fun and easy to do- *and it works*.

STEP 5:

Luke 10:8&9, "Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you.

9 "And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

Meet Peoples Need's first! Ask if there is any sick amongst them? pray and “Heal the sick” When we begin to meet peoples felt needs in the Power of the Holy Spirit they become responsive and open to the gospel. The New Testament is full of examples of Jesus meeting peoples felt needs first in order to share deeper truth.

Some examples are Zacchaeus in **Luke 19**, the woman at the well in **John 4**, the man crippled for 40 years in **Acts 4:22**. The Holy Spirit worked through the apostles and the crippled man was healed and restored at the gate beautiful through Peter and John, and as a result 5000 people turned to the Lord in **Acts 4:4**.

In **Acts 9**, three towns - Lydda, Sharon and Joppa turned to Jesus because Peter prayed for Aeneas who was bedridden and paralysed for 8 years and Jesus healed him.

Acts 9:34 And Peter said, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately.

35 So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

Christianity without the supernatural, Christianity without miracles, signs and wonders is not an example of the ministry of Jesus Christ, it's fake, and it's a counterfeit. It is the supernatural that saves and sets people free from all oppressions of the devil.

Through Paul the whole island of Malta turned to Jesus as a result of the supernatural in **Acts 28**. Miracles, signs and wonders are very important because Jesus said in **John 4:48**;

"... unless you see signs and wonder you will not believe."

These signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; (supernatural).

18 "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Supernatural) Mr 16:17

19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

Unless they see signs and wonders, they will not believe. We need signs and wonders to convince people that Jesus still alive, we need signs and wonders to convince people to believe in Jesus.

John 14:11 "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."

Jesus did not talk about the power of God alone; He demonstrated and displayed that power. Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and

preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all manner of diseases among the people:

Acts 10:38 "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 1John 3:8.

We are to reproduce what Jesus did because we also have been anointed by the Holy Ghost. People need to see the healing power of God; they need to encounter the supernatural power of God so as to have prevail over the works of the devil.

1Co 2:4-5, And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

The moment we move away from the demonstration of the Holy Ghost, we move away from the power of God, and all we would have left is the philosophies of men - head knowledge. People want power, the demonstration of God's power in their lives.

The kingdom of God is not something said, it's not your thoughts, it's not a topic or subject of discourse, it's not in reasoning by your mental faculty; it is the expression, the demonstration of the divine power of God.

1Co 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power. And that's what people are looking for in our communities and in the world at large. We need to use the power of God in soul winning endeavours and not the wisdom of men. That's what will induce them to believe in Jesus.

It is not by accident that Jesus launched His ministry by quoting **Isaiah 61:1-2a** and **Luke: 4:18-19**. These verses are all about meeting needs in order to bring a person to wholeness.

Isa 61:1 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening

of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

In Conclusion: The Jews of old did not divide people into spirit, soul and body. They saw them as a whole person and when they spoke of healing they thought not just of saving souls but of the whole person- to be biblical we have to think of the whole person – body, soul and spirit. We care for the whole man.

The unsaved need to see things happening in their lives that only God can do. If you will ask them what their needs are and then pray for them, God will oblige them with a miracle. He alludes to this in **Luke 10:9**, speaking specifically of the miracle of healing. When we walk in obedience to God's Word and in the power of the Spirit, good things will begin to happen to them supernaturally. There is no substitute for God.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Prayer Points for today:

- Pray to be baptised with the Holy Spirit
- Pray to be used to heal the sick
- Pray to win over your area for Jesus through the power of the Spirit
- Pray for a bountiful harvest

- Now ask the Lord to release His grace upon you
 - Grace to be filled with the Holy Spirit
 - Grace to pray for the sick and see them healed by the power of the Spirit
 - Grace to be a faithful and reliable soul winner
 - Grace to be productive in soul winning strategies
 - Grace to maximise your potential
 - Grace to fulfil kingdom assignment

The Holy Communion:

Pray for forgiveness of sins.

“I bless the bread and wine and whatever you have. I declare it holy as a symbol of the blood and flesh of Jesus Christ.

I pray that as you partake of this communion your eyes will be open to see the harvest all around you.

I pray that God will give you love and zeal for the lost.”

Give Jesus Thanks and Praise!