

Gleanings from the “Open Air Preaching Tour” with JeremiahCry

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1. God’s Word Comes with Supernatural Power

When a man unleashes the Word of God in public proclamation, God takes it and supernaturally and powerfully makes it effective so as to bring about His pleasure & purposes. A man may not visibly see the power in action but he can certainly know that God promises to take the Word and use it mightily. Therefore, when the Word of God goes forth, spiritual warfare takes place; the kingdom of Satan is being invaded by the proclamation of the Word of God. Thus, God’s preached Word always—*always!*—is attended with divine, omnipotent power & authority.

2. The Biblical Preaching of the Gospel Will Bring Hostility.

Anyone who reads the Bible knows this intellectually. But when a believer takes the gospel to the lost and confronts sinners with their hopeless, helpless and desperate plight before a holy God it *does* bring hostility. This happens because the darkness hates the light. Those in the kingdom of Satan love their sin. And they hate Christ and all that relates to His gospel & glory. But this is precisely the message we must preach. It is, in fact, a foolish message to both the Jews and the Greeks, but nevertheless it must be unashamedly proclaimed. Sinners are commanded by God to repent. Sinners are told that if they reject Christ they will endure the eternal hatred of God without end. And this message confronts sinners. But we must warn! We must cry out! We must beg them to be reconciled to God! We must show them their ruin & their plight!

3. The Harder the Preaching, the Better the Conversations.

The harder the preacher heralds the gospel the better the conversations will be with the listeners. Hard preaching produces soft hearts. Soft preaching produces hard hearts. The man of God must not shrink back from commanding sinners to repent or they will go to hell. The preacher must not shy away from telling listeners that they are idolaters, lovers of selves, lovers of pleasure, and those who have turned away from God because they hate God. They are, therefore, haters of God and sliding to hell. And the bolder the preacher is when speaking to individuals, the better the conversations can be when he stops preaching and approaches those listeners to engage them in a loving, tender, bold, and urgent plea to be reconciled to God. I believe that sinners appreciate the truth — and sometimes the hard & bold truth hurts.

4. God Does Beyond What You Ask or Imagine In Evangelism.

Evangelists pray. Open air preachers beg God for conversions. Ministers of the gospel must rightly depend fully on God. And God never ceases to amaze His children at *how* He works. When forty open air preachers were preaching (with two megaphones on each side of the clinic-house) and holding up signs: that read, “*Babies are Murdered Here,*” the clinic that normally kills 80 babies on this particular day of the week had no more than a half a dozen cars show up. Plus, the clinic shut down hours early — and all this on their busiest day of the week! God does beyond what we can ask or even imagine. I praise God for His sovereign purposes. We

don't know what they are. But we may trust our loving, wise, and powerful God to work mightily through the faithful giving of His gospel to the hellbound.

5. Open Air Preaching Comes with Pride that the Man of God Must Kill Persistently & Diligently.

An amazing dynamic occurs with street preachers. A street preacher should be a man who is regenerated by the Spirit of God who faithfully proclaims the gospel of God's grace found only in Christ while fully relying on the Spirit to sovereignly regenerate sinners who hear the gospel message. He has a new nature. He has been converted and changed by God's power. God has made him a "new creation." Every open air preaching can attest to one reality, however, that though open air preaching brings an element of shame and humiliation while standing on a corner and preaching while others reject, mock, scorn, and scoff, there is at the same time an element of pride that can creep its hellish head into this "ministry" for the Lord. How sad it is when the man of God thinks even for a moment of himself while he is preaching the glorious redemption found in Christ! How selfish and devilish for the preacher to wish that others might see him and YouTube it, post it on their Facebook wall, or watch him draw a crowd. The preacher of the gospel must be a man who consistently recognizes his sin, faithfully endeavors to slaughter his sin by the Spirit's enabling grace, and to daily trust and rely on the rescuing strength that the Lord Himself gives for His children. Pride is Satan's sin. And there is no place at all for the man of God proclaiming the gospel of God to allow even for a moment the beginning sprout of pride and selfishness in the street preaching ministry.

6. A Man of God Purely Devoted to the Glory of God who Worships Christ as he Proclaims the Gospel Joyfully Heralds to an Audience of One.

The biblical street preacher's goal is not to draw a crowd. It's not to find himself on Vimeo or YouTube. It's not to see how many people "Liked" his Facebook status. Rather, the man of God who preaches the gospel in the open air preaches for one purpose—and only one purpose—the unspeakably beautiful glory of God. Anything less will not do. And anything less disqualifies him and takes the credit away from God and places it elsewhere. The preacher must desire conversions but he does not preach for conversions since he *can't* convert anyone. He preaches and compels sinners to believe and come to Christ with an even greater passion to glorify God, magnify Christ and exalt the Spirit. When the preacher preaches for an audience of One as an all-consuming act of worship (mind, heart, and body), it will necessarily follow that he will preach joyfully, winsomely, and passionately as one who "believes what he preaches!" O may God raise up men of God purely devoted to the unrivaled glory of God in all things — even when rebels mock and sinners reject and crowds disperse at the proclamation of the gospel. He must preach Christ & Him crucified! The minister of the gospel must proclaim Him admonishing every man. He must agree with the Apostle Paul: "Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel." May there be a new revival amongst street evangelists who devote themselves to Christ *first* as worshipers and then as those *completely ravished* with the glory of God and *then* as open air evangelists preaching the gospel to the lost so that the Spirit can take the Word and sovereignly blow wherever He wills so that the blind will see & the dead will live! To God be the glory!