

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

A FIVE GALLON BUCKET

Luke 5:1-3 “One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around Him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then He sat down and taught the people from the boat.”

A young Lutheran pastor stood on a five-gallon bucket outside of the Edward Jones arena in St. Louis, MO prior to a Rams football game. From that bucket he preached the Gospel’s good news as people streamed past him into the arena to watch the game. Most thought this pastor was at best weird and others considered him mentally ill. However, he reported that every week his five-gallon pulpit gave him opportunity to present the Gospel to people in desperate need of it.

Jesus, was surrounded by a large crowd at the shore of Lake Gennesaret. To give Him more space to proclaim the Gospel to the crowd of people, He enlisted the services of Peter and Peter’s fishing boat. From Peter’s boat, which Peter had taken a short distance from shore, Jesus taught the people.

Commonly, you and your fellow Christians gather in a special building called a church to hear the Gospel. That is good! A church building is not the only place where the Gospel can be preached and taught. Every day of the week Christians gather in homes, coffee shops, school classrooms, lunch rooms, in prisons, city parks and countless other places to be taught God’s word. Preachers even preach from five-gallon buckets.

Hearing, reading and learning the word of God is what matters. The where is not important. Peter, on Pentecost, filled with the Holy Spirit, preached the story of God sending Jesus into the world to save sinners to a huge crowd of people assembled in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit blessed Peter’s message. Luke records in Acts 2 that following Peter’s sermon, 3,000 people were baptized.

The location matters not! It is God's Gospel word that moves hearts to believe in Jesus wherever the people happen to be.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, continue to lead us to find places where people are where we can preach and teach your word. Bless us with commitment and dedication to spread the Good News of salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

From Greenland's icy mountains, From India's coral strand,
Where Afric's sunny fountains Roll down their golden sand;
From many an ancient river, From many a palmy plain,
They call us to deliver Their land from error's chain.

What though the spicy breezes Blow soft o'er Ceylon's isle;
Though ev'ry prospect pleases And only man is vile;
In vain with lavish kindness The gifts of God are strown;
The heathen in his blindness Bows down to wood and stone.

Can we whose souls are lighted With wisdom from on high,
Can we to men benighted The lamp of life deny?
Salvation! Oh, Salvation! The joyful sound proclaim
Till each remotes nation Has learned Messiah's name.

Waft, waft, ye winds, His story, And you, ye waters, roll,
Till like a sea of glory It spreads from pole to pole,
Till o'er our ransomed nature The Lamb for sinners slain,
Redeemer, King, Creator, In bliss returns to reign.
(TLH 495)