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A MAN of MEANS TO MEN of MEANS

A CALL
TO
THE RICH AND GROWING RICH



MR. J. H. ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN OF CAMPAIGN DIRECTORS

This big business man telegraphed the General Director:
"I stand at attention, waiting orders in the 75 Million
Campaign."

WHO WILL MATCH HIM?

BAPTIST 75 MILLION CAMPAIGN

L. R. SCARBOROUGH, GENERAL DIRECTOR
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

A Man of Means to Men of Means

MR. J. H. ANDERSON

At the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, May, 1919, Mr. J. H. Anderson made the following address to his fellow business men, while Foreign Missions was under consideration. The Convention was profoundly impressed by his words and ordered them printed and circulated. The Foreign Mission Board takes pleasure in passing this speech on to the prosperous laymen of the South. With it goes our prayers that words so fitly spoken by a man who practices what he preaches may lead many other business men into the secret of finding a deep and joyful religious experience through the Christian use of their money.

J. F. LOVE, Cor. Sec'y.,
Foreign Mission Board. S. B. C.
Richmond, Virginia.

I hold in my hand a letter that came to my desk a few days ago. No letter ever came to me that has disturbed my peace of mind and rest of soul as this one has.

Many letters pass through my office daily, possibly an average of 500 or more; some of them involve many thousands of dollars; some of them involve smaller amounts but larger in proportion, because they represent the entire accumulation of someone's lifetime; some are heart-wrenching, and cause moist eyes; but not one has ever caused the sleepless nights nor the dampened pillows this one has.

This letter is from our dear Doctor Love, asking me to use fifteen minutes of this precious hour.

My first impulse was to turn it down; it would be such a cross, and I was so unequal to it. Then I asked God to tell me my duty, and waited a day for His answer.

The answer came, clear and distinct: "Talk heart to heart to those of your brethren who have accumulated much of this world's goods, and entreat them to be faithful to the call of the enlarged Kingdom's program."

So, my brethren, I am here a plain business man, without any of the arts of oratory, to talk to your soul and mine, face to face and heart to heart, upon the most important subject in all the world, namely: "*Our Duty and Obligation as Stewards of God.*"

Stewardship! Who can sound its depth, or measure its height, or breadth, or length? Some one has said, "So long as we do not forget that we are stewards and not owners, we will probably be faithful, but when we forget that we are stewards and assume to be owners, then we shall most likely become embezzlers of our Lord's goods."

Now let us consider together some of the most important forces that operate against our faithfulness as God's stewards.

Possibly one of the strongest forces that operates against the faithful stewardship of the man of means is his failure to recognize that all time belongs to God. He is so wrapped up in

his affairs, so busy, that he does not have an opportunity to inform himself about the plans for God's Kingdom here on earth; and certainly without information there can be no conviction.

When God set apart the seventh day, He did not relinquish all claim upon the other six days of the week. It was only a recognition of the fact that all time was His. It is a great lesson for all Christians to learn that *time belongs to God*, and when we use it all for our own selfish aims and pleasures, we become embezzlers.

The *second* force that has operated against faithful stewardship among men of means is *misappropriation of the tithe*.

For many years tithing has been a hobby of mine, and it has been ridden hard. For the young man starting in life, and for many who have limited incomes, it is a good plan, and it should be stressed more and more as the minimum for any Christian; but for the man or woman with large incomes, it is a delusion and a snare.

Oh, how I bless God for a great hearted and wise pastor who, in his tenderness, love and wisdom, little by little, without my suspecting his motives or plans, gradually brought me to see the truth that the tithe was never intended as the measure of a rich man's duty! How cleverly he worked it! Sometimes I would almost get fretted

with him, because he would not line up strong for the tithe. When I would plead with him to preach on the tithe, he would always disappoint me by preaching a higher duty, until after a long time the truth began to dawn on me—that the tithe was only intended for those whose incomes are limited to their necessary living expenses, and those with large incomes must let the Holy Spirit speak and withhold nothing. I respectfully commend the tactics of this faithful wise man of God to you pastors who have such men in your churches.

The third force I would mention which operates strongly against faithful stewardship among men of means is the obsession of mind, soul and body by the accumulating habit.

Every one admires the man who by hard, honest, self-sacrificing work has accumulated money. Such men are the bulwark of the nation. What would have become of our Nation during the trying days of the past few years but for you, who furnished the money to defend it against the advance of the horrible Hun?

There is nothing more important to be taught or preached to our young men growing up than thrift. One spend-thrift, with plenty of money, in a community, can do more harm than a dozen misers. Your boy and mine is not attracted by the rich old miser, who is

too stingy to eat enough, or clothe his body—he is rather repelled; but the open-handed, free-hearted spendthrift will attract the young boy and will lead him down the road to ruin. Oh God! protect us from the evil influence of the spendthrift, and give us young men with habits of thrift who are willing to pay the price in toil and self-denial which will enable them to accumulate. But, brethren, those of us who have accumulated enough to protect our loved ones from any possibility of want after we are dead and gone, should, while the duty of being thrifty still remains, spend wisely and economically. We are to do this without any idea of accumulating, but to hand it over to the Owner and Master to be used for His honor and glory. And really, my brother, it is not as hard to do this as you would first think.

Listen! I am going to read a page out of the secret chamber of your heart. "Yes, I have made enough to leave each one of my loved ones a sum sufficient to live on comfortably through a lifetime. While I live, we could not spend the income from my estate, even if I stopped work entirely; and really, I don't care anything about accumulating any more money; but I am in business, and I enjoy it, just like playing a game. I don't know what I would do without it, and as long as I am in the game, I want to win for the very pleasure of

winning." Now, isn't that about the way you feel?

If this is true, would you not like to have a partner who would help you make a bigger winning, and at the same time help you bear the burdens that are bound to be present with you? Wouldn't you love to have a partner to whom you could go any minute for advice in all the perplexing questions that come up? As the strength of your body weakens, and the shadows of life grow longer, don't you want some one to look to for help? If you take God into your business as a full partner, you can have such a One.

Do you draw back? Christ did not draw back from the cross, when He went to it to die for you and for me. But in reality, this will not be a sacrifice for you. The joys that will come to you with the new plan of having God's Spirit dictate to you as to how much to give will over-balance a thousandfold all the pleasure you ever had in accumulating money.

Suppose you don't take God in with you as a full partner, or better still, as the head of the business, and put yourself into His hands to be used as He directs, how can you hope to have His plaudit, "Well done, good and faithful servant?"

I received *another letter* last week from a fine young man who has been in China a little more than a year. He

had just preached his first sermon in Chinese. After all of those months of silence, to be able for the first time to tell the "sweetest story ever told" to poor benighted heathen men and women, was a joy unspeakable. To have had even the small part of supporting this young man is more joy than piling up millions. For every pleasure you lose in giving up the ambition for riches you will gain a thousand.

Do you draw back? Christ did not draw back from the cross when He went to it to die for you and for me. God help us right here and now to decide to give over the remainder of our lives and money-making powers for the advancement of His Kingdom here on earth!



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