

ISSUE 73
August 16, 2014

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 10:13

Promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Inner City.

Illustration, photography, graphic design and journalism by Jim Robinson, unless otherwise indicated.

Most all pictures link.

Past editions of The Soulwinner can be obtained from jartworks.org

the **SOUWINNER** One soul at a time

Jesus Shames the Wealthy Leaders

Pharisees Murmur Over His Healings

Understanding Jesus' ministry from when He was here over 2000 years ago can help one be a better soul winner. Sometimes you see a reason why a person does not want to be saved and you can work him through it. Very often, it is the sin of pride that prevents people from getting saved. They feel their good works will get them into Heaven. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Pharisees of Jesus' day walked in the law—they followed every precept, or so people thought. They felt that they did not need a Savior or their sins to be forgiven, especially not by a man from Nazareth. Yet, this man had healed people as evidence to having the power of God. Who better to trust? Still, the stubborn Pharisees only gave more and more murmurings as to why Jesus was not the King of Israel.

The poor man received Jesus gladly (Mark 12:37). Jesus could teach him about how to live peaceably with one another, about the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God. He could teach them about God Himself. That is why Jesus spent most of his time healing the poor—they had respect for him. Unfortunately, the religious leaders stirred up the poor against Jesus when He was being judged for crucifixion. At one time the poor were hailing him a King, another time they were condemning him to death. That is the persuasive power of the wealthy religious leaders over the poor.

Several times when Jesus was addressing the people He gave answers to the religious leader's questions that shamed them in their foolishness to reject Him (Mark 3:1-6). The religious leaders felt that their own good works justified them before the Lord. In the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican it was made clear that the Pharisee was not justified (Luke 18:9-14). One has to accept the fact that he is sinner that needs forgiveness in order to be saved from Hell. It is not our works that justify us before God. We are all equal at the foot of the cross.

When God created man he made him perfect. Man was not a sinner in the Garden of Eden until Eve persuaded Adam to eat of the Fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Once original sin passed into mankind he became corrupt. A sacrifice became necessary to wash away the sin, and it came in the form of an unblemished lamb. That lamb was a picture of the human sacrifice of

Jesus Christ that would come some 4000 years later. In setting up this ordinance, God prepared the world for Jesus Christ.

At the time Christ came, Jerusalem was the capital for the Jews and their culture. All of the most important men of the Jewish religion conjugated in Jerusalem, but we find that these men did not accept Jesus, even after all of



Jesus is shown here teaching from the ship off the shores of Galilee. This is where the New Testament church started. The poor and common people heard Jesus gladly, but the religious leaders were jealous and angry with Him, plotting to kill Him. Jesus taught the people many things about God, living peaceably with one another, finances, the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God.

the miracles he performed. Why? They were envious and jealous of Jesus. No religious leader at that time could perform a miracle, and Jesus' miracles were undoubtedly authentic. Jesus was exposing the reality of what had happened to the Jews. They failed to keep their eyes on the sacrifice for sins, the Messiah, and they had their eyes on power and wealth. They were expecting a Messiah that was to be a king and free them from Roman rule. They were Zealots.

You will see the attitude of the Pharisees very often when you go soul winning. Catholics as well as many other denominations are a *works-salvation church* meaning that the members of the church are working their way to Heaven. These people are hard to get saved because they often refuse the simplicity of *salvation by grace* (not by works) which is something Paul spoke fluently about in the book of Romans.

Order inexpensive Bibles

