

I'd like to talk tonight about campus night and the directions that it may be going. I remember that when I went through high school, and junior high too, there was not anything like campus night around. I had one friend that I knew that went to church, and we goofed around some together, but there was no real chance for fellowship with Christian kids my age. There were no youth activities that I can remember. But you have it so different! What you have in Campus Night is really something great! You get to meet many boys and girls your own age who are interested in God's way of life. You get to play games, and have snacks, and goof off, but the real purpose of Campus night is something besides just getting together. One of the real purposes behind CN is to teach real Christian responsibility. CN is the place to begin an active, devoted life as a young Christian. The idea of Campus night is like a canvas, upon which you paint the picture. It is an uncut diamond that You must cleave into beautiful jewelry. It is a dream that You must make come true. And some of you are making that dream come true. But I'm afraid that most of you are not. You are taking a golden opportunity and having it bronzed. You are allowing some of the greatest moments of service to God in your life to pass you by.

Someone once said that a true leader is submerged in the fountain of the people. Now that may sound crazy to you, but it means that to some extent, the leaders of campus night must lead through you. We must step back behind the stage sometimes and by our guidance allow you to lead yourselves, for someday we will have to let go of you. Someday you will be on your own to decide whether or not to follow God any longer. The idea and purpose behind CN is to help you to find the answer now to that question. The leaders are here to help you make the dream come true. But just as sure as it takes chocolate milk to make hot chocolate, it takes active youth to make an active youth program. If you aren't active or concerned with being active, then you are just dead weight. You see, the church of our Lord follows a pattern. We see God through Christ, we see Christ through the church, and we see the church through each other. Just as Paul told us in 1 Cor 11:1 to imitate him as he imitated Christ, we must have leadership in the church. We must have leadership within CN. We must have young people, to stand up and encourage each other in Christ. You have heard so many times the call that Jesus made to preach the word unto all the world. This means that we are going to have to teach Christ to strangers. My question, and the real point of this talk tonight, is, How can we tell strangers about Christ when we don't even talk to our friends about it. Think about that. How much do you talk about Christ to even the best of your friends? Does your answer make you feel a little small and ridiculous? Perhaps it should. Right in our midst exists the greatest hot potato team in the world. Will you do this? No! Let so-and-so do it. My friends, you can float through life this way, but when your end comes you will surely sink. For the young men here there is a great opportunity to learn to speak the gospel right here where I am standing. As much as I love to speak to you, I would gladly give it up in your favor. It is my personal dream and the dream, I know of others, that new faces encourage you much of the time. There is another youth evangelistic seminar coming up and I would love to see new faces there, meeting the challenge. But inside you say, I would rather wrestle 20 wild stallions than get up in front of people. I didn't say that it would be easy. But with all of my heart I will tell you this: If I can do it, you can do it. There is nothing in this life that has scared me so thoroughly and so badly as speaking in front of a crowd. And it still gets to me. Anybody that saw me first speak knows that I almost didn't make it. But I'll tell you another thing straight from my heart, and that is that it was worth every minute of it and a lot more! Ask any of the other young men who preach about how they started, they will tell you the same.

And I don't mean to leave the young ladies out of this, for they are a part of the reason it is so scary. No one wants to be laughed at by the ladies, or anyone else. By encouraging them, and talking to them about the church, you young ladies can have a great part in what the young men have to say. You can also be a part of the leadership in many other ways. But we need people with ideas. All you have to do is to go to any of us who have experience in speaking, and tell us your idea and we will be glad to help you put it together. It may be a little difficult, but you can do it! You know, one of the first questions that I had to answer before I could even attempt what I am doing now, is, where is my God? And that is the question that you need to answer tonight. For, when I found out where he was supposed to be, it gave me strength to go on. So let me ask you: Is your God beside you? Because if he is, he will give you strength.

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