

Contacting People By Entering Into Their Situation

I. Abiding in the Vine

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

“But if you abide properly in the vine, then the life of the vine will fill you up. The life that has filled you up will then overflow into others. This is fruit-bearing, and this is the genuine and proper gospel preaching.” (*Young People’s Training*, Ch. 4)

II. Contacting People by Entering into their Situation

A. The Principle of Incarnation

“Incarnation means that God comes to man in man’s condition, reaching people by entering into their situation. The Lord did not stay in heaven and command people to contact Him. No, He became a man and entered into our situation. Having become a man, He conducted His outreach by constantly coming into the condition of people. He did not just go to the people themselves, but He entered into their situation.” (*Young People’s Training*, Ch. 4)

B. The Example of the Lord Jesus

John 4:7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, Give Me something to drink.

John 5:6 When Jesus saw this one lying there and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, Do you want to get well?

“Without entering into a person’s situation, you cannot touch his heart and feeling, and he will never respond to you. The Lord said to this man, “Do you want to get well?”. The impotent man was, of course, very interested in this.” (*Young People’s Training*, Ch. 4)

C. The Example of Paul

Acts 17:22-23 Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, Men of Athens, I observe that in every way you very much revere your deities. **23** For while I was passing through and carefully observing the objects of your worship, I even found an altar on which was inscribed, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. What therefore you worship without knowing, this I announce to you.

D. Practicing to Reach People by getting into their Interests

“Suppose you meet a student who likes mathematics. If you show an interest in this, he will certainly respond to you. Perhaps you will meet someone whose interest is the movies. You should not say, “Don’t go to movies. That is sinful in the eyes of God.” If you do this, you will offend him and cut him off immediately...s No, you must exercise wisdom, perhaps asking him to tell you about a recent movie he has seen. He will certainly respond to this. In such a case, it is wise to take a neutral position. Look to the Lord to give you a good word to speak to him.” (*Young People’s Training*, Ch. 4)

E. Learning together to Know People

“I encourage you to fellowship with one another over this matter of contacting people. In this way, you will learn together and, after a year, some of you will become very experienced in reaching people. This is the best way to know people... If you know people, you can determine a person’s interest after he has spoken only a few sentences. You can easily tell what kind of person he is. Furthermore, you will know how to do something to arouse his interest. First a person’s interest must be stirred, and then he will open to you. We must learn this.” (*Young People’s Training*, Ch. 4)