

THE POWER OF WITNESSING

“Go home to your family and neighbors (Matthew) and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how good He has been to you.”

After we come to Jesus, and are forgiven and set free from the many things that hurt us and the people we love; He wants us to tell others. These men wanted to go with Him, because they, no doubt, feared they would not be accepted by their countrymen or their families. A young man asked Billy Graham if he had to give up some of his friends now that he was a Christian; and Billy said, “no, they will probably give me up.” Even if they do, we are not to give them up and we are not to give up trying to help them find Jesus.

We can succeed here in many ways. The Holy Spirit has a lot of tools. I witnessed to a High School friend who just saw no need to be saved and he argued with me about truths he heard me say from the pulpit. But he kept coming to church. (Sometimes I felt like he came to find more ammunition against me in our arguments.) I attended a revival six miles from our church and he was there. The man read another man's sermon, word for word.

I felt bad that my friend had to endure this and I spoke to him in the parking lot. He asked me how I liked the message. I said, I didn't like it because the preacher was a monotone, with no “fire in his belly” (enthusiasm) as Sam Jones put it, and he was reading another man's sermon.

Driving home, I wished I hadn't said that. I felt it might make him think worse about churches and preachers. Soon after I got home he called me and said, “Bob, driving home the Lord got a hold of me and I had to stop and get out. I accepted Jesus by the side of the road and I want you to baptize me”. I don't know if my “honesty” got to him, but I do know that in

those friendly “arguments”, I was sharing with him the “truths that set us free” (John 8:32).

Few of us will ever go “door to door” witnessing to strangers, but we can all tell others that any changes or any “good” they see in us; is because of Jesus. Dr. John A. Broadus was a theological giant. He helped found Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, KY, and his textbook on preaching, written almost 100 years ago, is still being used. Streets are named after him around most of our Seminaries. At his High School reunion when he was in his fifties, a classmate they called “Red” came over to him and said:

“John, you know I was not in church much in high school; but when I got married and had my first child I started thinking about it. We went to church, and the preacher told my wife and I how to become Christians. I want you to know your part in this. I always admired the way you lived and how you treated others. You made me want to be a Christian like you and my family and I are now active in church and I want to thank you.” Broadus had tears in his eyes and said, “Red, I would like for you to do me a favor. When you get to heaven, will you tell Jesus what you just told me?” That meant more to Broadus than all of his honors, accolades and achievements. There are few joys greater than knowing that someone is in heaven because of us. Not many of us will have streets named after us, but every one of us can influence someone to find Jesus.

These men told their message all over the area; and when Jesus came back a few months later, thousands came to meet Him (Mark 8). Leading one person to the Lord impacts many others.

A shoe salesman led the young D.L. Moody to Christ. Moody, led Mordechi Ham to Christ. Mordechi Ham, led Billy Graham to Christ. Billy Graham, led me to Christ.

And I have led some of you to Christ.

It never stops.