# **METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRIES**

## ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES

### For the week ending February 14, 2014

#### Topic: Jesus and the Social Outcasts

Jesus said, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19. Jesus wants to make us fishers of all men, not just the educated and wealthy.

In reaching any class of people, there is the messenger and there is the message. In Christ’s ministry in reaching the lost, how Jesus lived and treated people was as important as what He said.

People accepted His teaching not merely because of what He said, but also because of who He was. You might say, Jesus won hearts.

Sister White wrote, “Your success will not depend so much upon your knowledge and accomplishments, as upon your ability to find your way to the heart. By being social and coming close to the people, you may turn the current of their thoughts more readily than by the most able discourse.” Evangelism, page 437

When it comes to winning hearts, we must remember the ABC’s of witnessing:

A = Acceptance

B = Belief

C = Comparing Scripture with Scripture

**Acceptance**: Jesus accepted men and women where they were in life. Whether it was a Samaritan women at a well, a wealthy Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Roman centurion, a paralytic at the pool of Bethesda—Jesus always took each individual right where they were.

To the Samaritan women He asked for a favor. To the paralytic He asked for a decision. In either case, Jesus said the right word, at the right time, in the right way.

Sometimes in finding acceptance with others, we need to find something to agree on.

Sister White wrote, “Agree with the people on every point where you can consistently do so. Let them see that you love their souls, and want to be in harmony with them so far as possible. If the love of God is revealed in all your efforts, you will be able to sow the seed of truth in some hearts: God will water the seed sown, and the truth will spring up and bear fruit to His glory.” Evangelism, page 141

We should also look for good in others and show approval of their positive conduct.

For example, Jesus complimented the Roman centurion by declaring, “I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.” Matthew 8:10

When others condemned Mary for “wasting” expensive ointment on the feet of Jesus, He praised her for her kindness, and told her that her act would be remembered through the ages.

Take the time to hear their life story, do not focus on your accomplishments.

Sister White wrote, “Jesus reached souls because He was acquainted with their problems. His teachings were adapted to their situation. He understood the objection in their minds.” Gospel Worker, page 290

We are to mingle with them as one who desires their good. As it is said of Jesus, “The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. The bid them, Come follow me.” COL 143

“It is through personal contact and association that men are reached by the saving power of the gospel. They are not saved in masses, but as individuals. Personal influence is a power. We must come close to those whom we desire to benefit.” Mount of Blessing, page 59

Acceptance is a wonderful thing. One of the best tests of character is how we treat someone that can do us no good, and how we treat people who cannot fight back.

Jesus did not live to prove people wrong, rather He desired to win their hearts, that He might educate them in the principles of eternal life.

**Belief**: You must believe that people are winnable. You must believe that people can make right decisions.

When Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.” 2 Thess. 5:23, 24. I believe that those words encouraged the congregation to live a holy life.

Jesus did not see people simply as they were, but as they could be. The roughest and most unpromising of men longed to live up to the hope that He saw in them. He inspired hope in them.

Who was Christ’s first missionary? Was it Peter or John? No. It was a mad man turned messenger, a lunatic turned disciple. Jesus saw in this wild, long-haired, raving demoniac—the potential of being a child of the kingdom.

But we must also be believable. People may doubt what you say, but they will always believe what you do.

We are to also believe that God will open up opportunities for witnessing as we make ourselves available for service. “He will guide them to the homes of those who need and desire the truth.” Evangelism, page 463

#### Compare Scripture with Scripture

“The creative energy that called the worlds into existence is the Word of God. The Word imparts power; it begets life. Every command is a promise; accepted by the will, received into the soul, ti brings with it the life of the Infinite One. It transforms the nature and recreates the soul in the image of God.” Education, page 126

It is not our opinions that God has promised to bless, but His Word. We need to become familiar with God’s Word. We need to be able to defend the pillars of our faith.

Sister White wrote, “Those who do this work must have a ready knowledge of the Scriptures. ‘It is written,’ is to be their weapon of defense.” CT 540

#### Essentials in Reaching the Lost

Cheerfulness: “When our minds are filled with gloom and sadness, dwelling upon the darkness and evil around us, how can we represent Christ to the world? How can our testimony have power to win souls.” 5T 743

Perseverance: “He who calls men to repentance must commune with God in prayer. He must cling to the Mighty One, saying, ‘I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me. Give me power to win souls to Christ.’” Gospel Worker, page 509

Courteous: “Of all the people in the world reformers should be the most unselfish, the most kind, the most courteous….The worker who manifests a lack of courtesy, who shows impatience at the ignorance or waywardness of others, who speaks hastily or acts thoughtlessly, may close the door to hearts so that he can never reach them.” Gospel Worker, page 507

All have at least one talent: “To every person is committed some peculiar gift or talent which is to be used to advance the Redeemer’s kingdom….Those who have the smallest gifts are not excused from using the very best gifts they have; and in so doing their talents will be increased.” 4T 618

Time is a talent: “Our time belongs to God. Every moment is HIs, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than of our time.” COL 342

Dependent upon Christ: “The most childlike disciple is the most efficient in labor for God. The heavenly intelligences can cooperate with him who is seeking, not to exalt self, but to save souls. He who feels most deeply his need of divine aid will plead for it, and the Holy Spirit will give unto him glimpses of Jesus that wills strengthen and uplift the soul. From communion with Christ he will go forth to work for the those who are perishing in their sins.” DA 436

Seek for opportunities: “We are to seek opportunities on every hand, we are to watch unto prayer, and be ready always to give a reason for the hope that is in us, with meekness and fear.” 6T 400

The highest work: “By visiting the people, talking, praying, sympathizing with them, you will win hearts. This is the highest missionary work you can do. To do it, you will need resolute, persevering faith, unwearying patience, and a deep love for souls.” 9T 41

When you are discouraged, remember this—“If you fail 99 times in a hundred, but succeed in saving one soul from ruin, you have done a noble deed for the Master’s cause.” 4T 132

Let people know that you enjoy studying with them. Show by word and action that you expect your Bible study student to enjoy studying the Bible. In other words, kindle enthusiasm.

Set a specific day for your study as soon as possible: “There is a danger in delay. That soul whom you might have opened the Scriptures, passes beyond your reach. Satan has prepared some net for his feet, and tomorrow he may be working out the plans of the archenemy of God. Why delay one day? Why not go to work at once?” CS 79

Leave something for them to read: “Papers and books are the Lord’s means of keeping the message for this time continually before the people.” 6T 315

--Compile by Pastor Jeff Wehr