



will open more opportunities for us, He will (James 5:16; Colossians 4:2-3). So many people are afraid to talk to others about the Gospel because they feel as though they are intruding into other people's lives. It doesn't have to be that way if we just take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves to us and that

can come in a number of different forms. It might be when you see someone reading a Bible or a religious book. Or, when you see someone bow their head to pray before a meal. Maybe you just see someone wearing a cross necklace. There are so many opportunities that are available to us that we can use to tell others the Gospel that it is a shame when we don't. So, I encourage you to take the opportunities that are so readily available to us all on a daily basis and strike up a conversation about the God you serve.

I pray that we all learn from this and grow in these skills as we grow in the Lord. Let us all give attention to reading His word and meditating upon it and then take the opportunities the Lord affords us to share with other the things of the Lord.



Faithful Sayings Issue 12.11 March 14, 2010

Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

12.11

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

March 14
2010



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Curtis Carwile

Three Skills of Personal Evangelism

by Curtis Carwile

I'm guessing that many of you are like me; we have "our shows" that we have to watch every week. My sister's show that she has to watch every week is LOST. Personally, I've never seen an episode so I don't know why she's so enthralled in it, but she is. She's pretty close to being fanatical about it. She has all of the seasons on DVD and watches them often. She and her roommates have LOST parties and invite other people over to their house to watch it and talk about it and all those other things that people do. And, I'm guessing that we all do things like this.

When I think about things like this, I often wonder where the church would be if we had that kind of zeal about the Lord. I wonder how much more Christians could get done for the

Lord if we were as excited about doing His will as we are about watching "our shows." I wonder how much more we would be in love with Jesus if we were as enthralled with Him. I wonder what would happen if we read our Bibles as much as we watch "our shows." I wonder how many more people we

4700 Andrews Ave.
Amarillo TX 79106
806-352-2809
www.olsenpark.com

could get to come to church if we thought the same way about it as we do about viewing parties. I wonder how much stronger we could grow in the Lord and in each other if we talked about His things as much as we talk about our things. I just wonder.

Please, understand what I'm saying. I am not trying to say that my sister is an ungodly heathen; the truth is very much to the contrary. She

is a very godly young woman who I respect a great deal. So, I'm not trying to put her down or anything like that. Also, I am not saying that you can't have your shows. All of us need things to help us recreate ourselves for the work which is set before us. And, I am not saying anything against the show LOST; I don't know anything about it, good or bad. What I am saying is that we make excuses so often for not doing what God commands us to do, for not being zealous enough in our worship to Him properly, for not reading our Bibles as we should, for not inviting people to church, and for not talking about the Gospel with others.

In a weird way, it amuses me when people tell me that they don't have the skills or abilities to do the things of the Lord and, yet, they have the skills and abilities to talk about "their shows" with complete strangers for hours on end. It amuses me because both require the same skill sets. I'm going to share them in order to help us all realize that we all have these skills and abilities.

The first skill isn't even a skill; it is just **familiarizing yourself** with the material. People see commercials on TV for different shows and it piques their interest. So, they watch that show when it comes on TV. From that, they begin to understand what the show is all about. The more time they spend watching it, the more familiar the characters and story become. When it comes to the things of the Lord, it is the exact same thing. This is why Paul tells Timothy to "**give attention to reading**" (1 Timothy 4:13). Also, this is why the Hebrews writer warns that we are not to "**forsake the assembling of ourselves together**" (Hebrews 10:24-25). The only way to become more familiar

with the things of the Lord is by exposing yourself to them. So, I encourage you to pick up your Bible more often and make sure that you attend every service here that you can in order to familiarize yourself with the things of the Lord.

The second skill is **meditating** on the things to which you have just exposed yourself. From what I understand, LOST is a very confusing show and every episode leaves you thinking about what just happened and what could happen next. I'll admit that this is where the illustration breaks down a bit because the Bible, as a whole, is not difficult to understand at all. When God created everything, it was good (Genesis 1-2). When sin entered into the world, it messed up everything (Genesis 3-7). Because man had committed sin, it meant that they had to be separated from God (Isaiah 59:2). Because God loves the world, He does not want the sinner to be separated from Him (John 3:16). Because of that, He sent Jesus to die on the cross as the perfect atoning sacrifice (1 John 4:7-11). Because He rose from the dead to the throne of God, He has defeated man's two greatest enemies, sin and death (1 Corinthians 15). And, the Gospel message, the "good news," is that anyone who wants to be reunited with God can be, through Jesus (1 John 1:7). There is nothing complicated about it, but there is so much upon which to meditate (Philippians 4:8). So, I encourage you to meditate more upon the Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace and His glorious Gospel (Isaiah 9:6).

The third skill is **taking the opportunities** to talk about the things upon which you've meditated. This past December, I was at my parents for the holidays and my sister was staying with them as well. I happened to be getting something out of her room when she walked in and found me looking at one of the seasons of LOST that was lying on her dresser. That's when she began telling me about the show and all of the things she does with regards to it. She took an opportunity that presented itself to talk to someone about something in which she was interested; it wasn't forced and she didn't do it out of a sense of obligation; she just took the opportunity that presented itself. There are so many opportunities that present themselves to us on a daily basis to speak with others about the Gospel. And, if we fervently pray that God

