

HEARTS THAT CARE

March 31, 1957

Scripture: Psalm 142:4

The Psalm we have before us came out of David's deep distress. He had fled from King Saul and had taken refuge in a cave. In the midst of his trying conditions he cried, "No man careth for my soul."

The distress of any man is deep when he must cry, "No man careth for my soul."

When a person feels that there is no one to lift him on the wings of prayer or appoint him to the way of right, or strengthen him with counsel in the things of God, he is, indeed, in a sad condition.

Sometimes young people grow up in homes where godly fathers and mothers have undertaken to teach them the right way. At first they may not appreciate this counsel. Later when their hearts are filled with wisdom, they thank God for Christian homes.

If you have a Christian home, thank God for it. Give yourself to it and undertake to make it a place where the name of the Lord is honored, and where his love can be made known to others.

SOMEONE CARES

Many throughout the land may feel that none care for their souls, but they are quite wrong about the matter. In your community there is a church filled with praying people. They are concerned for you. They are seeking your salvation. Faithful men and women work long hours to minister through the Sunday school, training union, and all the church organizations.

The pastor stands ready at any hour of the day or night to do all he can to lift you to the Lord. Prayer is being offered on the behalf of all in the community. The church does not ask if you are rich or poor. It does not ask if you are educated or illiterate. It only asks that you turn to Jesus Christ in sincere faith, recognizing your own sinfulness and casting yourself upon Jesus, depending upon him to transform your life.

A place of welcome is waiting for you and your church. If you are living without knowledge that people do care for your soul, it is a sad mistake on the part of any individual.

There are millions, however, throughout the world who must say, "No man cares for my soul."

They have never been told of the wonderful love of God in Christ. They bow to idols made of wood and stone. They are aware of something wrong in their lives but do not know how to analyze it. They do not know there is one God whose loving heart reaches out toward humanity. They have no knowledge that Christ came into the world to save sinners. They have never heard of his resurrection and victory over death. They do not know that the kingdom of God is open to all who will come. They are not aware that their sins can be forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ.

NOT OUR MAXIMUM

As we stand some day in the light of God's eternal judgment, what must the peoples of the earth think of us, if we have failed to tell them of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. If it were true that we had done our maximum, it would be a different matter. It is not true that we have done our maximum. Much more could be done than we have done. Many more could go than those who have gone. Much more could be given than has been given.

A suffering, needy, sin-sick world will be more convinced of the genuineness of our Christian faith by deeds of love and mercy in which we cross the world to tell others that Christ died for all men, than they will be impressed by the ornateness of our church buildings or the beauty of our services, or the eloquence of our preaching.

We need to remember that our Lord is more impressed of the genuineness of our faith as we obey him than as we serve him merely in word. He has given us a command to give the word of his salvation to the whole world, and nothing can substitute for obedience to our Lord's Commission.

Across the years there have been hearts that care, and as a consequence light is beginning to dawn in the dark places of the earth.

Earnest hearts have prayed that God's servants might go, and a valiant band of men and women have dared to go to the hard places of the world and tell the story of Christ and his love.

In the early days of Christian missions servants of God found themselves among savage men and women or in lands bristling with hostility and intolerance. They frequently found themselves overcome by disease for which there were no preventatives. The death toll was tremendous in the early days.

Today a larger body of missionaries serve throughout the world. They are equally as valiant as those who have gone before. They have shown their fidelity to the Lord through trying days of war and concentration camp. They have gone to prison; some have died under torture. Some have laid down their lives in line of duty in hazardous travel and in surrounding peril. Many have lived under hard conditions, and have remained at posts of duty when every attraction would call them to leave.

A GREAT PRICE

A great price, indeed, has been paid by those who have gone. They have labored diligently. They have borne heavy bur-

dens. They have often worked overwhelmed by need, yet having but limited equipment with which to serve.

Glorious work has been done by these who have gone with hearts full of care for the lost. Light has been made to shine in the darkness. Lives have been transformed. Churches have been brought into reality. Healing has been extended through medical ministries. Little children have been brought in good will centers and Vacation Bible schools to know the love of Christ. Christian education has been made to abound from kindergarten through senior college. Theological seminaries train ministers of the gospel. Churches with their Sunday schools and other organizations reach out to bless the lives of surrounding communities.

Only heaven can disclose the great achievement which is wrought by life dedicated to God and invested in a place of need.

THE GREATEST THRILL

The greatest thrill than can come to an individual is to realize that his life in the hands of God can be meaningful in blessing the world. There is no need of living an ordinary, meaningless life. You can find a place in the service of God. He does not

"And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; . . ." (John 20:5-6)



want every person to do the same thing, but he has a task for each to do and many should follow his direction in going throughout the world to tell the story of Christ.

Our Lord is calling now for many who will indicate that they do care for the souls of men. In this generation of destiny, he would have us turn aside from anything personal that keeps us from doing the will

of Christ and respond to his call for unlimited service however he may lead us.

The only satisfactory life is that which is built around the will of Christ. This very day offer yourself to Jesus. Surrender your life to him to do his will and ask him to fill your heart with his compassionate love so that the hearts of men may know that Jesus cares.

MAKING GLAD THE HEARTS OF MEN

March 3, 1957

Scripture: Proverbs 12:25

The scripture we have before us states, "Heaviness in the heart of a man maketh it stoop; but a good word maketh it glad."

In the world of our day there are many hearts filled with care. Every individual is aware of this fact in his own experience and in the lives of those about him.

When we look beyond our country to the lands filled with millions of people who have never known the love of Christ, we see a sad spectacle of humanity burdened in its heart.

The multitudes of people filling the earth make a vast impression upon one who is privileged to see them. Information about large populations cannot convey to an individual the impact of humanity in the mass until one sees it with his own eyes. When he has that experience he realizes that his fellowman throughout the world lives under conditions of trying distress.

Many have endured the terrible sorrows of war. Their lands have been overrun with cruelties and the scars of war have left upon their countries painful memories.

Multitudes live under grinding miseries of life which are beyond their power to control. Many are born in blind alleys of poverty, ignorance, disease, and hopelessness.

Many have endured the oppression of man to man. Glaring contrasts of wealth and poverty throughout the world give occasion for demonstration of power dominating weakness.

THE CHIEF REASON

Mankind has much reason to cause his heart to stoop with heaviness. The chief reason for it, however, is that little is known of the love of God in Jesus Christ our Saviour among these masses of needy people for whom Christ died.

With the weakness of sin within and the pressures of life's miseries without, people stand in need of the grace of God. Multitudes of them abound in the darkness of idolatry. The thought of God never brings to them the concept of a loving Heavenly Father, but of a grim idol with power to hurt or destroy.

People under such conditions do not know how to obtain the help in soul that is needed to enable one to carry the burdens pressing upon him and to have peace in his own heart.

Into this world of darkness and sin servants of God go bearing the blessed tidings of the gospel of Christ, whereas in our own land this glorious message is to many people commonplace. It is in vast portions of the world fresh news. Many have never heard of the fact of one loving Heavenly Father who gave his own Son to die upon the cross and be raised from the dead that all men through him might be saved.

As people's hearts are opened to this wonderful gospel, they find peace, joy, and salvation. They come to realize that the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. They discover that faith in Christ has brought to them that which this world could never supply.

FAITH BRINGS HOPE

Faith in Christ brings hope. It gives to an individual something for which to live. It brings to a man regardless of circumstances a knowledge that his life has more meaning than his environment indicates. He may be working at a difficult and unpleasant task, and he may be filling a lowly place; yet he realizes he is a child of God. He becomes assured of life eternal, and the hope that fills his heart gives him strength for whatever the day may bring.

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