

We Must Face Sin

Now she has asked Him for a drink, and He refuses, for He says to her, "Go and call thy husband." The woman pauses for a moment and says, "I have no husband." And Jesus said unto her: "Thou hast well said I have no husband, for thou hast had five husbands and he whom thou now hath is not thy husband, in that thou saidest truly."

I wonder why Jesus brought up the most embarrassing thing that He could have spoken of that day to that woman. He could have talked about anyone of a hundred different subjects and never mentioned this most embarrassing thing to her. She had begun life a beautiful young girl, wrapped up in her own beauty and her own body. She thought that beauty in body could bring her everything that she could ever want, but five husbands later and now a paramour, with her beauty gone, with her soul ruined, with her heart blackened and her life destroyed, she knows better. She knows that a body is too small a thing to spend a life on. Jesus had to talk about the sin question. You must face the sin question, there is no way to escape it. It would be very nice if someone could say, "Hush! we'll not mention the past," but that isn't it. Many people are willing to compliment Christ, but they don't want to confess their sins to Him. But the work of the Holy Spirit, if we read the Bible aright, says, "He came to convict the world of sins." If that hasn't happened in your life you're not saved, and your compliments and your attendance in church on Easter and Christmas are not enough.

So, today people who live for the world, and the flesh, and the devil will fight at the drop of a hat for their pet denomination when they're no more children of God than an animal in the street. I've seen sinners on the point of confession who said, "Well, of course, I'm a Methodist, or a Presbyterian . . ."

If you've missed Christ, you can belong to all of them, and still miss the mark and be lost. It's my own conviction that in hell there will be representatives of all denominations, not because they belong, but because they missed Jesus!

The woman is now at the end of her rope, and she says in the 25th verse: "I know that Messiah cometh, who is called the Christ." In verse nine, she called Him a Jew, in verse 19 she called Him a prophet, and now in the 25th verse she calls Him the Messiah. She's at the end of her rope, and having confessed Him as the Son of God she turned and ran. And in the 30th verse you read: "Then they went out of the city and came unto Him." What happened?

This untidy woman, this dirty rag that had been cast aside by five men already, to whom no man would be seen speaking in daylight on the streets of her little city, went and told them that she had met Christ. The scripture says, the entire city turned out and followed her across the desert to where the well was. Imagine! I tell you that is infallible testimony of conversion. When a changed face, a changed voice, and a changed topic of conversation characterizes any man or any woman who has met Jesus Christ.

Do some of you think you're not in this woman's class? Unless you've surrendered your life and heart to Him, YOU ARE. For you're not your own, you've been bought with a price—the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Turn to the 10th chapter of Romans verses 9, 10 and 11. Read as it says:

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Because the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

May God help you today . . .

Christianity Is A Family Affair

September 19

In Genesis 7:1 we read words to this effect—"Christianity is a family affair." This is God's call to a father. God had been trying for 120 years to get the ears of the fathers of Noah's day. He had failed, and all that Noah had done had fallen upon deafened ears, and

finally God's cup of wrath is filled.

In that day of violence and wickedness God could no longer bear to witness the evil imaginings of men's hearts. So He commanded that Noah should prepare an ark, a great ship in which he and his family and speci-

mens of all life should be safely guarded from the destruction which God had determined to bring upon the evil of this earth. Noah set out to build, according to the plans of God, a great ship.

Now I doubt whether Noah had ever seen a ship of any kind. We are safe in assuming that Noah lived far inland, and that he perhaps had never seen or heard of anything that looked like the ark. And so God gave him specific plans for building this ark of safety.

Take your Bible and study the plans for the ark, as described in Genesis, and you'll find it was a peculiarly shaped boat. It had no prow, for it was sailing to no shore, and it had no helm or rudder, because no human hand was to guide it.

Finally the day came when God commanded Noah, his family, and the animals, to enter into the ark. The door was sealed and closed by God; then they waited for the storm to come. The scripture tells us that they waited for seven days and during those seven days not a drop of rain fell from the heavens, nor was there any indication whatsoever that what God had said about destroying the earth was really true.

The People Laughed

Outside the ship there were excursions of people that had come from nearby cities on a holiday. Noah and his sons and his wife could hear the crowds outside laughing and jeering, as someone would shout: "Noah, what are you doing in there? Isn't it hot? Why don't you come on out, it hasn't started raining yet," and then the crowd would laugh and laugh. But Noah and his family had believed God and so they waited.

The scripture tells us that on the seventh day the storm began to gather.

Soon the crash of thunder began to reverberate through the heavens and the women immediately went out and called their children in; men bade their friends goodbye and headed home. It wasn't long until large drops of rain began to fall out of the ominous stillness and the winds began to blow, they wailed and moaned and shrieked, and the heavens became convulsed in a mighty storm.

Soon whole families began to try to run to higher ground. The men began

to wrap their belongings in blankets, and the women gathered the children to their bosom, and soon the doors opened to the homes and families streamed out into the streets.

They waded through the water, running; animals saw the water gathering about them and began to scream in terror. Cattle were lowing and sheep were bleating, while the people raced for the hills.

In the midst of it all the old ark that had been built out there in a dry pasture began to ride on the crest of the flood. For in Hebrews 11:7, the scripture says, "Noah, the man of faith, had prepared an ark for the safety of his house," and outside the shriek of the dying, and of those that were terror stricken could be heard on every hand, but those inside the ark were safe.

No matter how terrible the storm might be, no matter how high the water might rise, no matter how horrible the scene might appear, those who were inside of the ark were saved, and all who were outside of the ark were lost. That was the lesson that God wanted to show to those men of that day and men of every day.

Ark of Christ

The ark was a type of Christ, you see. For the scripture tells us there was only one door in the ark and that was for entrance into safety. There was only one window in the ark which was straight up above in the top of the ark, and that window was for vision, and there was plenty of food and water, representing Christ as the bread and the water of life.

It was the only place in the whole wide earth where a man and his family could be safely protected from the terrible storm that had fallen upon the face of the earth. Those men that had hooted and laughed at Noah during his 120 years of preaching were now climbing trees, and screaming to Noah who was inside the ark. "Noah, for God's sake come over here and get us and our families."

But Noah could not hear them above the shriek of the wind, and the thunder that roared, and the old ark rocked and reeled along on the bosom of that terrible storm and flood. All inside were saved, and all outside were lost. Noah was wise, for those who had entered in had followed the plan of God. No matter how stupid it may have

sounded, no matter how unreasonable it may have appeared to everybody else in the world, Noah had done what GOD said DO. And though it didn't make sense to anyone else, it made sense to Noah because God had commanded it.

We, too, should be wise for the ark of salvation rides the waves of disaster, for there is coming to this world another terrible catastrophe. It's described in Revelation 6:12-17. Read it now.

Men Still Jeer

Over and over, from pulpits all over America, men are preaching of the day of judgment, and on the outer fringes stand a laughing, jeering crowd who say: "How could a thing like that be? It isn't necessary to accept Christ as your Saviour in order to be saved. All this tom-foolery found in the Bible isn't true; don't believe that sort of stuff. All a man has to do is be good and God is obligated to take him into heaven." Or, "everybody's going to get to heaven after all, because there is no hell."

All right! But those people who laugh and jeer at those of us who believe and accept the Bible as it is written will find one day that those inside of the ark of safety of the Lord Jesus Christ are saved, and those outside of the ark are lost. If this catastrophe which is described in the 7th chapter of Genesis took place exactly as God had commanded it would, so will this one which is found in the 6th chapter of Revelation take place exactly as God has described it.

And those who are inside that ark of safety will be safe forever, and no burglar can pick the lock, and no man can pluck him out of the Father's hand and no arm of hell is long enough to reach him when he's in the bosom of the Father.

There were some who were outside of the ark for various reasons. I do not mean to infer that all who stood outside were mocking or scoffing. There were some who intended to do exactly as Noah had preached, they just put it off and when it was too late they wished a thousand times for another chance. There were some who were outside merely because they were too busy; but it makes no difference whether it's derision, procrastination,

or unconcern, being outside means being outside and it all results in exactly the same thing.

Father Who Failed

I went into the home of a deacon in a rural church where I was holding a revival, and after the noonday meal the father took me outside and we walked down toward the cow lot until we stood beneath the shade of an old Chinese elm tree. I looked to where he pointed and saw there a rude tombstone that was erected over the grave of his son. I read the titles on the stone and discovered the boy had died when he was 17. I stood there beside that Christian man and listened to him tell the story I shall never forget.

He said, "My boy and I were great pals. We went hunting and fishing together, and I never taught him to go to church, never taught him to read the Bible, never taught him to come to know God. I had no truck with religious things in those days, and I thought that all I had to do was to be a real pal to my boy and that would be enough. One day he was taken with acute appendicitis and before the doctor could come or do anything for him, that boy was in a dying condition. I sat there on the side of his bed; I would have died a thousand times for him, but there was nothing I could do. The boy was in agony, but getting control of himself he turned to me and asked me for a preacher. But I knew no preacher to get. He asked me to pray and I didn't know how to pray. He asked me to read the Bible, but there was no Bible in our home, and then I heard him say something like this: "Dad, when I die I want you to bury me by the path that leads from the house to the cow lot, and every time you pass that place I want you to say to yourself, there lies my son who never heard his daddy pray."

I realized that here was a father with a sacred responsibility who had failed to discharge it toward his family, "Come thou and all of thy family into the ark, God said."

There is no sight that cheers the heart of God more I think than to see a father and mother and children come into the house of God on Sunday morning and Sunday night, and sit down on the same pew side by side, and there worship as a family, for "Christianity is a family affair."

Men and women whose lives are twisted out of shape, out of harmony, out of fellowship, out of relationship with Almighty God, have only one hope—Jesus of Nazareth. Yes, when Peter reached down and touched him the people came running.

If our churches are to experience today a real revival, it'll not come as a result of committees, activities, and organizations. It'll come as the result of men and women having their lives

revolutionized, changed in the twinkling of an eye, as the result of taking hold of the hand of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let this day be the day when you rightly relate yourself to the Son of God so that He may create within your heart His greatest masterpiece. Not the spinning universe, as marvelous as it is, not the flowers that cover a thousand hills, but instead, a life changed by the Power of God.

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