

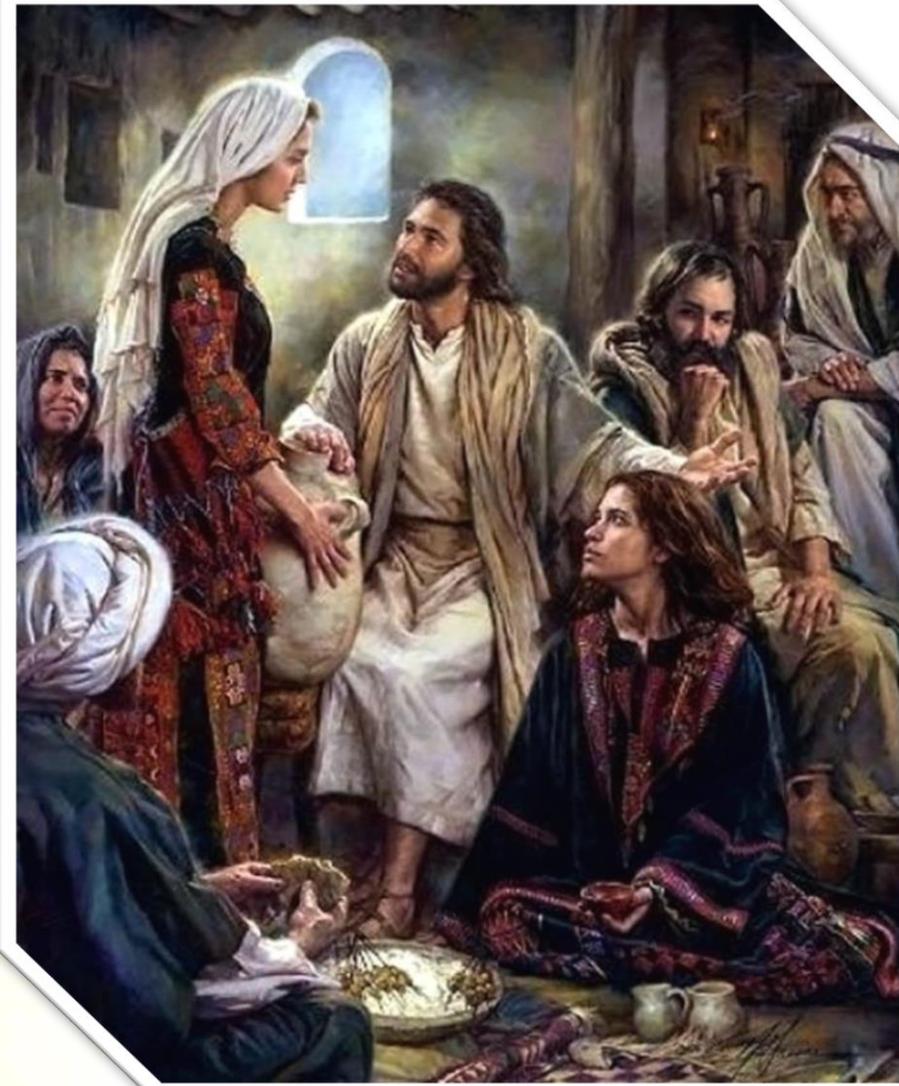
JESUS WON THEIR CONFIDENCE



Lesson 10 for September 3, 2016

WHAT IS CONFIDENCE?

"And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You." (Psalm 9:10)



Jesus desired the good of people, showed sympathy and ministered to their needs. Then, He won their confidence.

They trusted Him because they saw a strong and steady commitment in Him.

The word "confidence" is closely related to believe, having faith.

We must be trustworthy in order to win the confidence of people. We must be people that can be trusted and that bring confidence and assurance.

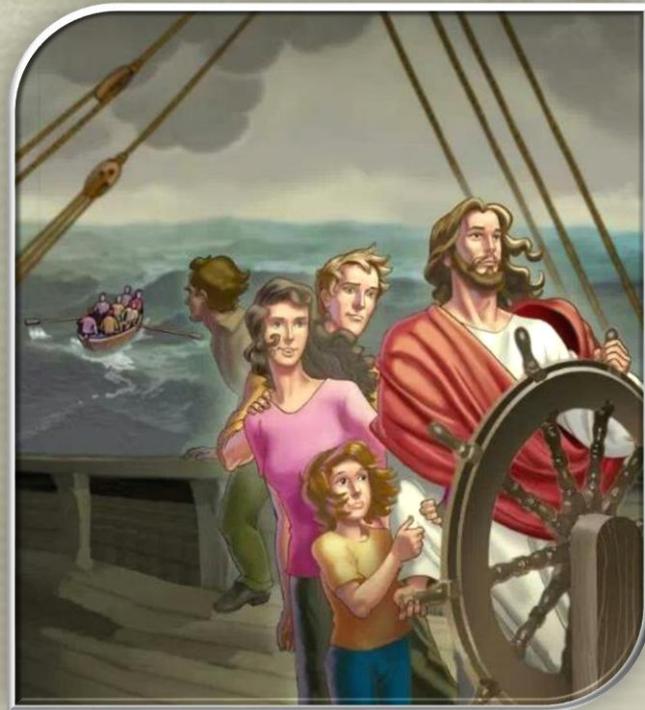
WEAKNESSES OF HUMAN CONFIDENCE

"Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help." (Psalm 146:3)

Confidence is related to God in the Bible. He is the only One that can be fully trusted.

Nevertheless, having confidence in men is almost always related to negative terms in the Bible (for example, Micah 7:5).

We are not very trustworthy, just check the story of Israel and the Christian Church. We are too imperfect and too sinful (1Co. 5:1).



How can we become trustworthy? People will trust us because of our services to the community. We must point them to Jesus, the only One that can be trusted.



WINNING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE LEADERS

“Choose a good reputation over great riches; being held in high esteem is better than silver or gold.” (Proverbs 22:1 NLT)

There are some examples in the Bible of people who won the confidence of pagan leaders:

Joseph



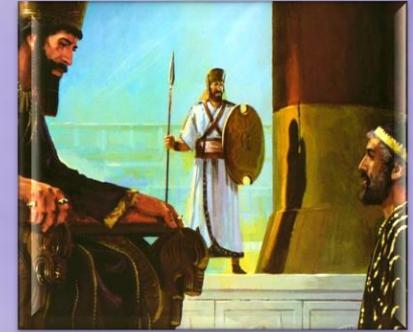
God “gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.” (Acts 7:10).

Daniel



“Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.” (Daniel 6:3).

Ezra



“He was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given. The king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the Lord his God upon him.” (Ezra 7:6).

They won the leader’s affection, so they gain “social capital” which they used to help the community.

USING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE LEADERS

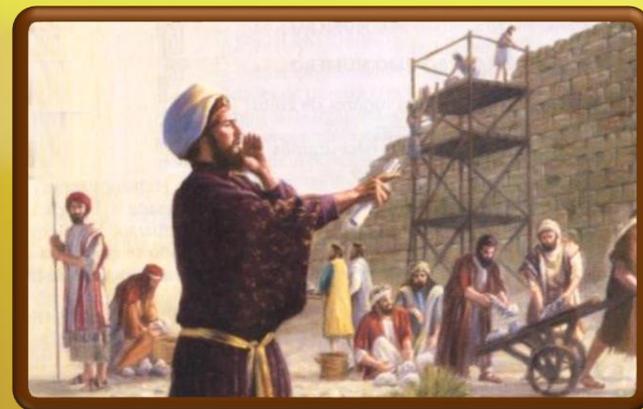
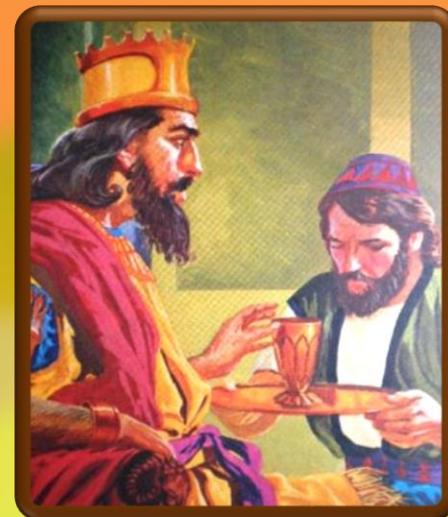
“Furthermore I said to the king, ‘If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah, and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king’s forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy.’ And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.” (Nehemiah 2:7-8)

It is hard for a small church to help the community because of their limited economic resources.

The “social capital” that comes from relating to the secular leaders is helpful.

We can ask them about the needs of the community, ask for their advice and act according to their answers. They will provide resources to do the social work for the community.

Nevertheless, we must establish some limits in those relationships. The Church must never jeopardize her principles.



“The Lord still moves upon the hearts of kings and rulers in behalf of His people. Those who are laboring for Him are to avail themselves of the help that He prompts men to give for the advancements of His cause.... These men may have no sympathy with God’s work, no faith in Christ, no acquaintance with His word; but their gifts are not on this account to be refused...

As long as we are in this world, as long as the Spirit of God strives with the children of men, so long are we to receive favors as well as to impart them. We are to give to the world the light of truth, as revealed in the Scriptures; and we are to receive from the world that which God moves upon them to give in behalf of His cause.... O that Christians might realize more and still more fully that it is their privilege and their duty, while cherishing right principles, to take advantage of every Heaven-sent opportunity for advancing God’s kingdom in this world!”

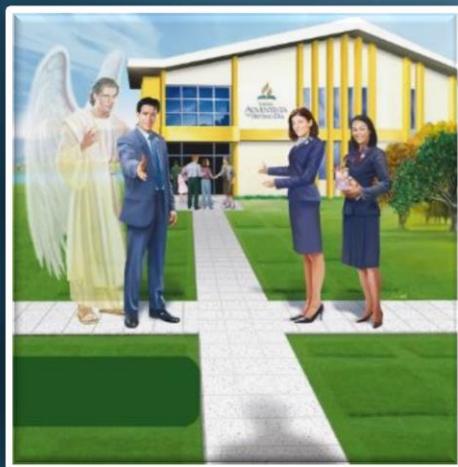
E.G.W. (Conflict and Courage, September 14)

WINNING THE CONFIDENCE OF PEOPLE

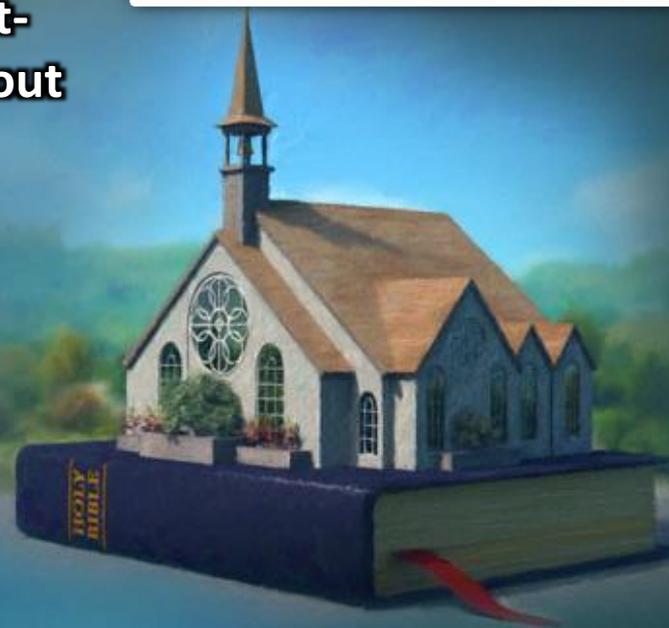
“Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’” (Deuteronomy 4:6)

The Adventist Church has a biblical truth to share with the world. Unfortunately, people aren’t interested in listening to that message.

God has provided an efficient method for the Church to win the people’s confidence in the End Time. That’s our health message which is the salvation message’s right-hand. It will make the people want to know more about the truth we preach about.



What would happen if our local church disappeared? Would the community miss us? Are we being helpful as a Church to the people around us?



“Medical missionary work is the right, helping hand of the gospel, to open doors for the proclamation of the message...

Doors that have been closed to him who merely preaches the gospel will be opened to the intelligent medical missionary. God reaches hearts through the relief of physical suffering.”

E.G.W. (Evangelism, section 16, pg. 513)