

that must be paid. However, if someone pays the fine for you, can the judge then let you go? Yes; once the fine has been paid, your debt to the law has been satisfied and the judge can set you free.

In the same way, each of us is guilty before God, and He will not let us go simply because we say that we are sorry or that we won't do it again. Of course, we should be sorry, and we shouldn't do it again. However, the fine for our crime must still be paid.

If the person responds by saying that this is man's justice, and that God's ways are different, agree with him. Say that God's justice is far harsher than man's justice, and that His standards are infinitely higher.

Do not be afraid to tell people that if they die in their sins, the Bible makes it clear that they will go to hell. Ask, "Does that concern you?"

If they say that it doesn't concern them, or if you sense they are not humbled and don't recognize their need of God's forgiveness, it's very helpful to describe what hell is like until they show signs of concern. According to the Bible, hell is a place of eternal, conscious torment, where "the worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched"; there is "weeping and gnashing of teeth," "everlasting punishment," "shame and everlasting contempt," and "eternal fire . . . the blackness of darkness for ever." Tell them that you don't want them to go to hell, and God doesn't want them to go to hell. Plead with them. If they do not seem concerned, it may be that they are just hiding it.

Don't feel pressured to give the Good News to a proud, self-righteous sinner (rebellious, cussing, arrogant) who is not willing to admit his guilt before God. Remember, Jesus didn't give the gospel to the rich, young ruler because he needed the Law to humble him first. You will have to watch and listen carefully because humility is not always obvious.

If the person admits that it does concern him, only at that point should you go to the gospel. If you are able to detect humility (the person is no longer justifying and defending