

Fishing Stories

Dad's conversations at the SuperBowl

Hello brothers and sisters in Christ, and friends,

Greetings and welcome to this episode of follow a fisherman - today, we get to follow my Dad around and hear conversations that God arranged for my Dad to point people away from Christ and to the Bible. I hope to get my conversations and tidbits I saw of other evangelists' conversations up soon, once I get it typed :) ~ So, with that short intro, let's go check out the conversations and signs and details that my Dad saw at the SuperBowl 2017 in Houston, TX.

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We have a fun fishing story and praise report about our mission trip to the super bowl. We prayed many times during the year asking the Lord to send us to Houston to preach the gospel, and He did. Everything went perfect according to God's plan Romans 8:28, not according to our plans. While driving through Mississippi our transmission quit working. It's the same transmission that stopped working the day before our trip to the super bowl in Phoenix 2 years ago. For several hours this trip looked like we were stuck and stopped, it was stressful but we didn't give up, we didn't accept defeat. We kept praying and looking for answers. We found a questionable mechanic to do the repairs, (he was our only option, our first impression of him proved true later) and we rented a very expensive van from Enterprise, because they were the only car rental option. When we got to Texas we found a nice hotel about 75 miles away from the super bowl for about \$70 a night. If you can find a hotel near the game it would be \$300 to \$500 because they know someone will pay that much for it.

Saturday morning we found a \$30 parking spot near a busy intersection in Houston, a mile away from the dome. We held our preaching signs and passed out many gospel tracts and it was a blessed day. My sign was a 24" x 36" white choroplast with black letters saying "How can you go to Heaven if you won't obey Jesus teachings?" It has 3 lines so the letters are about 5" high and easy to read 75' to 100' away. The other sign has 4 lines, it said "Baptism is your promise to Jesus you quit living for sinful pleasures Romans 6." This is our favorite way to talk to cars that have their windows rolled up and their radio on! At a traffic light they have to stay alert to watch for the green light, and most drivers will look at your signs and read them because they are curious (and usually bored), if it is easy to read. We do have some signs that explain the gospel or warn those who are headed to Hell, but most of the time I use signs that challenge the Christians to live clean and boldly for Jesus. We have found this approach very effective to reach a community. We are reminding Church people of Bible truths they have heard at a church somewhere in their life, but they didn't understand or forgot. Our family has been street preaching using signs about 149 times in the last 3 years. We have watched God use us many times. When the four of us get to Heaven we will meet many thousands of saints that overcame the sins in their life and the

darkness around them because we reminded and encouraged them to live for Jesus.

Sunday, game day was even more blessed; we got to Houston about 6 hours before the game starts and found a \$50 parking lot 5 blocks away from the stadium. Then we walked over to a nice open spot across from the main entrance of the stadium, and Paul found another open spot a little further along the sidewalk. I stayed there most of the day, but Barbara with her 18" x 24" signs and Steven with his 24" x 36" signs found a good corner sidewalk across the street near the parking entrance into the stadium. They were at the main gate where the large buses wait until they can go through the gate. Barbara and Steven were very happy with their day. I think Steven will share Barbara's story because he was over there too. My signs for the super bowl were 24" x 36" saying "How can you go to Heaven if you won't obey Jesus' teachings?" and the other side said "Most 501c3 pastors won't obey Jesus, they're devious in sinning and going to Hell." There was a large condominium complex behind me. A short time after I was there a security officer from the condo came over to me and said 'He was very mad at me when he first read my sign "Most 501c3 pastors won't obey Jesus, they're devious in sinning and going to Hell". But he came over to tell me that when he thought about the message and he realized it's the same thing he was finding in Texas, so he appreciated what we were doing and thanked me. That officer also brought us a dozen water bottles in Jesus' name to share with the other evangelists near us because he respected their preaching too, and I said God bless you to him. In the next few hours I passed about 100 Heaven tracts and I also noticed many different cars took pictures of my signs, maybe a hundred cars throughout the day.

Along the street with the stadium entrance, on both sides of the street there was a temporary metal railing to keep people on the sidewalk and to prevent people from crossing the road from the sidewalk between intersections. Two hours later, all of the sudden a group of police officers came and moved the portable metal railings to include the closest lane in the road. When they moved the railings they expanded the sidewalk, it became a big sidewalk. And the officers told us that 500 occupy protesters were coming our way. The protesters paraded past me as they traveled to another corner. and I walked behind their group carrying my sign. They were loud and several of the leaders had bull-horns leading their chants, they all acted angry and many of the protesters carried home made signs with their own political messages. Some signs exposed some of Trump's crimes, including more wars, while other signs were saying America should let more muslims come to America, while others were saying 'no' to building a wall to keep Mexicans out, and some were encouraging more abortions, but 6 or 8 of the protesters had a tee-shirt apron that said they were ACLU lawyers. The occupy leaders were chanting 'Can you tell me what democracy looks like', and there was a 5 second pause, then the protesters replied 'This is what democracy looks like.' That 5 second gap was a perfect gap for me to announce 'Can you tell me what Heaven looks like?' It was funny, but I kept doing that as I traveled from one end of their group, to the other end. As I slowly walked through their crowd with my signs about obeying Jesus, one by one some of the protesters would stop their chant and look at me and ask 'What did you say?', so I asked them if they knew what Heaven looked like and gave them a tract about Heaven and I kept walking. I passed out more than 50 tracts about Heaven to the occupy protesters. Yes it is a little intimidating to do that, but God protected me and God used me. While I was walking through the middle of their group, Paul was walking around the outside so they could read his signs. There were other evangelists up on the hill along the sidewalk preaching the gospel to their crowd. All in all it was an amazing situation. It was interesting to watch the Houston police chiefs plan how

to contain that protest without any problems. I'm sure all of the evangelists working together helped the Houston police prevent worse things from happening. Evangelists preach against sin, so that helped the police prevent bigger problems. Better yet, evangelists know the real reason that God let occupy come by; because God wants them to hear the gospel.

After the protest slowed down I went back to my spot. Then Steven came through and asked me to hold his sign while he went to find food or something. So I held his sign to cover one side of my sign facing the traffic. His sign said "Lost Vegas rigs NFL, NBA, Nascar, PGA, MLB. Read 'The fix is in' God hates man's pride." While I was there a police officer drove by and gave me a 'thumbs-up' I think he was part of the police security for the NFL's scripted performance. A man walked by and asked 'Hey preacher, who is going to win the game?' My answer to those questions is always 'Lost Vegas'. I try to make sure they hear the 't 'in Lost Vegas, and most of the time that person or his wife will look back and agree with my answer.

When we started doing street evangelism about 10 years ago, we got suggestions from several different people. One guy gave us a poster stand with trick questions. The idea was to use the trick questions to persuade a drunk person that they needed Jesus. I didn't find much success talking to drunk people outside of bars, because they already made their decision, they want more sin right then. After that we found a group of evangelists with big signs saying God hates sinners. We never tried that approach because those messages lock the rebels into a lost and hopeless future. Another person convinced us to go into Target and Walmart parking lots on black Friday and give those covetous idolaters a tract and a fast sermon before someone calls security. We tried that several times, but we didn't find much success there either. The people standing in line for black Friday sales know what they want and it's not a tract, or a sermon.

When we started using signs, I was writing a short sermon in 8 or 9 lines, but it was too many words and the letters were too small, most people couldn't read them while watching the traffic light. Now we are using 3 or 4 lines and getting many responses. The challenge is finding how to make my point clearly in 3 or 4 lines and not be misunderstood and not be harsh, or too soft. Many people wave or honk or 'thumbs-up their amen, and I wave back. Some people stop right beside me and say thank you and God bless you, and others take pictures because my signs strengthened and encouraged them in their relationship with Christ. This is easy to do, and it feels rewarding. Every time I go I find people who appreciate me for caring enough to remind, strengthen and encourage them in their relationship with Christ. We try to pick a busy part of the day and go for 2 hours.

We have another good story to share from last November, December and January this year. We picked 3 large and busy intersections just before Thanksgiving. The first visit was quieter than normal at all 3 locations, we got some amens but not as many as I expected just before Thanksgiving. But in the process of 10 weeks we saw a dramatic change of heart among many people. One my first signs said "Why do you want and fight for stuff you can't keep forever? Live for Jesus only" The other sign said "God has given you many kindnesses. Are you thankful, or greedy for more?" The first day didn't seem very successful, but a few days later at the same place was more successful. We try to use different signs each visit. After several visits there is a noticeable improvement in 'thumbs-ups, waves, honks and people taking pictures. Some of the other messages were "Christian does TV feed your sins? Toss it as evil and live for Jesus only".and "Lost Vegas rigs NFL...", One time a NASCAR

driver and his wife drove by with a strong agreement. Another sign says "Do you laugh at the shame of sin, while sin hurts your soul? Jesus can save you." Another sign said 'Jesus' love calls you back to obey Jesus' teachings'. That sign is 36" x 46" and it's a 3 line sign so the letters are 6" to 8" tall. Cars can read that size sign as they drive by at 15 to 20 MPH and express their amen, and some of them have time to take a picture. We kept preaching at those corners until early January and saw a noticeable improvement. With our signs, we teach more in 3 or 4 lines than most pastors preach in a morning service.

We have found this approach to street preaching to be very rewarding, are hoping that more Christians will start doing this in their city. We wrote an article listing 60 of our favorite signs and how you can get them on white chloroplast or print them on paper and attach them to cardboard and seal the paper with clear spray. You can find that article at Fishing Stories on Steven's Face book page.

You can find that link here:

<http://www.incpu.org/fishing-stories-street-signs.htm>

<http://www.incpu.org/fishing-stories-street-signs.pdf>

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Thanks so much for joining us. We would love more prayer partners, so as you remember us, please pray that we keep growing spiritually, in wisdom, and in sharing the gospel on the streets and in homes, as well as encouraging honest followers of Christ to walk away from more sin and sin-pleasures and sin-entertainment and to walk in newness of life, following the footsteps of Jesus the Christ.

Oh, and one more thing before I go - How can you share Jesus with someone this week - Christian or unbeliever? Ask God to open an opportunity and He will.

Till next time, let's keep growing in the Word (the Bible) and sharing the gospel and Jesus' teachings with everyone we can. May God bless you as you seek and serve Jesus the Christ.

~ a growing servant/life-slave of Jesus, SH

