Date: 9/2/17

Title: Don’t Get Distracted

Theme: Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Don’t let anything distract you or you’ll be in trouble.

Object: Circular skill saw as a substitute for a table saw.

Text: Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV) …let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Have you ever been in a race? Have you ever won a race?

Here the writer to the Hebrews says that our life is like a race.

At the end of the race is the finish line, and there at the finish line Is Jesus.

And if we finish the race we’ll be there forever with Jesus in His wonderful kingdom where everybody is happy and nobody is sad.

The Bible says that there are two things that are very important if we are going to win this race.

The first is that we have to lay aside the sin that so easily trips us up and weighs us down.

What if you had to run a race with a backpack on that weighed a hundred pounds?

That would be really hard. You’d probably get tired and drop out of the race.

Sin is like a hundred-pound backpack.

We need to ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins and help us to live for Him each day and do what is right and obey His commandments.

The second thing that is really important in winning the race is to keep our eyes on Jesus.

Jesus is at the finish line; He keeps cheering us on and telling us to keep running and finish the race.

But many people get distracted by the things of the world.

Instead of looking to Jesus and running toward Him, they look to TV or worldly music or entertainment or a big house or a fancy car or drugs or money or fame or popularity or good looks or all kinds of other things.

When people get distracted and take their eyes off of Jesus they end up running to the wrong finish line.

And instead of ending up in heaven with Jesus they end up in the lake of fire with the devil!

It is very important to keep our eyes on Jesus and not get distracted by other things.

I learned a very painful lesson this week about getting distracted from the things I should have been looking at.

I had an accident with a circular saw, and I cut my finger. Would you like to see it?

Would you like to see what a circular saw looks like?

[Show saw. Let them fee how sharp the blade is. Turn it on and let them see how fast it turns. Explain the accident: Instead of looking at the blade and where my hands were, I was looking at the end of the board to see if it was going to move over a saw horse I had set up for support. As I was looking at the end of the board, my finger went into the blade, and I lost a chunk of my ring finger on the left hand.]

Now what did I learn from my painful accident?

When you’re using a circular saw or a table saw or any saw, it is really important to keep you eyes fixed on the blade and on your fingers.

My finger got cut because I got distracted.

So the lesson that I want to leave with you today is “Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.”

Don’t let anything distract you from loving Him, trusting Him, and obeying Him.

If you do that, you’ll finish the race and be in heaven with Him.

How many want to keep their eyes on Jesus and run into Him arms when He comes again?