

# Lesson 4

## Why They Need To Be Saved

**Thesis:** This lesson is designed to teach the believer the priority of showing people that they are lost and in need of salvation and the tool God has given us to do that.

### Memory Verses:

† **Acts 4:12 — 12;** *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

- ⇒ When did you recognize you were lost in need of salvation? What in your life caused you to understand your need to be saved?
- ⇒ Today we are going to look at the importance of teaching people why they “need” to be saved. Until people understand their need of salvation they will never understand their need of the Savior.

### 1. People must understand they need to be saved

#### a. What is the difference between a “want” and a “need”?

- i. Can you live without something you “want”?
- ii. Can you live without something you truly “need”?
- iii. **Sometimes you will hear people say,** “You know, I want to get saved but there is just a lot going on in my life right now.” (OR) “I want to get saved but I’m just not ready to make that kind of commitment in my life.”
- iv. **Have you ever heard someone say,** “You know, I need to breath air but there is just a lot going on in my life right now, I may try it later.” (OR) “I need to breath air, but I’m just not ready to make that kind of commitment in my life.”
  1. What is wrong with these two statements?
  2. You don’t question whether or not you do something you “need” to do.

#### b. Why do people need to understand Jesus is a “need” and not a “want”?

#### c. What does Acts 4:12 say we must do? Must be saved

† **Acts 4:12 — 12;** *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

#### d. Until people realize salvation is a “need” and not a “want” they will not be willing to give up their sins, time, and life to Jesus Christ. But when people do realize there eternal soul’s salvation is a “need” they will be willing to cast everything down at the foot of the cross and cry out to God for mercy, with no chains attached to this world.

### 2. People will never understand they need a Savior until they realize they are Lost

#### a. If you asked the common person, “Who goes to hell?” what do you believe their response would be? \_\_\_\_\_

↳ Do most people believe they are “bad enough” to go to hell?

#### b. If I asked the common person on the street, “How do you get to heaven?” what would be the common response? \_\_\_\_\_

- c. Why must a person understand they are lost before they will turn to Christ?
- i. Before a farmer plants good seed into the ground, what does he do? Plows the soil
  - ii. Before a mechanic says what needs to be fixed on a car, what do they first need to do? Diagnose the problem
  - iii. Before a doctor gives medicine or advises a surgery, what do they first do? Diagnose the problem
- d. The problem is, people do not “understand” their lost condition and their need of the Gospel. Jesus spoke of the priority of people understanding the truth in order to be saved and bear fruit in the parable of the farmer in Matthew 13.
- i. **Matthew 13:19 — 19;** *When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*
  - ii. **Matthew 13:23 — 23;** *But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*
  - iii. What is the difference between the man in verse 19 who bare no fruit and the man in verse 23 who was saved and bear fruit? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. How do we get people to understand their “need” of salvation?

### 3. God’s tool to show people they are lost is the law

- a. The reason most people believe their good works will earn them into Heaven is because they are ignorant of their sinful condition. For someone to be saved they must first realize they are lost, dead in their trespasses and sins, and the way you do this is by showing them their guilt under the \_\_\_\_\_ law \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- i. **What do you learn from Paul in the following verses?**
    - † **Romans 3:19–20 —** *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: **for by the law is the knowledge of sin.***
    - † **Romans 7:7 —** *“I had not known sin, but by the law”.*
- b. The law is the divine tool that breaks a self-righteous & hard heart up to receive the Gospel. The law was never meant to save a person; it was only meant to show a person their need of salvation. It is the tool that exposes our sin and lets us know our desperate need for a Savior.
- c. Read Galatians 3:24, what does Paul call the law and what does it do? \_\_\_\_\_
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- † **Galatians 3:24 — 24;** *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*
- d. The law is simply God’s mirror that reveals our sinful condition. Our responsibility is to take people to the law which will then expose their sinful condition before a holy God and in turn show them their “need” to be saved.
- e. **Before you share the cure to man’s sin, you must explain to people their disease. What doctor gives medicine to someone before explaining their disease? But if the doctor said, “you have 10 clear warning signs of a terminal disease; you will be dead in 2 weeks! You must take these pills to survive.”** Now the person “understands” their need and will respond. Jesus Christ is the cure to man’s incurable “sin-cancer”. You don’t explain the cure until you explain the cancer. I never share what Jesus Christ did for someone until they are

prepared to receive it. His sacrifice will be cheap, un-necessary, and un-needed to them. Before we can plant the seed of the gospel, we must prepare the heart for grace and this is done by using the law of God. Before a farmer plants good seed into the ground, he breaks up the soil to prepare it to receive the seed. Gods law breaks up the heart to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

4. Example of how to show someone they are guilty before God's law and "need" to be saved

- a. **Ask:** "If you were to stand before God and He asked, "Why should I let you into heaven?" What would you say?" No matter their response, say, "Let's see what the Bible says".
  - i. **Read: Romans 3:23** – "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" and ask them, "What do you believe that verse means?"
  - ii. After I read Romans 3:23 with them I ask them, "What is sin?"
    1. **Read: I John 3:4** – "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth (violates) also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."
    2. **Example to help them understand:** "Why is going 55 mph in a 35 mph zone wrong? You are breaking the law. In the same manner, God has set laws up and when we "break" or "violate" those laws we sin."
  - ii. **Question I then ask is:** So what are some of God's laws? **The 10 commandments**
- b. Let's look at just 5 of the ten commandments and see how we do
  - i. "Thou shalt not have any other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3) Jesus summarized this verse in **Mark 12:30** – "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." Have you ever broken this at any time of your life? (Note: if you have ever sinned, at that moment was God 1<sup>st</sup> place in your life?) That would make you an idolater. **Would you be innocent or guilty?**
  - ii. "Thou shalt not take God's name in vain" (Exodus 20:7). Have you ever done this? The Bible calls this "blasphemy". **Would you be innocent or guilty?**
  - iii. "Thou shalt honor thy father and mother" (Exodus 20:12)? Have you always done this? **Would you be innocent or guilty?**
  - iv. "Thou shalt not steal" (Exodus 20:15) Have you ever stole anything? What would that make you? Thief **Would you be innocent or guilty?**
  - v. "Thou shalt not bear false witness" (Exodus 20:16) Have you ever lied before? What would that make you? A liar; **Would you be innocent or guilty?**
- c. Out of 5 of the 10 commandments, how many have you broken? \_\_\_/5
- d. So if you stood before God would you be innocent or guilty of breaking God's laws?
  - i. **Romans 3:19** – "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: **that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.**
- e. So if you are guilty what would happen to you when you die? (No matter their answer say, "Let's see what the Bible says will happen".)
  - i. **Have them read: Revelation 21:8** – "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and **all liars**, shall have their part in **the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**
  - ii. Ask them, "So according to the Bible, what would happen to you if you were to die?"

*iii.* I then ask them, “**How does that make you feel?**” *Pretty bad; scared; not good, ect.;*  
(Don’t feel bad to scare people with this truth, it should scare them and their sin should make them feel bad.)

- **NOTE:** If you bring up hell to someone who thinks they are “good enough” to go to heaven and do not realize their sinful condition, it will be totally unreasonable to them, but once a person realizes their sinfulness before a holy God, hell makes sense.
- **NOTE:** At this point I haven’t mentioned a word about Jesus or his death on the cross for their sins. I first prepare their heart for grace, if you tell them of Jesus death too early grace will be cheap and meaningless to them. Remember most people don’t need a Savior (in their mind because they believe they can be good enough to get to heaven.
- **Once a person realizes they are guilty sinners before God, and their punishment is an eternal hell, they are ready to be saved, because they realize they need to be saved.**

**5. How do we “NOT” show people salvation is a “NEED”?**

- a. By turning the Gospel into a “life-enhancement plan” where people don’t have to repent of their sins and give their life to Jesus. Where Jesus is only there to “bless and prosper” them in their life. By making the Gospel all about improving their physical life instead of saving their souls. Jesus didn’t die to give us a better life, He died for us to save us from eternal judgment in hell.
- b. Sadly many Christians try to “sell” Jesus to their lost friends. They put Jesus “on sale” like an infomercial; that “*if you accept Jesus now you can have eternal life and still get to keep living in your sins; just say this 10-word prayer and it’s all yours today!*”.
- c. **What did Jesus say would happen if people became followers of him?**
  - † **John 15:20 — 20;** *Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. (John 16:33)*
  - † **2 Timothy 3:12 — 12;** *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*
- d. **Here is a story of that can help clarify this truth:**
  - i. (Man number one) He is told if he **wants** to improve his flight and have the best flight he could have, to put on a parachute. So believing it will improve his flight **he tries it** on. Very soon he finds it uncomfortable and he is not able to sit up straight. Than people on board begin to tease him and laugh at him and talk about him because of the parachute. Finally, he gets so upset he rips off the parachute and throws it to the ground. The rest of his life he talks bad about the parachute because of the great tribulation and persecution he received from it.
    - 1. Why did he put the parachute on? \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2. How does he handle persecution? \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. (Man number two) He is told that the airplane is 25,000 feet above ground, and that they are experiencing a fuel leak which will cause the airplane to crash before they reach a landing zone. The man is told he **needs** to take one of the parachutes that are hanging on the wall and put it if he wants to be saved from the crash. Immediately the man gets up, puts on the parachute, and returns to his seat. He realizes that it is not as comfortable sitting in the airplane seat with a parachute on, **but he didn’t put the parachute on to improve his flight, but to save him.** Some of the other passengers on board have not yet heard the message of the coming crash. As they see this man with a parachute on they begin to tease and laugh at him. But instead of being offended by the parachute, he tells the other passengers of their need to put on a parachute.
    - 1. Why did he put the parachute on? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How does he handle persecution? \_\_\_\_\_

**iii. How does story apply to sharing the Gospel?**

- Charles Spurgeon said: *"Lower the law and you dim the light by which man perceives his guilt; this is a very serious loss to the sinner rather than a gain; for it lessens the likelihood of his conviction and conversion. I say you have deprived the gospel of its ablest auxiliary [its most powerful weapon] when you have set aside the Law. You have taken away from it the schoolmaster that is to bring men to Christ."* Another relevant Spurgeon quote: *"They will never accept grace until they tremble before a just and holy law"*.
- Francis Schaeffer says this: *"If I had one hour with every man, I would spend the first 45 minutes talking to them about God's law, and the last 15 minutes talking about His great salvation."*
- John Wesley: *"Before I can preach love, mercy and grace, I must preach sin, Law and judgment"*.