



Gipsy Smith

We Should Have Listened To Gipsy Smith

On March 31, 1860, Gipsy Smith was born in a gypsy tent. He was converted to Christ on November 17, 1876. He began preaching almost immediately after his conversion, travelling around the world preaching to crowds numbering in the hundreds of thousands. It is said that he never had a meeting without conversions. In the Paris Opera House, he had 150 conversions out of *"...the cream of society."*

He preached a series of messages in Brooklyn and between 300 and 400 people trusted Christ as their Saviour. In a meeting in New York, Mrs. John D. Rockefeller was present. He preached a message on "Repentance." He said, "I only remembered that they were sinners needing a Saviour."

Gipsy Smith said, *"I didn't go through your colleges and seminaries. They wouldn't have me...but I have been to the feet of Jesus where the only true scholarship is learned."*



The picture above shows Gipsy Smith with a band of gypsies in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in January, 1909, sitting outside their wagon, beside one of their tents. Gipsy is in the center, holding the puppy.

God used Gipsy Smith to win thousands of people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

He died on the Queen Mary on August 4, 1947, during his forty-fifth crossing of the Atlantic. Over 100 years ago, Gipsy Smith warned about a new philosophy of ministry that was beginning to change our approach to winning people to Christ.

He said, *"I am afraid that in our zeal to get people into the kingdom or the church we have lowered the standard. I am afraid that in our zeal*

to get people into what we call the church, we have been more anxious about heads than hearts. In order to capture, we have compromised and lost. We have been more concerned about filling our church registers than we have about the kingdom.”

We have developed a slick sales approach to witnessing to the lost. We offer an incentive. We say, *“Would you like to know that you will go to Heaven when you die?”* Jesus never offered an incentive salvation.

Gipsy Smith won thousands to the Lord under the power of the Holy Spirit. He did not use a slick no repentance sales pitch that says just pray a prayer. We should have listened to his warning. How quick we are to warn Catholics that just praying a prayer won't save anyone, and yet we believe that just praying a prayer, minus repentance, will save us because we call ourselves Baptists.

We should have listened to Jesus, *“Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”* (Matthew 4:17)

We should have listened to John the Baptist, *“Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.”* (Matthew 3:1,2, 7, 8)

We should have listened to Peter, *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”* (Second Peter 3:9)

We should have listened to Paul, *“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.”* (Acts 17:29-30)

We should have listened to hundreds of sermons and books written by Godly preachers during past centuries that stood for repentance as taught in the Word of God.

Acts 5:42 *“...they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”* It was all about Christ. It was not about people going to Heaven.

In Acts chapter two, we have a record of Peter's message. About half of his message included quotations from the Word of God. He focused his message on Christ. He did not focus on them going to Heaven.

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