

TEN PRACTICAL POINTS FOR CAMP MEETING GOERS

By Rev. E. E. Shelhamer

The writer does not pretend to know all that is to be known, but, after attending camp meetings for more than forty years, he has learned a few things that may be helpful to those who attend.

1. **Get ready.** Begin days or even weeks beforehand to lay aside just such things as you will need—rubbers, umbrella, heavy coat, fan, soap, washcloths, hand mirror, writing paper, pins, pencils, your Bible, and various utensils for camping, should you do your own cooking.

2. **Prepare for the best and for the worst.** As soon as you arrive dig a ditch around your tent and put your suitcases, trunks, or bed on sticks or stones so as to keep them dry underneath in case of a sudden rain. Let plenty of sunshine and fresh air in, so that nothing molds or mildews. Stretch a rope or wire high up from pole to pole in your tent where you can hang your clothing.

3. **Plan to "stay through."** Do not let the cares or cattle at home get you uneasy. Some one will care for these things when you are dead. Suppose you practise death for ten days and die out to all earthly things. Do not let the devil or any one run you off the ground before you receive a great uplift. Do not look back—remember Lot's wife.

4. **Do not get tempted.** It may be that your tent or room is right in the sun or near a crying baby. Now be careful! Don't complain and threaten to leave. God may have permitted this to develop patience in you, or in a special way make you a blessing—an inspiration to some struggling soul. If so, the trials will be worth infinitely more than if everything were according to your liking. Perhaps a crisis has come in your life unexpectedly and you can not afford to fail.

5. **Enter quickly into the spirit of the meeting.** Do not sit back, but come up near the front; sing, and pray, with all your might and thus head off discouragement and homesickness. Do not allow yourself to get tried if you are not asked to sing a solo or lead meetings, but pitch in and assist those who are already in the lead. It will not be long till they will see your worth, if you have any worth seeing.

6. **Do not nurse your likes or dislikes.** There are all kinds of people at a camp meeting, yourself included. It is barely possible that the preacher or pilgrim whose ways you dislike may do you more real good than the one who just suits you; so do not praise one or run down another. If you talk too much you may prejudice a soul against the very one who could help him most.

7. **Do not parade or sit around.** It is an awful habit to promenade or sit in your doorway and visit or look wise. Better form a prayer band and have stated seasons for reading and praying—only do not interrupt a meeting already in progress. When the altar call is given, do not find an excuse to leave, but be resourceful and invite some one to Jesus. Pitch in and help all you can at the altar. Here is a wide field, for there are not many at it.

8. **Do not cast away your confidence.** If the preaching is very searching and a flood of new light comes, hold fast to what you have and press forward for more. It is not always best to rush to the altar the first time you get

under conviction. Some things can be settled in your room or out in the woods. Of course, if you have acted in such an ugly way as to cause others to wonder, then it will restore confidence and perhaps be necessary for you to seek in public. If you have not been kind and victorious on every line, then do not pretend or cover up, but make all haste to get right and thus recover lost ground. Remember this, there is a difference between conviction and condemnation. New light will produce conviction, but ought not to produce condemnation. It is when you trifle, excuse yourself, and reject new light, that you get under guilt and condemnation.

9. **Bear with the weak and ignorant.** If God has given you superior light or grace, do not act important. Do not think you must rant about it and force others to see and do exactly as you do. If your leadings are of God, let Him fight your own battle and give you an opportunity to deliver your soul. Don't force your way in at a half-open door, but wait the opportune time and then in a humble way speak of God's dealings with you. Sooner or later there will be fruitage in proportion as you eye God's glory.

10. **The camp will be just what you and others make it.** If you go largely for an outing, or to see and be seen, you will hinder rather than help. But if you follow some of the above suggestions you will return home, perhaps tired and dusty, but with the satisfaction that you grew in grace and were made a blessing to others. God grant that this may be so.—The Free Methodist.

THE PRESENT-DAY MESSAGE

By Rev. M. Hayden

Positiveness is the power of all great evangelists. When God calls one to a specific field of labor He gives the message needed. Jonah 3:2; Luke 3:1-18. The weight of the same rests upon the messenger and, like his Master, he is straitened till he delivers it. The preacher must be dogmatic, overwhelmingly certain that he knows the divine will and is proclaiming it without fear or favor.

When dealing with immortal verities and future destinies, he can not afford to make a mistake. He should know his message. No faithful messenger of God would put to the lips of a dying man his own milk and water mixture of opinions, when the elixir of eternal life from the cup of salvation is so ample and free.

Preachers who do not know that Christ saves them from present sins and purifies their hearts and has commissioned them and anoints them with the Holy Ghost should attend the "tarry until meeting." They should wait for the promise of the Father and get the vision of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Preaching only opinions is feeding the people on husks, but proclaiming convictions based on gospel truth and real soul experiences is feeding the flock with the bread of life. The minister is God's ambassador with the immutable words of the terms of peace. Any other message given in an effort to draw and attract is not according to the pattern shown in the mount.

In His immortal address, Jesus never indulged in opinions. He proclaimed facts, truths, verities, with absolute certainty of their reliability. In His hands the trumpet gave no uncertain sound. He spake with authority, "I am the way, the truth and the life." "I am He," "If ye believe not that I am He ye shall die in your sins." He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." Emphasis placed on the power of God is that which changes

a human life. Christ in the heart opens blind eyes to see the spiritual, the real. His Spirit within takes the veil from all hearts, and makes them responsive to heavenly visions. Through Him we find the will of God to be the meat of the soul. Such preaching is the genius of Christianity, the motto of the church and the inspiration of the believer. Dear brethren of the ministry, let us be positive.

—The Free Methodist.

THE BEATITUDES

1. Blessed is the preacher who can stop when he is through.

2. Blessed is the preacher who can "Amen" the other preacher when he is getting more blessed and getting more souls saved than he can.

3. Blessed is the preacher who will help pull, when the other fellow is having a hard time.

4. Blessed is the man or woman who can testify and tell what God has done, and not what the other fellow ought to do.

5. Blessed is the man who can pray to the Lord and not use the occasion to preach at some one.

6. Blessed is the leader who can accept some other fellow's plan and work it.

7. Blessed is the singer who can enjoy the other fellow's song, especially when the people rejoice more over the other fellow's singing than they did over his.

8. Blessed is the man who can have a great meeting and not brag about it.

9. Blessed is the man who can keep sweet when they forget to mention his name in the report.

10. Blessed is the preacher and people who begin their services on time—and stop when they are through.—Chas L. Slater in Exchange.

MY CHURCH

Before I was born, my Church gave to my parents ideals of life and love that made my home a place of strength and beauty.

My Church enriched my childhood with the romance and religion and the lessons of life that have been woven into the texture of my soul. Sometimes I seem to have forgotten and then, when else I might surrender to foolish and futile ideals of life, the truths my Church taught become radiant, insistent and inescapable.

In the stress and storm of adolescence, my Church heard the surge of my soul and guided my footsteps by lifting my eyes toward the stars.

When first my heart knew the strange awakenings of love, my Church taught me to chasten and spiritualize my affections, sanctified my marriage and blessed my home.

When my heart was seamed with sorrow, and I thought the sun could never shine again, my Church drew me to the Friend of all the weary and whispered to me the hope of another morning, eternal and tearless.

When my steps have slipped and I have known the bitterness of sin, my Church has believed in me and wooingly called me back to live within the heights of myself.

Now have come the children dearer to me than life itself and my Church is helping me to train them for all joyous and clean and Christly living.

My Church calls me to her heart. She asks my service and my loyalty. She has a right to ask it! I will help her to do for others what she has done for me. In this place in which I live, I will help her keep aflame and aloft the torch of a living faith.—William Henry Boddy in the Christian Advocate.