

Fishing Stories

*following in the footsteps of the FisherMan,
Jesus: Messiah, Master, Savior*



Fishing Stories from the Kentucky Derby - May 2013

www.incpu.org/Fishing-Stories-KY-Derby.pdf



Greetings friends and brothers and sisters
in Christ :)

Welcome to today's edition of 'Follow a
Fisherman' ~ I'm your host, Steven Henry
:)

When you think of Kentucky, what do you think of? Cumberland Falls? That's a pretty place, btw ~ how about horses? Now... what do you get when you mix horses with gambling? Why, the Kentucky Derby, of course :) ~ That's where we and 40+ others went, because they too need to hear the good news of the gospel. Every year, thousands of people come for this event, and this was our second year.

This year was better than last year in some ways. Last year, there were only about 10 of us out there, plus a few from the local area. This year, there were about 36 on our team, and a dozen or two from local churches and ministries. It's encouraging to see more people out there trying to make sure that those around them can go to Heaven! The 36 or so of us had great fellowship and some Bible studies Thursday, then passed out tracts Friday and Saturday. Looking forward to it next year too! :)

Okay, so now for some stories. ~ My family got to pass out some newly printed tracts - the '**Who is He?**' tract, and the '**Freemasonry and the Bible**' tract. You can find them here:

<http://www.incpu.org/who-is-he.pdf>

<http://www.incpu.org/ms-tr-darker.pdf>

They were well received :) ~ So, anyway ~ my brother (Paul) and I got to preach both days at the gate where the upper snobbish rich people go :) ~ We call it the 'elite gate' with its grand entrance and people in fancy and flashy clothes. But, most of what we did was offer tracts to those who passed by.

Friday morning, I was warming up the mic and working into preaching to the sparse early crowd. And, for some reason, I was talking about how all the religions are man's way to feel good about themselves, but that they all excuse and ignore sin and it's consequences (something on that) ~ and a lady walked by and stopped when I mentioned masonry and eastern star. She just stayed and listened to me preaching through 1st John, and then when it looked like she was about to leave, I offered her a tract on freemasonry and she took it gladly, and said: *'Thank you - I was a part of eastern star, but I never knew what it was about.'* I told her that the tract would help her and she thanked me for it :) That was kind of a neat start. And Friday had a lot of neat interactions with people who were thinking about eternity and their need to get ready. At a certain point (after a couple of hours) I was done preaching through 1st John and the starting chapters of Matthew, and I started handing out tracts to the passing crowds. As per normal, lots of no thank-yous, 'polite rudeness', etc. Most often the reaction was more like - *'I didn't even see you there and I'm not looking at you'* - kind of response. My hope and prayer for those people though, is that God used me being there to get them to remember eternity (though they tried to ignore it) and that He will keep working on them, and that hopefully some will repent someday. Even still, quite a few people took our tracts (knowing what they were and took them) and from what we heard and saw, people were taking the tracts from everyone. The Friday crowd (which I heard was the local one) was pretty nice to work with. Saturday was a different issue.

Saturday morning - everything looks fine :)... that is, until about 10AM :) ~ then, it started to 'spit'... then it increased a little to a light sprinkle and pretty much did that the whole day. Lots of fun! :) Or not :P ~ but, even still, we did get some good interactions. Among the people who took the tracts on Saturday (from me) was a lady officer. Most officers say no thank you and/or cannot take them while on duty. So, I don't expect them to take one. But, this lady happened to walk through and said no thank you along with the crowd, but then she apparently stopped - walked back several steps and then took them from me. I was grateful and prayed that she treasures those tracts and that God uses them in her life :)

One thing all of our team was able to do is find God's strength to keep being kind and offering tracts - even during the rain. And, apparently some of the officers, etc - noticed and appreciated that dedication. One guy who asked what we were doing and why was just someone in the crowd - named Houston. He was surprised that we were there and asked what the tracts were and why we were passing them out among this highly-religious crowd. [religious - yes, saved - many.. no :)] So, we had a good conversation and I challenged him to get in God's Word regularly, and specifically Matthew, Mark, Luke and John because the only way to know what Jesus said and to grow in obeying and following Him - is to read His words :) ~ The other convo later on in the day was the one that surprised me though.

Over the course of two days, we had plenty of friendly interaction with the officers and military police that were there. (I though *posse comitatus* made US military police on US soil illegal?...) Anyway, so we interacted with them and then on

Saturday, between crowds, one young man - named Jared, asked me why we were there. The conversation went something like this:

Jared: So do you live locally?

Me: Nope - we live in Florida.

Jared: Oh! That's a long drive.

Me: Yeah - about 21 hours.

Jared: Wow. So, do you travel to a lot of events?

Me: Well, some. Mostly Super Bowl and this - Kentucky Derby. We've been to 5 Super Bowls and this is our second time here at the Derby.

Jared: Ok. So, do you get paid to do this?

Me: Nope. We pay to come to this - and for our food, etc.

Jared: So, why do you do this?

Me: Because all around us are people who are going to die and go one of 2 places - Heaven or Hell. And, it's our wish to take as many with us to Heaven as we can, because many walking by us, though they're probably religious, they aren't saved because they have repented of their sins and they don't know Christ. Many think they do know Him, but they're deceiving themselves. (referenced Matthew 7:21-23)

Jared: *agrees* ~ So, does this make you feel better to do this? Do you do this to make yourself feel better?

Me: No. We do it because we genuinely care about the souls of those around here, like we do at home. And, like we care about your soul...

Conversation then focused on him - he was still surprised that we would pay money to go share the gospel somewhere so far away from our home. He lives nearby with his family. I reminded him of the key points of the gospel message - we must repent: turn from our sin, hate it, ask for God's forgiveness. We must trust Jesus' payment for sins - that His blood covers our sins. And we must dedicate all of our lives to Him - God accepts no partial commitments. He interacted with all of that, in between traffic. After that 15-30 minute convo, it was clear that his mind was thinking - and kept thinking for a while. He changed shifts at a certain point to another location, but came back a few times (because of what he was doing) and he made sure to interact as he did. ~ So, as you think of it, pray for Jared too - that he becomes genuinely saved.

A bit after noon, my family went to get lunch and we ate at one of the restaurants nearby - one that we had eaten at the year before. We sat down and had the same waitress this year too - which was cool. Her name was Patti - young, too used to the party scene. As my family and I talked about the day and the conversations and the idolatry of it all, etc ~ she wandered through several times - and she appreciated that we cared about her, personally. All too often, I see that the background people - waiters, clean-up crew, limo-drivers, etc - get overlooked and ignored as though they are nobodies. We need to make sure that we try to show them care and get the gospel truth in their hearts and minds, and hands when we can. This time was one that God allowed us to do that and to minister to her. She did tell us as we were close to wrapping up that we were her second customer that day - meaning she had made

very little for the day. We left a tip with her and gave her gospel tracts that we were handing out. She seemed to appreciate both. We pray that she treasured them and reads them several times, then opens the Bible herself and starts to read and study it. ~ Please pray for Patti.

Another group we met there were a missionary family from New Zealand, who were on furlough and sharing the gospel here while on break :) ~ They had one of the neatest families :) ~ and they had another family with them, a family who had just lost the dad - an active evangelist. I don't remember either family's names, but pray for them too, when you read this.

So, that's all for now. I hope it's both encouraged you and maybe inspired you to either try sharing the good news of Jesus with someone you need to/want to, or encouraged you as you are doing it regularly. ~ Please remember to pray for us and others like us!

Till next time, let's keep growing in following in the Footsteps of the THE Fisherman ~ Jesus the Christ. ~ your growing brother/friend, SH :)