**SIGHT & SOUND**

**TEXT: John 4:35 (Jesus said) Lift up your eyes , and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.**

**INTRO.:** A. ***Tell me and I’ll forget, show me and I might remember, involve me and I’ll understand.*** This is a maxim we should remember! The Lord’s first spectacular lessons took place at **creation**. What a marvelous display as He created the universe! Talk about **SIGHT & SOUND**!!! How about the beautiful heavens with all the stars, planets, sun and moon! The rushing sound of the waters of the seas. The beauty of the animals, birds, flowers and fruit. But wait, none of this was heard or seen by anyone but the Lord. But it was not created for His benefit, but for ours. So he created man. He **visibly** **showed up** daily to commune and **communicate** with Adam.

 B. The **signs, wonders, sights, symbols, miracles and preaching** throughout the Bible were all given to point us to our wonderful Creator and Savior. The Lord used visual and audible methods to point us to Himself. Think of the millions of **animal sacrifices** which involved **sight, sound, touch, taste & smell. The Tabernacle and Temple and the garments of the High Priest** were visual aids pointing to our Savior and His redemption. Our Savior’s **parables** were word pictures – often involving visual objects as well; **birds, fields, fruit, trees, people**, etc. His **miracles** were both **sight and sound** methods of teaching; **healing, walking on water, production of food…**

 C. He left the Church with two striking visual lessons to remind us of the price He paid for our sins: **baptism and the Lord’s Supper**. Paul preached on Mars Hill using **a statue** to the unknown god of the Greeks as a visual aid. The **sign gifts** of the early church included **gifts of speech and hearing as well as healing**. Powerful visual and audio aids. While we can’t produce signs and wonders, we can use objects, stories, illustrations, demonstrations, costumes, role-playing, technology, etc.

**I. SIGHT:**

A. The Meeting Place:

 1. Good lighting.

 2. Attractive and clean.

 3. Décor. (banners, pictures, visuals – at eye level for the students, uncluttered and

 changed frequently.)

 4. Visuals – displays should match the message/lesson.

**ILLUS.:** We live in a visual society where students are bombarded with pictures, images, and text continuously from smart phones, TV, computers, etc. Use whatever you can to effectively communicate. ***Adapt.***

 B. The Medium:

 1. Flannelgraph still works, but even kids these days are technologically savvy. Try to

 stay relevant.

 2. Use **plants, coins, water, food, animals** and whatever else would be appropriate

 to the lesson – Example: Lazarus resurrected (use someone wrapped in grave

 clothes)

 3. Use the medium suited to the age group you are teaching.

 4. Vary the medium, don’t become boring.

**ILLUS.: Fraidy Cat Rabbitt (witnessing)** Simple “magic” tricks or illusions are available and demos are given on YouTube, etc. Tricks may be purchased on line. Choose only those that will illustrate the lesson before purchasing. Know what you want to communicate.

**II. SOUND:**

A. The Message:

 1. The medium should never overpower the message!

 2. What you are teaching should be conveyed clearly regardless of what visuals, etc.

 you may be using.

 a. You must have a clear objective to every lesson or message.

 b. You should be able to articulate that objective in a short sentence.

 c. You need to keep that thesis in mind throughout preparation & presentation.

**ILLUS.:** Jesus was a master at honing in on His subject and only used visuals, miracles, etc. to strengthen His message. Example: ***“Consider the lilies…”*** to teach about contentment. ***“Consider the ravens…”*** to teach about God’s provision for His children. When Paul spoke about **soldiers, farmers, boxers**, etc. he was conjuring up images to illustrate the characteristics of the believer. When he spoke of **the armor of a believer** he knew his hearers all knew about the uniforms of Roman soldiers.

 B. The Mastery:

 1. Know how to use whatever equip., visuals, etc. you may use to convey your

 lesson.

 2. Learn new mediums to help you be an effective communicator.

 3. We are engaged in the most serious activity in the universe dealing with the

 eternal destiny of men’s souls; we dare not be sloppy!

 5. We are communicating truths which are eternal and we need to be serious, spiritual

 and clear.

**CONCL.** Unlike our Savior we cannot perform miracles, and unlike the Apostles we cannot heal, raise the dead, etc. and do not have the sign gifts of the early church, but we can utilize whatever **audio, visual, role-play, demonstrations**, etc. we can to effectively communicate the life changing lessons God would have us to declare.

 Obviously of the 5 senses of the brain the two most easily and frequently used are **SIGHT & SOUND!** However let us use whatever we can to efficiently and effectively seal the lessons in our hearers minds and take every opportunity to make each session as memorable as possible.