

We have been going over preaching strategy; Volume, Mechanics, Preparation... today we are going to look at special events altar call preaching. See, there are many types of events that we do, so there isn't a one size fits all for altar calls... its a one size fits most... But some of the principles still remain-

**Ephesians 5:15–17 (ESV)** Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

### **I PREACHING WISDOM:**

**A-** Our passage encourages us to THINK-

1. Look Carefully: Observe and see what is going on, or what is going to happen- and think how do I connect the Gospel message and an altar call naturally and organically-
  - a. Police Appreciation/Basketball/Corn Hole... When should it be done and how?
2. Be Wise: Consider your audience... Who will you be speaking to? This impacts how you preach!
  - a. Haunted house/Family Fun Day/Movie outreach/Block Party... Its going to look different!
3. Make the Best use of the time: What is the crowd dynamics... how long can you hold their attention?
  - a. SFT: Families with unchurched kids... HH: Rowdy vocal crowd... FFD: Fluid and moving crowd.
  - b. Think: When should you do this... What would make the most sense?
4. Understand: When you go into it with some understanding about how this is going to work the best, that's

WISDOM! *Knowledge applied-*

### **II PREACHING THEMES:**

**A-** Whatever it is you are preaching: FIND THE THEME... or FIND A THEME

1. This is true of plays, movies, any outdoor event... You need to find a theme and focus on that!
  - a. You don't have to preach every possible idea of salvation... identify 1 and stay narrow to form your arrow-
2. Themes are what makes preaching clear! They enable you to stay focused especially in distracting settings
  - a. Noise, activity, PV wind, children, outdoor elements... But you can capture a listeners ear by staying focused and deliberate. Sticking to the theme emphasizes your point and helps your listener track, even if distracted.
3. **V17** Understand what the will of God is... What theme would minister the best to this particular audience?
  - a. What theme would incline their ear to the Salvation message... you need to work this out in advance.
    - i. If you can't work it in advance... then you need to be able to identify it in real time.
    - ii Try to do this in regular concerts, plaza outreaches, any outreach... What would I say if I was preaching? What are the themes that stand out to me... there may be more than 1
4. Your theme could be the redeeming element of an event, especially if things didn't go as smoothly as planned.

### **III MAKING THE BEST:**

**A-** When you think it through in advance, you will be able to make the most of your event!

1. You will be Prepared: You will have a clear understanding and be able to instruct those helping you
2. You will be Confident: You will be able to declare with boldness, and the mechanics we already discussed
3. You will be Clear: People will be able to follow you!
4. You will be Effective: You will be able to make the BEST!

**B-** Now, There might be some duds!!!

1. THATS OK... I'd rather you try than not-
2. But this, will help you analyze WHY DIDN'T IT WORK, What can we do differently?
  - a. And if it DID work; Why did it work? How can we replicate this? How can we make it more effective?