

There is such a variety of special events we do, and at every event we ALWAYS end with an altar call!

What I want to look at today is how to discern what to preach at any event.

Proverbs 16:21 NIV The wise in heart are called discerning, and gracious words promote instruction.

I CHOOSING A THEME:

A- Every altar call should center around one theme!

1. An altar call should focus on one aspect of the Gospel-
 - a. Forgiveness, Substitution, Grace, Mercy, Saving, Redeeming, Resetting... etc.
2. If you cannot say what your altar call theme is, then it is not clear to you, and it will not be clear to your audience

B- Now, typically in One80 altar call preaching, we use an illustration to determine the Theme-

1. Here is a story from life that exemplifies a theme of the Gospel.
 - a. That is up to you to work out! You should already have that figured out by the time you take the platform!
 - i. **V16** The wise in heart are called discerning... you need to discern what is my theme?
2. Then comes the mechanics of an altar call: Illustration, Application, Declaration, Appeal.

II SPECIAL EVENTS DETERMINE THE THEME:

A- Now, Special events determine the theme.

1. Either; they determine the theme outright-
 - a. Meaning: You preach off the event: What was the theme of the special? Movie? Play? Rock drama? Etc.
 - i. Don't come in after a theme has been presented and then offer your own theme!
 - b. This also means you might preach off of the main point of the night: Did it center around a person? Use their life...
 - i. Did it center around an issue? Use that as your altar call foundation.
2. Secondly, Special Events will determine the direction you will go, for an illustration.
 - a. Basketball outreach: Basketball illustration... Pickle ball? Boxing? Graffiti contest? Curry Cook off? Easter Egg hunt? Trunk or Treat?
 - i. Find something that will connect with the event and its theme so that your altar call has connection.
3. Lastly: Altar call placement is also important: Where would it fit the best?
 - a. Sometimes the end isn't the best... think about tournament outreaches with eliminations... once people are eliminated, they are likely to leave... when do you have the most people? At the beginning!
 - b. Placement: can help your altar call time fit naturally... when you have the crowds attention.
3. **V16** The wise in heart are called **discerning**... this word means to understand, to separate...
 - a. Use discernment and cut away what doesn't fit or doesn't belong!

B- It is a mistake (Unwise) to come into an altar call, with something totally disconnected from everything that has just happened!

1. It is confusing: What just happened!?! This is odd.
2. Its ineffective: Your response will be more difficult when you ignore common sense items.
3. It frustrating: For you, and for your audience.

III WISDOM RESULTS:

A- Proverbs 16:21 NIV The wise in heart are called discerning, and gracious words promote instruction.

1. When we start with wisdom and discernment... our words will make impact-
 - a. Promote instruction, increases learning, increases persuasiveness, you help people learn...
 - i. People will respond to your message.
2. I have seen failed nights turn around with the discerning and wise altar call preacher!
 - a. I have also seen GREAT nights fail with an undiscerning and foolish altar call preacher!
3. So your job is to use WISDOM-
 - a. Put in the work! Know what is going on, or going to happen.
 - b. Consider the theme, and choose accordingly.
 - c. Be prepared to pivot... Based on the event and how it plays out! Things could change.