

Banners Unfurled

May 1996

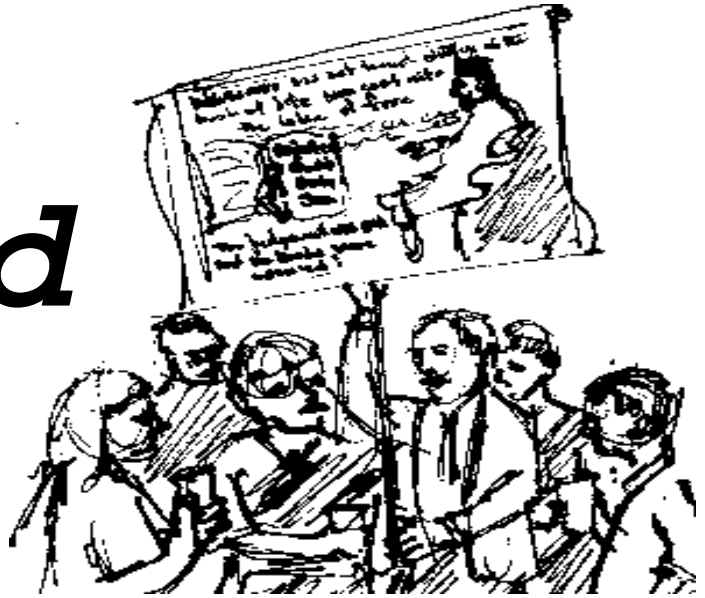
“ALWAYS LOOK A MOB IN THE FACE”

John Wesley’s advice to his street preachers as they went out to face, very often stones and clubs, tar and feathers and jail was to “Always look a mob in the face”. Here is one picture, in his own words, describing the fierce onset of a mob he faced on October 20, 1743:

“To attempt speaking was vain, for the noise on every side was like the roaring of the sea. So they dragged me along till we came to the town, where seeing the door of a large house open, I attempted to go in; but a man, catching me by the hair, pulled me back into the middle of the mob. They made no more stop till they had carried me through the main street, from one end of the town to the other, I continued speaking all the time to those within hearing, feeling no pain or weariness. At the west end of the town, seeing a door half open, I made toward it, and would have gone in, but a gentleman in the shop would not suffer me, saying they would pull the house down to the ground. However, I stood at the door and asked, “Are you willing to hear me speak?” Many cried out, “No, no, knock his brains out; down with him, kill him at once.” Others said “Nay, but we will hear him first.” I began asking, “What evil have I done? Which of you all have I wronged in word or deed?” and continued speaking for above a quarter of an hour, till my voice suddenly failed. Then the floods began to lift up their voice again, many crying out, “Bring him away! Bring him away!”

For some reason, we tend to think the situation is worse now. I suppose it is a lack of knowing our heritage. This story took place during the Philadelphian church age, the day of great revivals, but there was also opposition. This was one of 60 mobs Wesley described in his Journals.

But people today are so unaccustomed to seeing street preachers that they think we are lunatics or worse. The truth of the matter is that down through the years many great men have preached on the street simply because of a burden to reach the sinners and that is where they are. My father-in-law says there was always a street preacher in Court Square in the town where he grew up. If you are near any large city, there



is probably someplace where the crowds gather on the streets to party. I challenge you to make a banner and try it. Just go out there and hold it up. You will be amazed at the openings it provides. They won’t stop often and let you explain the banner on HELL (they know what it is all about) but the one on the White Throne Judgment really draws them. A man at church told me that a painter he works with saw me the other night preaching. My friend asked if he went to talk to me, but he said he *couldn’t get close enough, there were too many people around me!!*

When I first started going to the crowds on the street with the message of salvation in 1971, the disputes often were about knowing you were saved for sure. My adversaries would take the position that no one could know they were saved and I showed I John 5:13 until it was ragged proving that the Bible declared that you could “know you have eternal life”. The standard argument for 25 years given in reply is “You mean you can get saved and then murder someone and still go to Heaven?” The answer from me is that doctrinally you can. Now I include in my presentation the idea that in Heaven everyone is not equal so the murderer will not get the same reward as the disciple who loses his life for Jesus’s sake. (Luke 9:24) One reason this works is because the hypothetical murderer gets the chair and can no longer lay up treasures in Heaven.

Now, Queen Elizabeth never offered me her throne, but Jesus offered me a co-reign with him for eternity. In Heaven everyone is not equal and we’re sure not going to all be ‘*cloud potatoes*’, we’ll have jobs to do. What we do after we’re saved will determine what responsibility we get for eternity. And there are so many professing Christians out there that I deal with them not only about salvation but rewards in order to motivate them to live for Jesus.

Salvation is a free gift (Romans 6:23). We can know that we have eternal life (I John 5:13) because of the blood of Jesus Christ, but our rewards are another matter.

In the name of our God, we will set up our banners. Psalm 20: 5.

Battlefield Bulletins

OH, FOR A LITTLE MORE TIME

I was able to present the gospel by explaining the message of my banner which is the White Throne Judgment to a group of three which appeared to be Mother, daughter and son for about 45 minutes. They were very attentive and had many questions about salvation. Sensing they were leaving, I turned to introduce the daughter (Melanie) to my wife, hoping they could set up a Bible study together. They were Roman Catholic, but the Mother kept insisting that she believed it was Jesus, just Jesus and the church did not matter. But when Freida began to talk to Melanie, and Melanie insisted to her mother that the church did teach that you had to go to Purgatory, say the Rosary, etc. but she didn't believe all of that, her mother recoiled that she would doubt anything the church taught. They were both just as nice as could be and finally Melanie, who looked about 22, turned to Freida and in such a sad voice said, "But I don't want to go to Hell and burn forever. . . " Freida attempted to tell her she didn't have to, that Jesus paid it ALL, but at that point, her mother insisted that they really had to go. (If you want to know what is going on today, this will tell you. Her mother began to push her to get into a Bible study that a woman in their church is teaching. This woman was a Baptist who converted to Catholicism and now teaches Bible studies. *She said half of their Catholic church members are recent converts from the Baptist church!*) It was heartbreaking to watch Melanie walk away knowing that with just a little more time and a quiet place she could have found peace of mind and heart. She has our number, perhaps someday she will call or God will send someone else to win her, but she has really been on our heart.

OUT OF PLACE

Recently, as I was preaching, several groups of women came by who were here for a Methodist church convention that had just let out. Talk about looking out of place. One Methodist woman who was just the picture of Southern charm came up to me bubbling with enthusiasm over my preaching. She thought it was just the most marvelous thing! I didn't have the heart to say much to her, but I did give her a "Bible Believers Bulletin". My wife said I should have felt like a dog for doing that to her, but a little truth never hurt anybody!

SOME FRUIT

Just when we needed a little encouragement, I received the following letter from a twenty-four year old woman from another city, "I am writing to thank you for the pamphlet the other night. . . I know that being a testament (sic.) for Jesus can sometimes be a tough thing, but always remember that you touch a lot of people. I was saved when I was 12 years old, but have only recently rededicated my life to the Lord. Jesus has done wonderful things in my life lately and I know through His power He will continue to do so. I am twenty four years old and have done some horrible things in my lifetime. . I truly believe He has forgiven me. I wanted to return your pamphlet and hopefully when you give it to someone else, it won't be just thrown away, but will be read and touched by it."

SORROW EVEN IN LAUGHTER

A young white woman listened for a few minutes and then went on her way not seeming very serious. Just a little later she came back crying and very upset because her sister had hit her. They seemed to be in their early twenties and all partying. She just seemed so broken up, and as I was beginning to talk with her again about her need of Jesus, a black man came up and took her by the arm and said roughly, "Come on, we've got to go now." I can't explain it, but she looked at me with such pitiful eyes as if she suddenly realized what kind of situation she was in and had just been given a glimpse of something better. It was as if she never really knew there could be anything better for her and now she wanted to be different so bad. But she was led away, while looking back at me. These people break your heart, but all I can do is turn her over to God and trust him to woo her through another means or person. Proverbs 14:13 says "Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness." You see the truth of this over and over as you deal with people.

TRAINING OTHERS

One Saturday night three young couples came through who had just been downtown for a fancy meal but were not drinking. They go to the large Southern Baptist church in town. They stopped to observe me out of curiosity and began to talk to me about how often I came and what I did, etc. Nice kids. As I began to really dig into their salvation, they got nervous, but I explained that I was not trying to trick them, but just to show them how important it is to make sure what people are really trusting. About this time a man came up to ask questions who had a Catholic background. After some discussion in which he said he was trusting Jesus, I asked him "If you knew for sure you were going to die in three years, is there anything you would have to do between now and then to know for sure that you would go to Heaven?" Of course he answered that he would have to do some things, which revealed that he was really trusting his works. At this point, a couple of them got into the conversation, and after a little while the young man walked away. We then talked a while longer, discussing how important it is to get to what a person is really trusting and help them see it. I hope this whets their appetite for soulwinning!

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

MAY 3-5 - MEMPHIS IN MAY MUSIC FEST
MAY 16-18 - MEMPHIS IN MAY BAR-B-Q FEST

All summer is busy on Beale!

Once again, let me invite you to come and preach with us this month. This is one of the biggest months of the year. I will put you up and feed you, just give me a call. The biggest weekends are listed on the Calendar of Events. But most of all pray for us that God will lead those who are searching to us.

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