

Paul H. Dixon: I want to thank the quartet. That was great. They represent a very fine college, Grand Rapids Baptist College and Seminary. I understand the group, the entire group's going to be singing a little bit later and I appreciate that school. I have opportunity to minister there from time to time in their Bible conference and other sessions. I personally think that Dr. Welch is one of the finest leaders in the fellowship. I want to recommend that you young people give serious consideration to Grand Rapids looking into all their programs and what they have to offer and also the other schools.

As I said yesterday, it's thrilling to think that we have something like 5,000 young people and our approved GARBC schools. Here are nine schools, all with different personalities, just as churches have personalities, all having strengths and weaknesses, some will have a program that you're interested in and you will study it out. You'll say, "Now, that's the place for me to go. That's where God wants me to go." Someone else will look at another place and you'll be interested in something else. They'll be a little bit stronger in that area, but do look into the schools and I want you to pray for the schools.

One of the things I tell our young people is, "Hey, one of the greatest things in the world is the fellowship that we can have with our sister schools and to be able to pray for each other and to be thanking the Lord for each other as we move on in this great cause of Jesus Christ." You'll want to go by those displays back there as well. Some of the men are back there representing the school and pick up some of the literature and ask some questions about particular areas you would be interested in.

Yesterday, we looked at the teenager and the will of God. Today, I want us to take our Bibles and our pens or pencils and your note paper and we're going to look at the teenager and a lost world, the teenager and a lost world. Take your Bibles please and turn to the 19th of Luke, Luke 19th. It was April the 13th, 1970, Apollo 13 was streaking toward the moon. All of a sudden at 10:08 p.m., an explosion rocked that spacecraft. There came the voice of astronaut, Jim Lovell. He said, "Houston, we've got a problem." What a problem they had.

For the first time in the history of the space program, we had men out there in space and we did not know that we could ever get them back to Earth again. From all over this nation, people started to pray. The doors of churches were thrown open and people entered in to pray. They prayed in homes. We watched eagerly the television to get the latest report and listened on the radio, and finally, with all the ingenuity that our great people in the space program could muster and all the instructions they could give, there was the splice down in the ocean.

Those astronauts were picked up by a helicopter and flown to a ship. When they stepped off of that ship, someone asked John Swaggart if he had prayed. He replied, "I sure did. I believe the prayers of a lot of people are the only reason we're here today." An entire nation, anxious, praying for three lost men. Would

the God that we would get just as concerned about practically an entire nation and world around us that is going to be eternally lost unless we've reached them with the gospel of Jesus Christ? Are men really lost? Teenager, do we have a grasp of what it means, a lost world?

One of the great passages in the Bible on the lostness of man is Luke 19, and I would like to read 1 through 10. In your notes, you just put the teenager in a lost world, and then under that, write Luke 19:1 through 10, "And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho, and behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich and he sought to see Jesus who he was and could not for the press because he was little of stature, and he ran before and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him for he was to pass that way, and when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and saw him and said unto him, 'Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must abide at thy house,' and he made haste and came down and received him joyfully.

When they saw it, they all murmured saying that he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner, and Zacchaeus stood and said unto the Lord, 'Behold Lord, the half of my goods, I give to the poor, and if I've taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.' Jesus said unto him, 'This day is salvation. Come to this house for as much as he also is the son of Abraham.'"

Underline this 10th verse. In fact, if you've never memorized it, you should do so for the son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Just let me give you a little tip here about your scripture memorization, somehow keep track of all the verses you memorize.

Now, there's several ways to do that. Of course, in your notebook you can do so, but an easy way to do it, and I started this years ago when I was in college, I was saved right before I went to college, and there were two or three things I started and God used some students who were part of the, who'd been influenced by the navigators and were very disciplined and they helped me in some things. They helped me to get ahold of a good wide margin Bible so I could take notes in my Bible.

Number two, they helped me to get started in a diary system. We called it the seven-star diary so that I could keep track of all the messages I would ever hear, keep track of my schedule through college and things like that. Then, number three, they taught me how to mark my Bible.

One of the things they taught me how to do is every time you memorize a verse in the Bible, very simply put a circle or parenthesis around the number of that verse. If it's Luke 19:10, you just put a circle around verse 10, and that means every time you're reading and you come across that verse, "Hey, I'm supposed to memorize that verse," and it's easy to review and reflect back. If you don't review it and use it, you'll lose it. This is a thing you can do in helping you to

memorize. Do memorize Luke 19:10, "For the son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

There are three things that we're going to especially note this morning. In your outlining, the best way to outline is to begin with Roman numeral one. Here we have this morning, just like we did yesterday, our title and then our passage and now Roman numeral one. The need today is to have the great conviction that men are lost. It's a little longer than I usually give, but I'll give it again. The need today is to have the great conviction that men are lost.

If I were to ask all of you today, how many of you believe that men are lost, I'm sure that all of us would raise our hands. That's not my point. Maybe it's just purely semantics. I don't know, but it occurs to me that a lot of people believe things that never move them. Now, I'm sure we might question whether they really believe it, but my point is that when something becomes a conviction, it becomes a motivating factor in your life. It becomes a driving force. It becomes an obsession. That's the need today, not just to pay lip service that we believe the heathen are lost, that great message last night by Dr. Ketcham.

Donn has been at the college for our missionary conference back in January and he just brought message after message that moved our college family. You listen to these missionaries and this is a conviction with them. Donn Ketcham has the conviction that those people in Bangladesh are going to hell unless someone gives them the gospel of Jesus Christ and they get saved. That's what you need as young people today to have the great conviction that men are lost. Jesus had that.

When I look at this passage of scripture, you know this happened on his way to the cross. When we come to Luke 19 and Jesus is moving down the Jericho Road and passing through Jericho, he's on his way to Jerusalem to die at Calvary, but on his way to die, he stops under a tree and saves Zacchaeus out of the treetop. This isn't the only place where you get the impression that Christ had the great conviction that men were lost.

You see him at night going out and talking to a man by the name of Nicodemus, a lost religious leader. You see him going out of his way to talk to a woman no one else would talk to because she was an adulterous. She had five husbands or five men she'd lived with. She was a Samaritan. She didn't fit with the crowd who followed Christ and yet he went out of his way to see this woman and to talk to her about her soul and to save her soul because he had the great conviction that she was lost.

You study the life of Christ. Let me give you a book to write down. I hope you're a reader. Write down the book, The Great Physician by G. Campbell Morgan. Be a reader, young person. Get that in your library, The Great Physician by G. Campbell Morgan. It's how Christ dealt with unsafe people during the course of his earthly ministry. Christ had the great conviction that men are lost.

I begin studying history and I find the same thing. Henry Martin, the great missionary to India, went over to India and this was his prayer, "Here, let me burn out for God." Why? Because he had the great conviction that India was lost. George Whitfield got on a boat and crossed the ocean 12 times in a small boat to preach to Americans because he had the great conviction that 13 American colonies were lost and someone had to tell them about Christ.

Jim Elliot and his friends went to Ecuador. They're in their mid-20s and right after I was saved, I can remember back in about 1956, there was a headline in the paper, five Missionaries Martyred in Ecuador. You must read. Put this on your reading list, Through Gates of Splendor, Through Gates of Splendor and Shadow of the Almighty. Both accounts of those five young men, Through Gates of Splendor, Shadow of the Almighty, especially about Jim Elliot, but these young men went with their wives over there to Ecuador and they died with Indian spears sticking through their backs, 23, 24, 26 years of age. Why? Because they had the great conviction that an obscure tribe of Aka Indians was lost and someone had to tell them about Christ.

History tells us that every great movement and awakening for the Lord Jesus has come when someone or someone's caught the great conviction that men are lost. That's Roman numeral one. Roman numeral two. There is the need today to hear the great cry that men are lost. The need today to hear the great cry that men are lost.

Now, the first one was to have the great conviction. The second is to hear the great cry. I want to work through Luke 19 again, okay? Let's go back and read it again. Jesus is entering and he's passing through Jericho and there's this fellow here by the name of Zacchaeus. Now, we don't know much about Zacchaeus. We know he was a Jew because Zacchaeus is a Jewish name. We know what his occupation was. He was chief among the Republicans. That means, he was the head tax collector. What you might want to do is just in the margin of your Bible next to publican or out in the margin or something, write tax collector.

We also know that he was a wealthy man. The scripture says he was rich. Now, the only way you became a rich IRS man in that day is if you were crooked and there were a bunch of crooks running around and here's a Jew collecting taxes from the Jews for the Romans. He was hated. He was despised. He was despicable. He walked around with a chip on his shoulder and he sought to see Jesus. He'd heard that Jesus was coming to town. He heard so much about him. He wanted to see Jesus, but he couldn't because they were just crowded with people.

All along this road, Jesus was walking down the road and perhaps hundreds, maybe even thousands, jamming the roadside, Zacchaeus tries to get there, but he can't. He's short. He's a short man. The scripture says he was little of stature so he can't see over their shoulders, but I like a guy like this. You can't stop him. We get some kids at the college who are a pain in the neck. I mean, they are

always giving us bits, but I try to be patient because I have found that some of those kids with all of that energy and all that creativity and all of that, just a little bit way out thinking are some of the kids that if they hang in there, God's going to get ahold of that and channel that and use them for his glory.

I like Zacchaeus. You can't stop him. There's no way that you can stop a fellow like Zacchaeus. He wants to see Jesus and he is going to see him. You know what he does? He goes down the road and he spots a climbing tree. Have you ever seen a climbing tree on a parade day that's not full of 9 and 10, 11-year-old kids? There's kids hanging all over the tree and they're looking down and they're just grinning and they're having a great time running all over the branches and so forth. Look down and here comes a grown man shimmying up the tree.

Now, can you imagine Dr. Tyler, dignified member of the Council of 18, climbing a tree to see Ronald Reagan? Huh? Can you imagine you're pastor climbing a tree in a parade day to see the mayor or someone who's coming to town? I have the tallest pastor in the fellowship, I think, Pastor Paul Jackson. My, what a wonderful pastor, but oh, my pastor's dignified. I cannot dream of him ever climbing a tree to see anybody.

Zacchaeus has absolutely no dignity. He could care less what you think or what you say about him. Zacchaeus just shimmy up that tree, pushes the kids out to the ends of the limbs. He's sitting there in the box seat, the best seat in the house, grinning from here to here, watching Jesus all along the way. Jesus gets right under the tree, looks up and says, "Zacchaeus." I wonder he didn't fall out and break his neck. Man, I didn't know he knew me. He knows my name. "Listen, my sheep hear my voice, I know them and they follow me." That's what Jesus said. Zacchaeus make haste, come down, for today, I must abide at thy house. Scripture says, Zacchaeus made haste.

Let me ask you a question again. You know I am impressed. I am really impressed. I sat up here on the platform yesterday and I love the size up crowds, size up people and study people. I looked at this crowd of young people and I said, "This is one of the most mature groups of young people I've ever spoken to at a national conference." I guess I've spoken to this youth meeting in about, I don't know, three, four, five, about five out of the last six years, I guess I've been speaking to this group.

But you know what? This is one of the most mature group that I've ever seen. Intelligent, amazing potential. Don't break out an applause. I heard one. Amen. I don't know whether that was a youth worker or the young men, but I heard it. I want to ask this intelligent group a question. How do you make haste out of a sycamore tree? Hey, you got it, right? Jump. Old Zacchaeus jumps out of the tree and he got saved somewhere between the limb and the ground. A great, oh, he got saved and he goes home and Jesus is going with him. All the religious leaders stood around and said, "Look at that. Jesus is going home with the biggest crook and sinner in town."

You know how they criticized him and they tore him up? Didn't make any difference. He had a job to do. You say, "Brother Dixon, how do you know that Zacchaeus got saved?" Two ways, number one, his life was changed. Say, "How do you know that?" Well, look down here, the scripture says in verse eight, "Zacchaeus stood and he said unto the Lord, 'Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if,'" and you might want to do this, in the margin of your Bible, up over the word if, just simply write the word, what.

The Greek word translated if is the same Greek word for what. He is not suggesting that if he's stolen anything, he's going to give it back. He's saying, everything I have stolen, what I have stolen, I'm going to give it back fourfold. It's what the law taught. He wanted to obey the law. Leviticus chapter 22, verse 1, excuse me, Exodus 22 verse 1, "I'm a crook, Jesus. Everything I've stolen, I'm going to give it back fourfold."

Now, look up for your Bibles a minute. Gang, has your life been changed? Every time an invitation is given in your church and we established yesterday, about 98% of this crowd come from Christian homes. Every time the invitation is given, you raise your hand. You say, "Yes, I'm saved." When the pastor gives it or the evangelist gives it or the missionary gives it, you say, "Yes, I know I'm saved." Has your life been changed?

I have a real problem with people who say I'm saved, but there's never been any evidence that the life has been changed. If you are here this morning and you are a professing Christian, but you have absolutely no heart for God and you can't ever think of a time when you did have a heart for God, I really want you to examine yourself, as I said yesterday, to see if you're be in the faith. If you're really saying. No, I'm not saying that if you're having a problem with sin, that means you're not saved.

All of us have a problem with sin. All of us still live in the old bodies. I'm not saying you have to be perfect, but what I am saying is that somewhere along the line, if you truly were born again, you should have a heart for the Bible and had a heart for prayer and a heart for living for the Lord, just a heart for God. When Zacchaeus got saved, his life was turned around. That's one way I know he saved.

Number two, I know he was saved because the Bible said so, Jesus said in verse nine, "This day is salvation. Come to this house." It's the best way to know your save because God's word says so. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved. I may not feel saved, but the Bible says that if I'd called, he'd saved me, I called and he must have saved me. Now, I want to ask you a question, as far as we know, only one person got saved that day. All the scripture records, Zacchaeus. Why Zacchaeus?

Well, you say, "I guess the only explanation is the sovereignty of God." Well, I certainly believe in the sovereignty of God and believe that as Jonah said,

"Salvation is of the Lord," but there's another side to that coin and it's called the responsibility of man. Here is a responsible individual up there in that tree and he is crying out something no one heard but Jesus.

Now, he goes around town with that chip on his shoulder, haughty, cocky, acts like he could care less what anyone thought or said, but down deep inside there's a great big hole. He's empty. He's eaten alive and he's reaching out for help. He doesn't know what the answer is, but he's looking for something, somebody who can help him. The only one who heard him was Jesus.

Again, back to our major point, we need to hear the great cry that men are lost. Jesus heard his cry. Gang, all around you are young people who are crying out for help. What do you think the drug scene is really saying? I have never had any interest in drugs. That is mind blowing to me why someone would dabble and mess around with drugs, but if your life is empty, I can understand it.

What do you think the new morality and the pre-sex and the loose living scene is saying? It's a young lady saying, "I am insecure. I want somebody to love me. I want to know I'm important to somebody." It's a young man who's saying, "I need love." You've never experienced the love of God? Know that security that comes when God demonstrate his love toward us and while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, you're reaching out, you're crying out.

I don't have to tell you what the music is saying. The music of the day is one, great, big, loud, beating cry for help. John Fischer, the editor of Harper's magazine, said, "I'd like to start a new university and right across the front of that university, what must we do to be saved?"

Neil Simon who wrote Odd Couple and Barefoot in the Park said, when he was interviewed on one of the television talk shows, he was asked whether a lot of money concerned him. He said, "No. What does concern me is that I'm going to have to die."

Lennon and McCartney wrote, and I especially think of these words since John Lennon was shot and killed and since the man who shot him was put on trial this week, they wrote, "All the lonely people, where did they come from? All the lonely people, where do they belong?" They wrote another song that goes like this, "He's a real nowhere man sitting in his nowhere land, making all his nowhere plans for nobody. Doesn't have a point of view, knows not where he is going to, isn't he a bit like me and you?" Think of that and John Lennon in eternity this morning.

Young people all around us are people crying out for help. They're saying, "We're lost." We must not only have the great conviction that men are lost, we must hear their cry. They are trying to tell us they're lost. Roman numeral three. The need today is to heed the great commission to reach the lost. The need today is to heed the great commission to reach the lost. Roman numeral

one, the need today is to have the great conviction that men are lost. Number two, Roman numeral two, the need today is to hear the great cry that men are lost. Number three, Roman numeral three, the need today is to heed the great commission to reach the lost.

In Luke 19, Jesus is on a heavenly commission. If I were to ask you the question, why did Jesus come? In fact, you may be around some skeptic someday and they will say, "Why did Jesus even come to this Earth?" Give them Luke 19:10. He said it, "I have come to seek and to save that which was lost." Jesus said, "I have a commission. I am sent from heaven. I have volunteered to come from heaven to seek and to save that which was lost." "Jesus, why are you going to Jerusalem to seek and to save that which was lost? Why are you here in Jericho under that tree? Why are you going home with Zacchaeus to seek and to say that which was lost?"

Listen, gang, it's one thing to have the conviction that people are lost. It's another thing to hear their cry. It's something else to do something about it. As I begin to move through this book and I move out of the gospels, I move into the Book of Acts and I see that before we get into the Book of Acts, the last thing Jesus said is, "Come on around, man. I'm going to pass this commission onto you. Now, I'm leaving, but I want you to go into all the world and preach the gospel and I want you to make disciples and I want you to baptize them in the name of the Father and the my name and in the name of the Holy Spirit."

Then, in Acts 1:8, we get into the Book of Acts and right before he ascends, he says, "Guys, come on around one more time just in case you missed it, you're going to receive power." What we talked about yesterday? Spirit filled life, you're going to receive power. After that, the Holy Spirit has come upon you and I want you to be witnesses unto me." Where? Right there in Jerusalem where you start and then branch out to Judea and then in the Samaria, and then I want you to go into the uttermost parts of the world.

You say that was for the apostles? No, that was for the disciples. You say that's for the preachers? No, that's for the disciples today. That's for the saints today. That's for your moms and your dads and the deacons and the trustees and the Sunday school teachers and your church. That means it's for every young man and every young lady who's here this morning who names the name of Christ, you are to be spending your life reaching a lost.

I was in a meeting and one night I gave an invitation like I am going to give this morning. I invited very simply people to come and say, "I've been a failure. I've been backslidden. I've not been doing what God called me to do and save me to do in reaching the lost, and I want to publicly say, that with God's help there are going to be some changes made. I'm going to go at this business of what God has called me to do."



People started coming. When it was all over, I took the whole group. We had prayer publicly and then I sat them down in section right over here and I gave them some simple tips. I'll not have time to meet with the group this morning. You'll be starting another session. I'll give you the tip ahead of time. I said, "Number one, I want every one of you tomorrow morning to get up and every day the rest of your life and hit your knees and start the day with this prayer, 'God, I want your divine appointment for today.'" Write that one down. God, I want your divine appointment for today. God has somebody for you to talk to today. After you pray that prayer, you be alert to God's opportunity.

Number two, I want you to go through the day with a New Testament on your person. You're a girl, young lady want you to have it in your purse. You're a young man, you can have it in your pocket someplace. It doesn't have to be a big one, but just a New Testament. Number three, I said, I want you to have some gospel tracks. In that particular meeting, I said, "Number four, I want you to have some invitations to the meeting, some cards that you can give out and invite people to come."

Well, we closed in prayer. I don't know how many did what I told them to do. You never know, but I know there was one teenage girl, 15 years old. Next morning, she got up, she prayed for God's divine appointment for that day, got her little New Testament, got her gospel tracks, got her cards, inviting people to the meeting, put them in her purse and went to school. She was in Pennsville, New Jersey.

She sat in the Pennsville High School and her algebra teacher walked in. He was also the track coach. He stood up there and said, "I'm not teaching today. I've had it with you kids. I've had it with the drug scene. I've had it with the immorality. I cannot stand what I'm seeing. I'm about to get my family, put them on a plane and fly to Australia, but before I escape this mess, I want to give you kids a chance to defend yourselves. Is there any kid in this class who can tell me what the answer is to all of our problems?"

Here's a girl who got up that morning and prayed for God's divine appointment. Here's a big guy up in the front of the class saying, "What must I do to be saved?" Was she scared? Did that surprise you? Wouldn't you be? Well, I would be. Let me tell you something, okay? Sometimes those of us who preach can sure make it sound easy. I want you to know it is never easy. I want you to know it's scary and I want you to know I blow it all the time. I will take advantage of all the opportunities God gives me just like you don't. I'm as nervous about talking to that guy on the airplane right next to me as you are talking about that teenage neighbor of yours.

This girl scared stiff, but she asked God to help her and she raised a hand hoping he wouldn't see it and he saw it. She said, you have, he said, "Do you have the answer?" She said, "Yes." He said, "What is it?" She said, "Jesus Christ." He said, "See me after class." She went up to him after class. He said, "Tell me more."

She said, "Well, I don't tell it very well, but all I can do is tell you that Jesus saved me, and here's a gospel track and you can read that. By the way, there's a guy preaching down in our church, if you'll come and listen to him, I think he can tell you far more than I can on Friday night."

This agnostic walked in. Sat in the very back row. I preached a simple gospel message and gave the invitation, down the aisle he comes. Gave him to the deacon. The deacon took him aside and led him to Christ. When that math teacher and that track coach walked out and grabbed my hand, he said, "I came in here. I didn't even believe the Bible, but I just got saved. Jesus just saved me." I said, "That's wonderful."

Next night, he brought his wife. It was thrilling. I preached, gave the invitation. I saw him lean over to his wife, found out later he said, "Look, you go down there and get the same thing I got last night." Down the aisle she came and she got saved.

I can still remember a few years ago when Don Tyler and I were in a conference, I think out in Kansas, and he said, "You know what? We're starting a new school, a new Christian school." He said, "I need a math teacher. Do you have anyone to recommend?" I said, "You know, I remember a fellow back in Pennsville, New Jersey. He just might be interested." Don wrote him and he came and he was teaching in Don's Christian high school. Then, he felt called to preach. Brother, I don't know whether you know it or not, but you have him in Clark Summit. He's in your seminary. I believe he has served an internship at your church as well, Don. Went off to seminary with the family.

God is using him today, but wait a minute, where did it all start? It started with a 15-year-old girl who had the great conviction that men were lost, heard the great cry and heeded the great commission. God wants to use you. May he enable you to be used. I want you to bow your heads with me all. I want this young lady from Grand Rapids just to play. Could you play for us just as I am? Just play it softly.

My first question is this, how many of you would say, "Brother Dixon, when you talk about your life being changed and really knowing you're saved, I'm not sure. I'll just level with you. I'm not sure I'm saved, but I'm concerned about that and I'd like for you to pray for me." Those who'd say, well, you just raise your hand. Let me see it. If you're not really sure you're saved, just raise it and maybe you've never done this before. Would you say pray for me? I'm not sure I'm saved, Brother Dixon. Okay.

I don't think I see any. Maybe I miss some, but if you're not saved, be sure and seek us out and let us know and let us help you. A second, I wonder how many young people will say, "Brother Dixon, I'm saved. I could raise my hand and say that, but I just haven't been doing diddly to try to get other people saved. There's a lost world and I've been so wrapped up in self. I haven't been

witnessing. I have been endeavoring to lead people to Christ and God has used this passage in Luke 19 to speak to my heart. Brother Dickson, I want you to pray for me that my whole life will be turned around and I'll get busy at this thing of evangelism, not when school starts, but this summer. God's convicted me. I want to get involved in evangelism." Those who would say that, can I see your hands? Great. Great. Are there others? Let's stand together, shall we?

Father, hear the prayer, answer the burden on the hearts of these young people, scores of them, all over this auditorium you've spoken to. God, what you can do this summer through these young people who would be effective witnesses for you, give them the boldness. Take away the fear. I pray, God, you'll turn their youth groups around and you'll turn their churches around because of decisions they'll make in our making in their hearts this morning, for Christ's sake. Amen. Do you look this way, please? We are going to sing two verses of just as I am. That's all. If you don't know it, just hum.