

A Divine Appointment - by Bob MacDonald

As is my habit I went out on a Thursday morning to do some witnessing, using the Way of the Master outline as my plan. Every time I go out, I pray for the Lord to give me divine appointments. On this particular Thursday I also prayed, "Lord give me a divine appointment". The Lord was faithful to give me several. From one particular divine appointment, two applications will flow that have changed my life and I believe will help you.

I got my cup of coffee at my regular "fishing hole" (where I go witnessing) and looked for the first individual to share the good news of Jesus Christ with. I saw an older gentleman. I approached him, sat down and began a casual conversation. In the course of casual conversation, he asked what I did and I told him I was a pastor. Before I even had an opportunity to witness to him, he said to me, "Be sure you tell your people about hell". I was taken a little back by this but went on to tell him that the reason I was in this coffee area was to witness to people about Jesus Christ. I was out witnessing so people would not go to hell. This older gentleman began to quote scriptures and encouraged me that people need to hear about hell and that the salvation that is available to them. He indicated that preachers had forgotten to preach about this important topic. He said things would go better for me if I were to preach on and tell people about the reality of hell. I know it may sound strange, but at one point I thought to myself, "Is this guy an angel giving me a message from the Lord?"

Since I've taken the Way of the Master course, my preaching has changed and my emphasis of ministry has changed. I have been stirred that people are going to hell without Jesus Christ. I've been stirred that people do not understand what sin is without knowing God's Moral Law (the 10 Commandments). People do not know they have broken those Laws. I include God's Law in my preaching and each week I go out to witness because I realize people are headed for hell.

All of us as ministers of the Gospel need to be stirred with this reality that there is a real hell that people are headed for. If we do not tell them, who is going to tell them? They will be deceived into thinking that they can live anyway they want and still get to heaven. This divine appointment stirred me and I hope it stirs you to include telling your people about the reality of hell.

It is in the light of the reality of hell and a coming judgment day that we best understand the love of God. "God is not willing that any should perish". "God so loved the world that he sent his only Son . . . so that none should perish" "Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

I continued to listen to my new found friend. He said, "As a preacher, tell your people the Lord is coming soon and they need to get ready". He encouraged me that we do not hear enough preaching about the second coming of Jesus Christ. He talked about Matthew 24 and the events that are going on around the world today. He repeated several times that the return of Jesus Christ is very soon. This older man sitting across from me said this, "Tell the people to get ready and it will go better for you."

We finished up our conversation. I gave him a million-dollar bill tract and then said a prayer for him. He got up to leave and I went on and found another person to witness to and was able to share the Gospel with that person.

It has been several weeks since that “divine appointment”. I have had other divine appointments since - but somehow this one was different. God stirred my heart and I believe these two points are a message that we all need to hear. We must continue to present the reality of hell to the people that we are called to minister to. Encourage them that they need to talk to the ones in their circle of influence because those ones will go to hell without Jesus Christ.

Also, we must tell the people in our church that Jesus Christ is right near the door. We need to preach on holiness. We need to tell the people to have their lamps trimmed and ready. We need to say that Jesus Christ will come just like “a thief in the night” and the Lord expects us to be ready. The time is near for our Savior to return. We must be ready!

Let your heart be stirred even as mine has been. I’ve been impacted. I’ve told my church about these two points. I’ve told the Way of the Master class that I teach about these two points. I’m telling you - be bold and preach about the reality of hell. Be bold and preach that Jesus Christ is coming soon and it’s now time to get ready!