

JESUS' PRINCIPLES FOR WITNESSING

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed and read the Bible for this lesson to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes. When you follow this procedure you will be a better teacher of your students.

Lesson Aim: Develop the principles that Jesus used in witnessing to succeed in your witness for Him.

Suggestion: The teacher lesson will call attention to some important truths to teach. After the lesson, give your class next week's Student Lesson so they can share their answers in class next week.

Introduction: Jesus is often called the Master Teacher, but He also should be called the Master Witness and Soul-Winner. In John 3-4 He demonstrates His ability to witness and win lost souls in personal witnessing. The principles He used in witnessing should be mastered by all believers to be a good follower of Jesus Christ. In this lesson, we will discover the principles that Jesus used in witnessing to Nicodemus. In Matthew 4:19, Jesus promised, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men."

What are the witnessing principles Jesus used with Nicodemus? Jn 3:1-21

1. Capture the sinner's attention — 3:3-4. Jesus used the term, "born again" to get the attention of Nicodemus. What did it mean? It made Nicodemus ask questions. We need to use terms that draw people into a conversation about spiritual truths and eventually bring them to salvation in Jesus Christ.

2. Attract and hold the sinner's interest — 3, 5-8. Jesus repeated the necessity and reality of the new birth to attract and hold the interest of Nicodemus.

3. Direct the sinner's dependence to the Spirit's work — 3:5, 6, 8. Jesus told Nicodemus that he needed to be born of the Spirit. Salvation is not a work that can be done by one's own efforts, nor by the efforts of a soul-winner - Jn 1:13. It must be done by the Holy Spirit through the words of Scripture that He has inspired holy men to write - 1 Pet 1:23; 2 Pet 1:21. We must use Scripture in our witness and depend on the Spirit to do His work in the hearts of sinners.

4. Reprove the religious sinner's ignorance, especially if he challenges the truth — 3:9-13. Jesus chided Nicodemus, the teacher of the Jews, for not knowing about the new birth - Ezk 36:25-27, and then for not believing a valid witness of these facts. We must rebuke a person that claims to be a Christian, but does not know the truth about salvation as it is taught in the Bible. If that person does not accept the truth of the Scriptures, he should be doubly rebuked.

5. Present the sinner's Savior — 3:14-17. Jesus showed Nicodemus that He was his Savior. We need to present Jesus as the only Savior for lost sinners.

6. Declare the sinner's judgment — 3:18. Jesus said unbelievers are already condemned. John added: "the wrath of God abides on him" - 3:36. However, condemnation and the wrath of God are removed when sinners put their trust in Jesus as their Savior.

7. Expose the sinner's problem — 3:19-20. Jesus said sinners love darkness rather than light; they love their sins rather than the Savior. We must recognize this struggle in sinners and plead with them to forsake their sins and trust in Christ to make them new creatures - 2 Cor 5:17.

8. Appeal to the sinner's will — 3:21. Jesus invited Nicodemus to act on the truth that he had heard by coming to Him to receive His light for salvation - cf. 6:28-29. We should invite sinners to come to Christ after we have presented the way of salvation to them.

What was the result of Jesus' principles in witnessing to Nicodemus? Jn 19:38-39
Nicodemus eventually became a believer and openly showed it after the crucifixion of Jesus.

What results will we learn about Jesus' principles of witnessing in the next lesson? Jn 4

1. The woman of Samaria believed in Jesus and her testimony caused many Samaritan men to believe in Him — Jn 4:28-30, 39-42.

2. The nobleman believed in Jesus including his whole house — Jn 4:50-53.

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