

“You Can Lead A Horse To Water . . .”

by Wayne Goff

“You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink.” This is a proverb which means that you can give someone an opportunity, but you cannot force them to take it.

The expression is believed to have dated back to 1546, but I cannot help but wonder if it hasn’t always been basic common sense. What application am I making of it now?

Well, when you see Bible workbooks that aren’t filled out, when you see bored eyes staring back at you from a sermon, when you ask a Bible question and get no response, then I am reminded of this proverb.

You see, “going to church” isn’t equivalent to “getting something out of it”! My father used to say, **“If you want to get something out of the sermon, then you better bring something to get it in!”** Little or no spiritual preparation is a sign of spiritual negligence or indifference. It is easy to see how people can get into this state of mind — there are **no immediate consequences** to spiritual indifference. So people ignore the Bible, get bored at Bible classes or preaching, and see others doing the same thing, and conclude that this stuff just isn’t for them! They do not realize the grave danger into which they are placing their souls and how that danger will have serious repercussions before long!

Old Testament prophets often got a “stone wall” response from their listeners. Jesus said that the Jewish people stoned those who came to warn them, and we shouldn’t be surprised today when others reject the message one way or another.

Yes, you **CAN** lead a horse to the water, but you cannot make him drink — even if he **NEEDS** to do so! You **CAN** preach a sermon, teach a Bible class, write a religious article, etc., but you **CAN’T** make people appreciate the Divine Revelation contained therein. Sad!

Dear reader, do you come to worship more ready to hear than to offer the sacrifice of fools? See Ecclesiastes 5:1.

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