

The Way of Salvation

INTRODUCTION: It is so easy to be saved—complicated for God, yet so simple for man. God said, "Come." Revelation 22:17, "And the Spirit and the bride say. Come. And let him that heareth say. Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." The way to get saved is to come to Jesus and trust Him by faith. It is the simple plan that God has made.

I. OUTWARD CONDITIONS AND EMOTIONS VARY WITH DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

The resulting feelings have nothing to do with salvation. Salvation is when a person realizes he is a sinner and that Christ is the Saviour and so by faith he turns to Christ for salvation.

1. When the Apostle Paul was saved, the light shining around Paul didn't save him. Paul's falling on his face didn't save him, nor did the blinding save him. All of a sudden Paul said, "Who art thou, Lord? Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Acts 9:5a, 6b. That is what being saved is.
2. Matthew was sitting one day at the seat of customs when Jesus came in the room. Matthew just left all and followed Jesus. See Matthew 9:9.
3. The Bible tells us that Zacchaeus was up a tree when Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down: for to day I must abide at thy house." Luke 19:5. Jesus went home with Zacchaeus, and Zacchaeus trusted Him and was saved.
4. The thief on the cross simply said. "Lord. remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Luke 23:42b.
5. The publican in Luke 18:13c beat on his breast and said. "God be merciful to me a sinner."
6. The eunuch in Acts 8:36b said. "See. here is water: what doth hinder me to be baptized?" He then answered the witness of Philip, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (Acts 8:37c) All of these men got saved by trusting Christ. There may have been different circumstances, environments, emotional responses, and atmospheres. Salvation is wrapped up in one thing: just coming to Christ. Luke 14:17b, "Come; for all things are now ready."

II. NEW TESTAMENT FIGURES OF SPEECH SHOW SALVATION.

1. Getting saved is like letting someone in the door. Read Revelation 3:20. If a friend came to see me and rang the bell or knocked on the door, I would say very simply, "Would you come in, please?" He would come in. Jesus said that salvation is like that.
2. Getting saved is like taking a drink of water. Some people get so thirsty that when they take a drink of water, they say, "Whoo-oo!" Some say, "Ahh-hh." Some just swallow it, and that is it. Who gets the most water? How it makes you feel doesn't have a thing to do with it. Jesus said getting saved is like taking a drink of water. You take a drink, and He comes in!
3. Getting saved is like receiving a gift. See Romans 6:23. Give a person a gift. He takes it. Is it his? Absolutely. Salvation is that way, the Bible says. Jesus is God's "unspeakable Gift." Eternal life is God's gift to man. Anybody who will say, "I am willing to receive the gift," can very simply receive the gift of God.
4. Getting saved is like going through a door. Read John 10:9; 14:6. Jesus said that on one side is eternal life; on the other side is eternal death. The difference is a door. Everybody who realizes he is unsaved and will say, "Dear Lord, I do accept You, and I come through the door of Jesus to salvation," becomes God's child that very moment.
5. Salvation is like going home. A boy in Luke 15 decided to leave his father and go to a far country. He took

all of his goods, went to a far country, got in trouble and, in despair, found a job feeding the hogs out in the hog pen. He finally started feeding himself the husks off the corn that the swine would not eat. Then in Luke 15:17b he said, "How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!" He came back to the father, and the father received him. Salvation is just "going home."

6. Getting saved is like saying, "Yes," to a proposal. A young man asks a young lady to marry him. She may laugh, or she may cry as she answers that she will marry him. She may say, "Oh, wonderful! YES!" Or, she may simply say, "Yes," or "Oh, (sob) yes." No matter how she may say it, she still has done the same thing. Jesus says, "Will you be married? Will you come to Me? Will you trust Me?" If you say, "Yes," you are saved. If you say, "No," you are lost.

7. Getting saved is like accepting an invitation. In Luke 14:16, Jesus told the parable of the man who "made a great supper, and bade many." In Matthew 11:28, Jesus said, "Come unto me...." God says, "I have made a great banquet feast. I have prepared salvation. It is a gift. Would you come? Come!" Somebody will say while weeping, "You bet I'll come. I'm so far in sin, I'll come." Somebody else very seriously says, "Yes, I need the Lord. I'll come." Others may come rejoicing or shouting. The thing that makes you saved is when you say, "Yes," to the invitation to come to Jesus Christ.

8. Getting saved is like taking a bath. See Titus 3:5. Remember, Jesus is the One Who bathes you and makes you clean. He cleanses all who come for "the washing of regeneration."

9. Getting saved is like putting money in the bank. Two fellows go to the bank and each one puts in \$100.00. One says, "Oh boy! I saved \$100.00." The other quietly says, "Me, too." Each has saved \$100.00. A person is saved when he says, "Yes, I will deposit my soul to Jesus' keeping." See 2 Timothy 1:12b, "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

10. Getting saved is like eating a meal. In Matthew 22:4, we read the words, "...all things are ready." Consider the many ways of eating gravy. Some people "sop" it; others eat it with a spoon; yet others put it on toast; and still others break biscuits into it. Again we see it isn't how you reacted when you got saved. It is: Did you trust Jesus?

III. OLD TESTAMENT TYPES SHOW THE SIMPLICITY OF SALVATION.

Old Testament types show how simple it is on our part to be saved. To be sure, when you come to Christ your sins are forgiven, you are made a new creature, the Holy Spirit comes in to live, you become one of God's children, and you will go to Heaven. Getting saved is a big thing, but it is God's part that is big! All we do is take it by faith. Notice these Old Testament types:

1. The coats of skins God offered Adam and Eve. See Genesis 3:21. They took them, and that is all.
2. The ark in Noah's day. Read Genesis 7:7. They had to come inside the ark.
3. The little lamb that was slain. Notice Leviticus 3:7, 8. The Jew had to put his hand on the head of the lamb.
4. A brazen serpent on the pole. See Numbers 21:8. Those bitten and dying could only look at that brazen serpent and be saved.

CONCLUSION: Teacher, now is the perfect time to offer salvation to your pupils. Close the class time with a serious invitation. Urge each class member to be sure of his salvation.