Seeking the Lost

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INTRODUCTION

- This lesson will be in two parts. First, we're going to talk about the work in New York State, what we're doing up there.
- The second part of the lesson will be talking about biblical principles of evangelism that we can find in the New Testament.
- What's the secret of teaching the gospel to people? Well, there is no secret. You just do it.

1 Surrender to God's Providence

Acts 8:28; Matthew 7:7–8; John 1:29

- We need to find people who are searching for the truth and get the conversation to Christ as soon as we can.
- I believe that today, God, through his providence, brings student and teacher together.
- Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened to you.
- We can't be hermits. We can't just stay at home, keep the gospel to ourselves. We have to go among the people.
- Being in the kingdom is not a competition.

2 See Everyone as a Prospect

John 4:9; Matthew 9:35–38

- We need to see everyone as a prospect. Absolutely everyone.
- We need to look at people as individuals, not as groups of people.
- When he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered like sheep, having no shepherds.
- Even if someone is here illegally and they're among us, they need to hear the gospel.
- We need to remember that many times we are the only lifeline to many people.
- All we have to do is look for people and show them that we care and teach them about Christ.

3 Let God's Word Convert Those We Teach

John 16:7–8; Romans 1:16; John 1:45–46

- It's not our job to convert people. We teach people and let the word convert them. Because the power is in the gospel.
- You invite them, come and see. Come and see for yourself. Personal observation will trump prejudice, will trump objections every time.
- When we're teaching people, have them read out of their own Bible.
- Their role is to teach people how to learn for themselves so they don't need you anymore.

- We need to live consistent with God's word. Because if we live hypocritically, then we're going to ruin the message.
- People are watching. And so we need to live consistent with what we teach.

4 Stress the Need for Salvation

Leviticus 1; John 14:6; 2 Timothy 2:24

- The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost. And people need to understand they're lost.
- Sin results in condemnation, and we need to warn people that they're in danger of being lost for all eternity, and only Jesus is the one who can save them.
- We need to present Jesus as the only solution for sin.
- I'm the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- When we teach people, we need to have patience with them.
- That's what we want. People to receive Christ and then be excited about telling others.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **And so we encourage you all, whether we live in New York or Florida, let's all do our part, wherever we are, and spread the gospel and teach it joyfully to other people. Christ wants us to go. Will we go?**

MY NOTES