

# Public Preaching

I look on all the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that, in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty, to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation. John Wesley

No sort of defense is needed for preaching out of doors, but it would need very potent arguments to prove that a man had done his duty who has never preached beyond the walls of his meeting-house. A defense is required for services within buildings than for worship outside of them. Charles Spurgeon

It is the very back-bone of the movement to win the non-church-going element. The more of it the better, the more of it the better, - the whole world around!  
Charles Spurgeon

Glorious were those great gatherings in the fields and commons which lasted throughout the long period in which Wesley and Whitefield blessed our nation. Field preaching was the wild note of the birds singing in the trees, in testimony that the true spring-time of religion had come. Birds in cages may sing more sweetly, perhaps, but their music is not so natural, nor so sure a pledge of the coming summer. It was a blessed day when Methodists and others began to proclaim Jesus in open air; then were the gates of hell shaken, and the captives of the devil were set free by hundreds and thousands. Charles Spurgeon

Finding the pulpits are denied me, and the poor colliers are ready to perish for lack of knowledge, I went to them, and preached on a mount to upwards of 200. Blessed be God, that the ice is now broken, and I have now taken the field... I thought it might be doing the service of my Creator, who had a mountain for His pulpit, and the heavens for His soundingboard: and who, when the gospel was refused by the Jews, sent His servants into the highways and hedges. George Whitefield

They sowed the seeds of thought among the people which were never entirely forgotten and, I believe, paved the way for the Reformation. Bishop J.C. Ryle on Wycliffe's 'poor priests' (as they were called)

To be laughed at is no great hardship to me .i can delight in scoffs and jeers. caricatures, lampoons and slanders are my glory, but that you should turn from your own mercy ,this is my sorrow. spit on me but oh, repent laugh at me oh, but believe in my master,make my body as dirt of the streets, but damn not your own souls... Charles Haddon Spurgeon

I fear that in some of our less enlightened country churches there are conservative individuals who almost believe that to preach anywhere except in the chapel would be a shocking innovation, a sure token of heretical tendencies

and a mark of zeal without knowledge. Any young brother who studies his comfort among them must not suggest anything so irregular as a sermon outside the walls of their Zion. In the older times we are told, 'Wisdom crieth without, she uttereth her voice in the street, she crieth in the chief places of concourse, in the opening of the gates,' but the wise men of orthodoxy would have wisdom gagged except beneath the roof of a licensed building. These men believe in a New Testament which says, 'Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in,' and yet they dislike a literal obedience to that command. Charles Spurgeon

To be listened to is the first thing, therefore be interesting. To be understood is the second, therefore be clear. To be useful is the third thing, so be practical. To be obeyed is the fourth thing, so speak with authority. Dr A.W. Thorold, one time Bishop of Rochester

I now preach to ten times more people than I should, if had been confined to the Churches.

George Whitefield

I may say that a large proportion of the successes of the Salvation Army has been due, in my estimation, humanly, to our open-air operations. ... in the ordinary course of things, we should have, you will easily see, no chance without open-air work. William Booth

You will never get at the ignorant and profligate mass with out open air preaching. I had to go to bonds and imprisonments for doing what our Master did, for he preached far oftener, by the roadside and by the seaside than in the synagogues. Robert Flockhart

I could scarce reconcile myself at first to this strange way of preaching in the fields, of which he set me an example on Sunday. Having been all my life ( till very lately) so tenacious of every point relating to decency and order, that I should have thought the saving of souls almost a sin, if it had not been done in a church. In the evening I began expounding our Lords Sermon on the Mount (one pretty remarkable precedent of field-preaching, though I suppose there were churches at that time also) John Wesley

I am well assured that I did far more good to my Lincolnshire parishioners by preaching three days on my father's tomb than I did by preaching three years in his pulpit. John Wesley

To this day field preaching is a cross to me, but I know my commission and see no other way of preaching the gospel to every creature. John Wesley

NOTE: John and his brother Charles were influenced during a missions trip to the Americas by the example of the Moravians and on a day much to be remembered was clearly convinced of unbelief by the Moravian Open Air preacher Peter Boehler

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C.H. Spurgeon

It would be very easy to prove that revivals of religion have usually been accompanied, if not caused, by a considerable amount of preaching out of doors, or in unusual places. Charles Spurgeon

Preaching should break a hard heart, and heal a broken heart. - John Newton

It is no marvel that the devil does not love field preaching! Neither do I; I love a commodious room, a soft cushion, a handsome pulpit. But where is my zeal if I do not trample all these underfoot in order to save one more soul?

John Wesley

I believe I never was more acceptable to my Master than when I was standing to teach those hearers in the open fields...I now preach to ten times more people than I would if I had been confined to the churches.

George Whitfield

I preach in the open air all week so I can be ready to give me sermon on Sunday

George Whitefield

If you'll preach to a voluntary audience for money but will not preach to sinners on the street, you are a professional and we don't need any more professionals in God's ministry. Gerald Sutek

We ought actually to go into the streets and lanes and highways, because there are lurkers in the hedges, tramps on the highway, street-walkers and lane-haunters, whom we shall never reach unless we pursue them into their own domains. Charles Spurgeon

I have known street preaching in London remarkably blessed to persons whose character and condition would quite preclude their having been found in a place of worship. Charles Spurgeon

As to style in preaching out of doors, it should certainly be very different from much of that which prevails within, and perhaps if a speaker were to acquire a style fully adapted to a street audience, he would be wise to bring it indoors with him.... In the street, a man must keep himself alive, and use many illustrations and anecdotes, and sprinkle a quaint remark here and there. To dwell long on a point will never do. Reasoning must be brief, clear, and soon done with. The discourse must not be labored or involved, neither must the second head depend upon the first, but the audience is a changing one, and each point must be complete in itself. Charles Spurgeon

In the streets a man must from beginning to end be intense, and for that very reason he must be condensed and concentrated in his stall and utterance. It would never do to begin by saying 'my text, dear friends, is a passage from the inspired word, containing doctrines of the utmost importance, and bringing before us in the clearest manner the most valuable practical instruction. I invite your careful attention in the exercise of your most candid judgment while we consider it under various aspects and place it in different lights, in order that we may be able to perceive its position in the analogy of faith..... Have something to say, look them in the face, say what you mean, put it plainly, boldly, earnestly, courteously, and they will hear you. Charles Spurgeon

It is not our business to make the message acceptable, but to make it available. We are not to see that they like it, but that they get it. - Dr. Vance Havner

How shall I feel at the judgment, if multitudes of missed opportunities pass before me in full review, and all my excuses prove to be disguises of my cowardice and pride. - Dr. W. E. Sangster

God has given us two ears, but one tongue, to show that we should be swift to hear, but slow to speak. God has set a double fence before the tongue, the teeth and the lips, to teach us to be wary that we offend not with our tongue. - Thomas Watson

You cannot antagonize and influence at the same time.

John Knox

One of the earliest things a minister should do when he leaves college and settles in a country town or village is to begin open-air speaking Charles Spurgeon

The open-air speaker's calling is as honorable as it is arduous, as useful as it is laborious. God alone can sustain you in it, but with Him at your side you will have nothing to fear. Charles Spurgeon

The great benefit of open-air preaching is that we get so many newcomers to hear the gospel who otherwise would never hear it. Charles Spurgeon

... If you go to a populous area and are loving, happy, relaxed, self-effacing, and confidence in the message you are charged with, many people will listen. Evangelism in the Early Church, Michael Green

Many of our attempts at evangelism are doomed before they start because we insist on doing them on our own property where many unchurched people feel very ill at ease. We Christians believe that Jesus Christ broke down all barriers between the sacred and the secular by his own incarnation. Right: we should therefore carry out that principle in our evangelism. We should reach out to people where they are, and not expect them to come where we are. In a word, much of the best evangelism will not happen in church at all. Evangelism in the Early Church, Michael Green

We should cultivate godly opportunism. If we are people who are not dominated by church buildings in religious hours but are free to talk about our Lord and seek to introduce others to him where ever we are, the opportunities will come. Willingness is the key to usefulness. If we get into the habit of praying, 'Lord, use my life and lips as You want to today,' more often than not he will. And he may not wait until we are in church on Sunday to provide the opportunity. For there are more ways than one to communicate the good news of Christ; and most of those ways occur on neutral ground. Evangelism in the Early Church, Michael Green

## **The Importance of Evangelism**

If I were utterly selfish and had no care for anything but my own happiness, I would choose, If I might under God, to be a soul winner, for never did I know perfect overflowing, unutterable happiness of the purest and most ennobling order till I first heard of one who had sought and found the Saviour through my means. Charles Spurgeon

'Not called!' did you say? 'Not heard the call,' I think you should say.

Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear Him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the burdened, agonized heart of humanity,

and listen to its pitiful wail for help. Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father's house and bid their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face — whose mercy you have professed to obey — and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world. — William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army

I can tell you that there is no greater joy than leading someone to faith in Jesus Christ. Even if they reject your message, it still feels great to obey Christ. Yet regardless of how we feel, we need to remember this is what He has commanded. D. James Kennedy

This is true friendship evangelism: a friendship that begins (not ends) with the proclamation of the gospel. It is based entirely on the gospel rather than on sporting or social events designed to sneak the gospel into the conversation at some later date. - Jon Speed, Evangelism in the New Testament

So, when someone says, I don't have the gift of evangelism, a fitting response might be, I', not asking you to teach the church to evangelize, or to travel to another country and share the gospel with an unreached people group. God may not have given you that responsibility. But you do have a responsibility to share the gospel, as all Christians do. - Jon Speed, Evangelism in the New Testament

If you don't talk about Jesus, then maybe you don't love Him half as much as you think you do (if at all). Mark Cahill

Evangelism is an important task and a vital role for the believer to fill. As has been said, evangelism is not just the task of the church, it is its very nature. - Lewis A. Drummond

Evangelism is about experiencing God. If you choose to be obedient, He will take you on a journey so exciting that your life will never be the same. - Bill Fay, Share Jesus Without Fear

It's not how can I share my faith, It's how can I not share my faith. Mark Cahill

God save us from living in comfort while sinners are sinking into hell! - Charles Spurgeon

Evangelism is not a professional job for a few trained men, but is instead the unrelenting responsibility of every person who belongs to the company of Jesus. - Elton Trueblood

You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go not only to those that need you, but to those that need you

most...It is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that society; but to save as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance. - John Wesley

I'd rather have people hate me with the knowledge that I tried to save them. - Keith Green

If we claim to know Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and we are not actively engaged in sharing the gospel with those with whom we come in contact, we are sinning against Him and are without excuse. - Tony Miano

I believe that one reason why the Church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the Church. - Charles Spurgeon

Nothing shall be lost that is done for God or in obedience to Him. - John Owen

Help me, Lord, to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church... nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that every where I am in Thy Presence. - Susanna Wesley

When I cannot enjoy the faith of assurance, I live by the faith of adherence. - Matthew Henry

Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yourself. Be sure of that. - Charles Spurgeon

If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for. - Charles Spurgeon

Oh my friends, we are loaded with countless church activities, while the real work of the church, that of evangelizing and winning the lost, is almost entirely neglected. - Oswald J. Smith

The task of the Church after Jesus' resurrection and ascension was to proclaim the forgiveness of sins to all nations. - Charles Stanley

God hath given to man a short time here upon earth, and yet upon this short time eternity depends. - Jeremy Taylor

## **The Heart Afire for God**

The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men. - E.M. Bounds

Catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will come for miles to watch you burn.

John Wesley

Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, in every place you can, at all the times you can, with all the zeal you can, as long as ever you can - John Wesley

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose. - Jim Elliot

Let us persevere... knowing that God has not enlisted us for a short time only, but to live and die in his service. They who are not resolved . . . to live and die setting forth the glory of God do not know what it is to fight. - John Calvin

When principles that run against your deepest convictions begin to win the day, then battle is your calling, and peace has become sin; you must, at the price of dearest peace, lay your convictions bare before friend and enemy, with all the fire of your faith. - Abraham Kuyper

Christ is not valued at all unless He is valued above all. - St. Augustine

God save us from living in comfort while sinners are sinking into hell! Charles Spurgeon

Some like to sit within the sound, Of church or chapel bell. I'd rather run a rescue shop within a yard of hell. C.T. Studd

I wish I could be cut in pieces to preach the gospel, and that every drop of blood might tell it to my perishing fellowmen. Charles Spurgeon