

February 21st and 22nd

GOD DOESN'T WASTE YOUR WORK

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." **1 CORINTHIANS 15:58**

He was known as the prince of preachers. He preached his first sermon when he was sixteen years old. He became a senior pastor when he was just nineteen years old. He founded his own preacher's college and preached over 3,600 sermons. The man's name is Charles Haddon Spurgeon. God used him to accomplish many things for His glory. But many don't know the story of his conversion to Christ.

Charles was a young boy who read through John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. He connected with the main character in the story who fled his homeland in search of the celestial city. He identified with the weight of sin that Christian carried in the *Pilgrim's Progress*. While Charles felt the burden of sin, he wasn't able to shed the shame of sin. He felt constant guilt over his sin and constantly cried out for relief. But no relief came. Until a snowstorm came when he was fifteen.

Charles had heard sermons on his dreadful sin. He had heard practical sermons about how to work out the Christian life. But no message gave him the hope of Christ. Until that snowstorm. He had intended to attend one church for worship but was turned away because of the weather. Instead, he turned down a road to attend a primitive Methodist chapel. The chapel had at most twenty people in attendance. The regular preacher didn't even show up that day because of the snowstorm. But God.

God sent a man from the congregation with a message. He was only a tailor or shoemaker, Charles didn't exactly know. But Charles claimed that he wasn't a great preacher. The Scripture used was from Isaiah 45:22, "Look unto me and be saved, all the ends of the earth." He went on for about ten minutes. Then he noticed Charles, stared at him and said, "Young man, you look very miserable...and you will always be miserable—miserable in life and miserable in death—if you don't obey my text, but if you obey now, this moment you will be saved. Young man, look to Jesus Christ. Look! Look! Look! You have nothing to do but look and live!" Charles saw at that point the way of salvation. He couldn't remember anything else that was said. He simply looked to Jesus to save. He looked away from his shame and guilt and looked to the One who saves.

Men, we can see that God uses those who are faithful to him. The words of the unknown church attender God used to bring Charles Haddon Spurgeon to Christ. God doesn't waste His powerful Word. He never wastes the work of his faithful men. Know that God has called you to faithfully give His Word. Ways that aren't always flashy or get applause. But ways that God is pleased to use. He has designed you in His perfect way to be His tool to help others come to Christ. How will you be used today?

Spend time asking God to use you today. Thank Him for giving you a purpose for His glory.

For Further Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11

