

## “ON THE HOUSETOPS”

### INTRODUCTION

- A. In twenty-first century America, housetops are not thought of as places where people are likely to spend a great deal of time.
- B. In ancient Palestine, however, housetops were different.
  - 1. **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 9:25-26**  
People might actually spend the night on the top of the house.
  - 2. **Deuteronomy 22:8**  
Because they were flat, these roofs were legally required to have low walls on them to prevent accidental falls.
  - 3. **Psalms 129:6**  
It was not unheard of for grass to grow on a housetop, although it would not be expected to remain.
- C. In this study, we shall go to the housetop to consider what might take place there.

### I. FAITH AT WORK ON A HOUSETOP

- A. **Mark 2:1-12**  
Because the house was so crowded where Jesus was preaching, He was practically inaccessible. Going to the housetop proved the faith of the paralytic’s four friends (5) because they were so persistent in bringing him to the healing power of Christ.
- B. **James 2:17-18**  
The friends of the paralytic showed their faith by their work.
- C. **Luke 11:5-10**  
The Lord appreciates and rewards persistence.
- D. What lengths are you willing to go to in order to demonstrate your faith?

## II. PREACHING ON THE ROOFTOPS

### A. **Matthew 10:26-27**

Jesus instructed His disciples to preach from the rooftops in order to publicize the gospel.

### B. The gospel cannot be known without preaching.

#### 1. **Titus 1:1-3**

It is through preaching that God's word is manifested.

#### 2. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:21**

God saves those who believe through preaching.

#### 3. **Romans 10:13-15**

a. In order to confess the name of Christ, one must first believe.

b. In order to believe, one must first hear the gospel.

c. In order to hear the gospel, it must be preached!

### C. Therefore, it is necessary that we enthusiastically proclaim it!

#### 1. **Mark 16:15**

Jesus said so!

#### 2. **Acts 8:4**

Our ancient brethren set an example for us.

#### 3. **Romans 1:15**

Paul was ready.

#### 4. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:16**

Paul considered it woeful if he wasn't preaching.

#### 5. **Acts 4:20**

Knowing what we do in the gospel obligates us to present it.

### D. Are you so sure of the gospel that you would shout it from the rooftops?

## III. PRAYER ON THE ROOFTOP

### A. **Acts 10:9**

*"Peter went up on the rooftop to pray."*

- B. Prayer deserves privacy.
  - 1. **Matthew 6:6**  
This is what Jesus taught.
  - 2. **Mark 1:35; Matthew 14:23**  
He exemplified this, as well.
  - 3. **Acts 12:5, 12**  
This does not preclude public prayer, however.
- C. Do you set aside time to communicate with God privately?

#### IV. LUST FROM THE HOUSETOP

- A. **2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 11:2-5**  
From the secrecy of a rooftop, King David coveted his neighbor's wife.
- B. Such lust is forbidden.
  - 1. **Exodus 20:17**  
It was prohibited in the Ten Commandments.
  - 2. **Proverbs 6:24-29**  
Lust is dangerous.
- C. Such solitude cannot achieve secrecy from God.
  - 1. **2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 12:1-13**  
God always knew what David was up to.
  - 2. **Hebrews 4:13**  
Nothing can be hidden from God.
  - 3. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:5; Ecclesiastes 12:14**  
We will be judged even for our secret thoughts.

#### V. SPOUSAL ISOLATION AT THE HOUSETOP

- A. **Proverbs 21:9**  
Isolation is preferred over discord.
- B. The home should not be a place of strife.

1. **Proverbs 17:1**  
A peaceful home is better than material wealth.
2. **Matthew 12:25**  
Houses so divided cannot last long.
3. **Proverbs 11:29**  
Nothing good can come by bringing trouble into the home.
4. **Proverbs 19:13**  
Wives must learn not to be contentious because it's aggravating!
5. **Colossians 3:18-19**  
Husbands should not express bitterness towards them.
6. **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:7**  
Married couples should " *dwell together* " in such a way as to understand one another.

## CONCLUSION

- A. What have you learned at the housetop?
  1. Will you show diligent persistence of faith?
  2. Will you publicize the word of God?
  3. Will you seek solitude in prayer?
  4. Will you refrain from secret sin?
  5. Will you put away strife from the home?
- B. **Invitation**