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A 180

Cal State Fresno, March 15, 2010,

On this campus there are maybe 25 booths where various groups promote their organizations. Most of the booths are Greeks. By the end of the class break, I only

had a boy and a girl listening. The boy was in a fraternity so I told a few stories from my frat days to illustrate the folly of sin. Eventually, the boy motioned for some of his fraternity brothers to come over from their booth. In due course, I drew a crowd of 50. As usual someone objected to judging. I asked, “Do you vote? A voter should make a judgment on the candidates. Good judgment would determine that Obama is bad.”

One boy said, “I was with you until you said that. Why is Obama bad?”

“He is a socialist and socialism is sin because it robs from the productive members of society to redistribute the wealth among the unproductive, including government bureaucrats,” I answered.

Last night in a church in Riverdale I spoke on the subject, “God is a Capitalist and Satan is a Socialist.” So the issue of socialism was still very much on my mind. The main issue became the Democrats’ health care bill. There were three students in the crowd who agreed with me on free markets. They were vocal in defending capitalism. But the problem is they got in discussions with pockets of students which broke up the crowd. By 2:15 things had died out except for two students defending capitalism to a passionate socialist.

Billy J, a socialist graduate, drove from Bakersfield to video me for the afternoon. I met him last year when after listening to me preach for an hour he said that he had done a 180 degree turn from negative to positive concerning my ministry. He filmed for over two hours, which gave him an opportunity to collect material on how I build a crowd. He explained to another student that there was a “huge” crowd earlier. So many people have hand sized videos today so that pretty much my whole day is filmed. One never knows how many I may preach to later through these videos.

THE UNHOLY TRINITY

Cal State Stanislaus, March 16, 2010,

This is a small commuter campus. I have not preached here in years. I lifted my voice at a break which started shortly after 11. There was not much pedestrian traffic. Two fellows listened for a while, but they did not hang around. I walked back to my car to get my YOU DESERVE HELL sign.

At the next break, I did have some people stop and others were listening off at a distance. Two policemen arrived but they just stood off at a distance. One

Christian, Kevin, who had a good attitude, quizzed me concerning my sign and message. However, other professing Christians were more hostile. They accused me of being a self righteous Pharisee because I condemn sin and warn men of Hell. But who really is Pharisaical? Jesus said of the Pharisees, **“They say, and do not (Matt 23:3).”**

One male said, “I witness through the life I lead.”

I asked, “Are you living a holy life?”

“I sin like everyone else,” he answered.

“Then what sets you apart? Christians are to live holy and be Christ like in character. You are a sinner by your own admonition. How are you demonstrating your Christianity by your life if you cannot overcome sin?”

“We are not saved by our works,” he responded.

“Then why are you relying on your life’s works to witness? I asked. “Proclaim the works of Christ.”

They just hate the Hell sign. Few professing Christians can handle any mention of Hell. They seem to object to the notion of damnation more than the unbelievers.

I heard all sorts of advice as to how I should change the sign.

“If you must speak of Hell change the sign to, ‘We deserve Hell.’”

“I want to set myself apart; I have received what I do not deserve the forgiveness of sins and the gift of everlasting life. Besides, your suggestion would be less provocative. And I am trying to be provocative.” I responded.

Another recommended a sign, “Ask me about Jesus.”

“Ineffective,” I answered, “Few would ask.”

After other suggestions I said, “Why don’t you people go into the bookstore buy some poster paper and a marker and make up your own signs?”

No one accepted my challenge.

By 1:30 everyone gave up on changing me and left. With the class breaks so sparse, I decided to drive onto Sacramento.

“Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy (Ps 107:2).” The enemy from which we have been set free is the unholy trinity of Satan, Sin and Hell. The modern Pharisees say speak not of the negative, only speak of love. The Bible says otherwise.



The Sign That Really Makes Them Mad!

BUT

Sacramento State University, March 17, 2010,

I set up my pulpit right beside the Moslems at 11 AM. I did have some give and take with them concerning the deity of Jesus Christ. After the break the administration moved me to another location claiming that the area I was in was reserved for student organizations. The other location was just down the sidewalk, but I lost the opportunity to use the Moslems as a foil.

Since I did not get a crowd at the next break, I returned to my car for my YOU DESERVE HELL sign, which I used at the 1 PM break. I did get some reaction

from an atheist and an unbeliever, Jade, who seemed to be open. The atheist asked me some basic questions. I was surprised that he did not argue with my answers. I conversed with them for over 30 minutes. Later in the day the unbeliever returned for an hour.

At 2 Julian stopped. He had seen me on television and on youtube and remembered me from last year. He liked what I was doing and had a good understanding of my ministry. Joshua, a zealous Catholic, was with him. They stayed around for the next two hours. Julian took it upon himself to explain my message and methods to objecting students. Joshua was interested in converting me to Catholicism. He also witnessed for a long time to the unbeliever which I mentioned had talked with me earlier. Joshua complimented Shawn the Baptist who had been through some time ago. He said Shawn had challenged him to a greater commitment. From 2-4 PM I had a group of students around me which ranged from 4-12. Joshua and Julian were a help in maintaining interest. Whenever I hold the YOU DESERVE HELL sign it is the main controversy.

A female presented me with a two page handwritten letter. The opening paragraph was positive and encouraging but I knew a “but” was coming. Sure enough she wrote in the second paragraph, “While it’s good to go out and be bold to share the message to get saved. It seems by Jesus’ example it’s even better to build loving relationships with people. Or to at least share a bold message that God loves you even though you are a sinner.”

Jesus built loving relationships with his disciples, Mary and Martha and a few others. But he preached (not shared) with the multitudes, who were as sheep without a Shepherd. Not once did he tell the multitudes that God loved them.

Also Arella handed me a handwritten note, “For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who don’t believe, no explanation is possible.”

She did not put this sentence in quotes, but I am sure that she read or heard it somewhere. The fact most believers cannot explain why they believe which is the reason so few speak out. And we are supposed to give a reason to serious inquirers of the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15). She went on to write, “Be like Christ. Do not force yourself on others. You’re shaming Christianity by being an assertive _____. They will never turn by your ignorant words. . .so let God make the first move.”

God is making the first move through my preaching to the students when typically few are giving any thought to God.

Two policemen monitored me from a distance the whole day.

MESSAGE T-SHIRTS, LIFE AND DEATH

Sacramento State University, March 18, 2010,

“Hey, that is the guy, I am talking about,” said a male student to his friend as I walked to my preaching place. I sat down and held up my YOU DESERVE HELL sign. The student and his friend walked up and listened to my comments.

I asked one, “Why do you have a skull on your t-shirt?”

He indicated that there was no reason. As other students gathered, I noticed that several had skulls on their shirts. I asked each one why. The answers were that it is fashionable; it is the trend. I answered, “Those who hate God love death (Pro 8:36). Symbols of death and destruction have become the style because men who are dead in their trespasses and sins hate God.”

On the other hand, those who love God hate sin.

One believer complained that my sign was making people angry, “Why don’t you have a sign that says Jesus saves?”

He was so fixated upon my sign that he failed to notice that I was wearing a t-shirt that read on the front, JESUS SAVES FROM SIN AND HELL.

I pointed at my t-shirt. Then he complained that the word HELL had the largest print. [Actually, the print size of the word SIN is just as large, but HELL has one more letter]. I replied, “JESUS SAVES is large enough to be easily read from a distance, but I am focusing on the problem and its consequence so it is appropriated for SIN AND HELL letters to be larger.”

Jesus condemned the hypocrites for “omitting the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith.” He called them “blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel (Matt 23:23-24).” Most believers will speak of mercy and faith, but not of judgment. There is no need of mercy if there is no judgment. Evangelists should tell people what they need to hear, not what they want to hear. And typically what they need to hear will make them angry.

A female countered me with a sign which read, "I deserve to walk through my school without being judged," which helped draw more attention to my message. After the crowd had reached into the fifties, Eli, a Calvinist, started expounding on his faith alone doctrine. I countered that faith is never alone, but where there is saving faith it will result in good works. I read, James 2:17-26 and quoted other passages. Two bold Christian brothers in the crowd defended my position. However, the Calvinist got the best of them when he asked, "Do you have sin in your lives?" When one of them admitted that he lusted daily, the Calvinist rightly asked, "Then where are your good works? Why do you think you are saved if you are lusting?"

I admonished the lusting man with 1 Cor 10:13. He admitted that he could overcome lust through faith. Later the Calvinist asked me if I knew Jesse Morrell. He said, that I had the same theology as Jesse. Eli said that he has argued with Jesse extensively on Jesse's message board.

Joshua, the Catholic, returned today and he was actively witnessing. A Catholic seminarian named Gabriel questioned my methods but he seemed to back off somewhat when I gave him the Scriptural foundation of my ministry.

Later Gabriel and Joshua got into a lengthy discussion with Eli, the Calvinist, concerning faith and works and whether or not one could have the assurance of salvation.

Personally, I am closer to the Catholic position than the Calvinist on the faith and works issue. However, the Catholic boys did not claim the assurance of salvation as Eli did. But regrettably, Eli, was also arguing for unconditional election and assurance. All things considered, I would take Catholicism over Calvinism. At 3:30 I left campus with the Catholics still arguing with Eli concerning classic issues which have been debated for centuries.

BROTHER JED LIGHT

Sacramento State, March 19, 2010,

There were noticeably fewer students on campus today. I started preaching at 10:45. A man, who wore a head wrap, walking hand in hand with his blond girlfriend, said in reference to the Sarah Palin sticker on my brief case, "We discussed in class your support of Sarah Palin. Our professor could not understand why you would support her considering your position on women." I was

encouraged to hear a confirmation that they were discussing my ministry in the classroom.

He had to go on to class, but he returned later with his girlfriend when I explained that generally God wants the wives and mothers at home but there are exceptions. He claimed he was of the Sheik religion but no longer believed. And his girlfriend was raised a Catholic but she no longer was a believer. I had a good discussion with them until he had to go to class. Later the blond returned by herself with many questions.

Meanwhile, another man and woman approached me hand in hand. He identified himself as a Christian and she said she was an atheist. Last night they had watched a program on the Holocaust, which provoked a conversation about religion between them. She could not figure out why if there is a God he did not intervene to stop the slaughter of the Jews. Then she complained that when she was a little girl God never intervened to stop the abuse of her mother. Then she protested that her husband had been abusive to her children. I said, "Don't blame God for your bad choice for a husband."

I was very gentle in dealing with this couple because they seemed to be sincere in their questions. She was totally ignorant of God. About 10 minutes into the conversation a professing Christian interrupted and reprovved me for my unloving preaching, and told the couple not to listen to me because I was not a Christian. The girl reprovved him for his rudeness. He shamefully left. The girl said, "I came over to you with the same attitude that he had. I am glad I restrained myself." Within 15 minutes my adversary returned and quietly listened. I was glad that I had resisted rebuking him myself, which gave the girl an opportunity to do it which made a greater impact than if I had been more aggressive with the hypocrite.

My day consisted of conversations with various students who mostly had good questions. I never had more than ten around me at one time. I only preached at the class breaks. I noticed some listened at a distance and then at least one of them came up later. One fellow who had heard me at San Diego and was visiting a friend in Sacramento was excited to see me.

Julian, who on Wednesday explained to the students my methods and message, spent over an hour with me today as did the theist, Jade, with whom I have dialogued each day. A policeman even approached me, apparently just with the attention of getting acquainted. We chatted for about 10 minutes. At one time today there were four policemen watching and listening at a distance for almost an hour. The police got an earful this week. They must have been taking about the preaching among themselves.

My style today was mostly non-confrontational and I spent some time joshing with the students. Yet, I still asked some probing questions and made many points in defending the faith. The preacher may be more effective when he is not always hard core. We are dealing with life and death subjects; nevertheless, it can be helpful to sometimes show a lighter side to the students. Although one should not be concerned about being liked at the expense of Truth. There is a time to communicate without always “reproving, rebuking and exhorting.” It is helpful in reaching people if they like you. Some open air preachers do not seem to interact with sinners. I have established friendly relations with numerous sinners over the years. The Bible only presents John the Baptist in his hard core confrontations with sinners and Herod; however, I assume that even he had a personal side and was not always in preaching mode. I must admit that I am reading between the lines for the Bible rarely demonstrates a lighter side concerning the prophets and apostles or even Jesus for that matter. One does have to cautious about getting carried away in entertaining the students.

After posting this journal entry on Facebook I received the following reply from Kevin, a student at Cal State Stanislaus:

It is reassuring to read that students were receptive to calm - yet truthful - conversation, since Stanislaus required a more offensive approach for anybody to care or pay attention. I look forward to if and when you come back to Stanislaus, Brother Jed.

God is good, so go with Him always, trusting in whatever it is He urges you to do, be it offensive or appealing, light or heavy, full of risk or only with a little. For God is good.

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Colossians 3:17...

Kevin is the one I identified in my March 16 entry as, “One Christian, who had a good attitude, quizzed me concerning my sign and message.”