

When Jesus Failed (2 Hermanns)

"Oh love that will not let me go."

Faith

Performed no wonderful works because of their unbelief.

Intro:

1. Faith essential victorious Christian life.
2. Must see Jesus to believe.
3. Elephant--blind children.
 - (1.) ear--canvas tent
 - (2.) trunk--fire hose
 - (3.) side--house
 - (4.) leg--tree
 - (5.) tail--rope
4. We too, must see Jesus.
 - (1.) Accustomed to seeing only one side.
 - (2.) Pencil point theology.
5. Yes, Jesus failed not because of His limitations, but because of our lack of faith to love, life and to live in His behalf.
6. For clarity sake let me comment a moment upon some of His outstanding successes.
 - (1.) Would take an eternity to numerate on all of the marvelous successes of Jesus.
 - (2.) But perhaps we, this morning, may pull back the veil of time and glance for a brief moment at these pictures of the Master's great victories.

I. Successes.

1. Nicodemus--roof school-room of 1900 years ago.
 - (1.) Teacher.
 - a. Called into hills.
 - b. Plan had in it--aspects of eternity.
 - c. Lessons of love.
 - d. His plan still stands.
 - 2.) Miracle Worker.
 - a. Nature.
 - (a.) Sea obeyed His magnetic voice.
 - (b.) Winds were at His command.
 - (c.) The sun & moon received their radiance from Him.
 - (d.) The gentle rains found their delight in His thirst.

b. Power over disease--Blind at city gate.

c. Power over Demons

(a.) Legion

(b.) Animal--chains, cutting, killing.

(c.) Fell at feet--begged to go with Jesus.

d. Power over Death--Lazarus.

(3.) Soul-Winner.

a. Woman--(immoral) at well

b. Another race.

c. Stooped to her level in order to lift her to His level.

(4.) Savior--Ted Mondsoon "No word for Savior"

II. Tragic Failure.

1. Rich young ruler.

(1.) Notice: Rich--youth--power. Three things we measure in life.

(2.) Young man stood and looked at crossroads of dystany.

a. Turned as dropped his head walked away.

b. Down the road of Oblivian.

(3.) Why did he fail?

a. Not lack of power.

b. Not lack of influence.

c. Not lack of wealth.

d. Lack of faith (saw world in all its counterfeit splendor).

2. Another heartbreak to the Master was City of Jerusalem.

(1.) Great city of His teaching.

(2.) Loved city--hills--great temple--immaculate walls--protect

(3.) Oh the people teeming masses.

He had seen here all of His days, had no knowledge of truth, love, or eternity.

(4.) Yes, the fondest memories were of the city--12 came to the Temple.

(5.) How longed to see churches planted--become vital, alive, and growing.

(6.) How He loved the masses--had compassion upon them.

(7.) Even as He started the lonely road to Golgotha (calvary) tears came for the people who had no realization they were making ready to put a God to death.

(8.) As he stood in crest of those beautiful/to the S. E. of the city--the scripture tells us He wept. "Oh Jerusalem how

(9.) Did Jesus fail?

a. Was He weaker than the prophet Jonah who stormed into Nineveh the wicked, Godless capital of Assyria, brought it to its knees and presented the incandescent flowers of God from burning it to ashes.

(10.) No, Jesus did not fail, no weakness in the Messiah--again the striking truth comes bursting upon our souls--because of their unbelief He was powerless--Lack of faith.

a. How many times the Lord's hands have literally been tied to do a good work in us because of our little faith.

b. Little faith.

a. Caused a Thomas to demand proof.

b. Mark to flee in the nite on his first missionary journey with Paul and return to his home in Jerusalem.

c. Caused Simon to plunge beneath the swirling waves as he took his eyes from Jesus.

--Jesus never brought the great city to its knees--because of their unbelief.

3. Jesus had to play the role of outcast also meeting failure in the little community of Nazareth--Jesus never won Nazareth!

(1.) Here was a busy little community where the people were close to the Master.

(2.) These people had a special place in his heart.

(3.) This was His boyhood home.

a. Use the tools of the carpenter's bench.

b. Worked--played--grew in strength and spirit to a strong young God.

c. There was something personal for this was His home and home always has a warm place in one's heart.

(4.) And so on this occasion the Master with a light step and a song in His heart makes his way back to His home town and all His life long friends.

(5.) It was only natural that He being an itinerant preacher should be invited to read the Scriptures in the Synagogue--this He did!

- a. Began to speak after reading.
- b. Lo, behold, listen to His words--saying He was the full-fulfillment of prophecy--the Messiah come.
- c. Then came the reaction--immediately they became incited against Him.
 - (a.) Became infuriated with Him.
 - (b.) This upstart--God--no.
 - (c.) Imposter, Imposter came their cry.
 - (d.) He is the Chief of Demos--this man is an ambassador of Hell.
 - (e.) No He's not pure gold--He's a fraud a fake--He's not pure gold--He's only polished brass.
 - (f.) No, no--we've watched this man grow up--He's one of us--He's a home-town-boy--He's a God--It's preposterous!
- d. Then their accusations shouted against Him, became action against Him.
- e. Away--away with this imposter--let Him die.
- (6.) See them outside the city gates--poised ready to fling Him over the cliffs to the rocky crags hundreds of feet below--but for the miracle that came, He would have been dashed to pieces.
- (7.) So again the thirdtime we see a broken-hearted savior--who comes to the realization that His own know Him not.
- (8.) For indeed "a prophet is not without honor, save in His own country."
- (9.) Was He powerless--no--not Him but "His own" had no faith--He did no good works, because of their unbelief.

III. May we pause to see why seemingly he failed in these three incidents?

1. Because of their unbelief.

(1.) Thou art the very plans of heaven by unbelief.

(2.) Shun Christ until He is compelled to leave us to own futile destruction.

2. Look again at Nazareth.

(1.) Why should they believe? Was He not the home-town lad who had gone to the great metropolis of Jerusalem.

(2.) Still was He not Jesus?

- a. Might imagine they thought nothing of calling Him by His first name.
- b. Many of younger men in city of Nazareth had worked, sweated, cut timber, hued out logs--even laughed and talked with Him (and somehow familiarity has a strange way of Not recognizing or even acknowledging greatness.) *their*

(3.) To them because of faithless spiritual eyes--He was still just Jesus--identity Carpenter's son.

- a. Oh how they missed the impetus of His divinity.
- b. In missing this fact they missed Him and His Salvation.

(4.) To them just Jesus.

- a. fellow whose hands are calloused.
- b. No gleam of eternity could they see in His eyes (not He--but they were blind)

(5.) Actually the older, wiser heads saw nothing but the barefoot boy from the old hometown.

(6.) They could not or would not (as case may be) see His greatness.

(7.) ILL.

- a. 1809.
- b. Post rider was newsboy for all rural folks in high, smoky, peaks of Kentucky.
- c. He came and went carrying with Him news, gossip, and sadness.
- d. Eventide Thursday evening stopped a man on road who lived in this little mountain community.
- e. Anything happening up this way!
- f. No--nothing happens--nothing ever happens around here.
- g. A baby boy born to Nancy and Hank Lincoln--in log cabin last nite--called him Abe--Abe Lincoln--No--nothing ever happens around here.

3. Jesus was handicapped by their unbelief. (In fact they defeated Jesus? no they defeated themselves, because they would not believe.

4. We too need to yield!

- (1.) Greatest coach is helpless, if his boys do not follow.
- (2.) Greatest musician is a failure if--fingers are stiff.
- (3.) Greatest artist is without creation if he is blindfolded.
- (4.) Plans of the greatest architect are but wasted effort if the contractor uses shoddy material in the construction.

5. Without a personal, burning, reliant faith in Christ, He is utterly helpless to save our mortal souls.

6. The humiliation of Christ is the lack of faith not only on part of lost but also of His people.

- (1.) "Oh, ye of little faith"
- (2.) "How long will ye halt between two opinions?"
- (3.) Let sun shine--things are fine.
- (4.) Let storms break--we lose faith--tremble--sink--blame God.

7. But notice for a moment exactly what faith can do

- (1.) Antioch in 90 A.D. had the undisputed reputation of being the most pagan city in the known Roman world.
- (2.) It was the lustful strong hold of Baal.
- (3.) Here was located also the high temple of Diana (a pagan sexual cult of the rankest form.)
- (4.) ~~Still~~ in this ancient city a greater menace--were located the head-quarters of Antiochus Epiphanes who in a (who's who of Ancient Times) would be called cruel, bloody, tyrant of the people of Antioch. *2 P cities*
 - a. He was the same Antiochus Epiphanes who constructed the Antioch.
 - b. With expectation that several would survive.
 - c. Strangely enough two are living--decaying ruins today.
- (5.) So it was here in this ancient city of Antioch (which was located N.E. of Tyre, on Mediterranean point) that this strange, amazing band called (followers of a living Christ) planted their feet.
 - a. All the nations came through Antioch.
 - b. All the vices and evils of the known world were here.

c. A bloody monarch strode over the human family of his people.

(6.) Yet it was still here that Christianity grew more rapidly than in any other place the world had seen.

--God's word tells us "They were first called Christians in Antioch."

(7.) Faith made--nay faith caused these men and women to stand, live and die for their Master.

IV. But Christ is again helpless for you and useless to you, unless you have faith enough to accept Him and let Him be yours.

1. Grover Cleveland.

Most unusual case on U. S. dockets.

- (1.) Decided to pardon.
- (2.) Delivered a letter to prison.
- (3.) Man called to warden's office.
- (4.) Told of pardon.
- (5.) Turned walked away--refusing to accept the pardon.
- (6.) Unusual to say the least--a pardon had never been turned down.
- (7.) Warden took position that the man must leave the penitentiary.
- (8.) Prisoner said he would not leave pardon or no pardon.
- (9.) So the warden decided to take the matter to court.
- (10.) Issue: Evict an inmate from the State penitentiary.
- (11.) The case came to court and a dead lock occurred so appealed directly to highest court in land.
- (12.) Finally brought before Supreme Court--not a criminal case though trying a criminal but a civil case.
- (13.) Verdict: after much deliberation:
 - a. The pardon was a contract
 - b. to be legal must be signed by both parties involved.
 - c. The ~~governor~~ ^{U.S.} of the State had met his requirements for the contract by his signature--but since the inmate would not sign the pardon--the contract was therefore null and void and by decision of Supreme Court the man must be

allowed to maintain his presence
status in the state penitentiary
contract notwithstanding.

2. See Jesus too draws contract--we sign by faith.

(1.) Void unless we sign.

(2.) His signature in His blood.

3. Two thieves dying.

(1.) Unbelief moved one thief away from Christ
into the jaws of a blazing eternity.

(2.) Faith moved the other thief into the open
arms of eternity with the Master.

4. When Jesus failed?