

The King's Highway.

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness.—Isa. 35-8

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ALL THINGS ADJUSTED BY INDIVIDUAL REGENERATION

Text, John 3:8, "So is everyone that is born of the spirit."

Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, was fully convinced that Jesus had come from God, and with an open mind, an honest heart and a most friendly gesture he came to Jesus saying, "Rabbi we know that thou art a teacher come from God, for no man could do these miracles that thou doest except God be with him."

Jesus seemed indifferent to this compliment and would not even let Nicodemus in on the ground-floor of mutual understanding. He as much as said, "Nicodemus, I know that you are a very religious man. You have it in your blood; you were born that way; it is your business to be religious, but, Nicodemus, so far as my kingdom is concerned you are on the outside trying to look in, but if you want to get on the inside and look out you must be born again."

So you see that Jesus laid at the foundation of his Kingdom a great principle that involved a religious experience which suggests many theological implications and a deep mystical significance; and which requires the readjustment of our nature to the nature and the will of God; an experience that gives the heart a secret which the head cannot fully understand or explain.

If Jesus had been a mere reformer, a teacher or a humanitarian, rather than a Saviour, he might have said to Nicodemus, "Nicodemus, economic conditions in Israel are terrible. The poor are getting poorer and the rich are getting richer every day. Capital has its heel on the neck of labor and is crushing out its life. I have come to lift a standard for the oppressed; to raise the standard of living, and give to the laboring man the slogan, A full dinner-pail".

You say "this is imagination". But have we not been emphasizing soap and soap and been giving a diminishing emphasis to the matter of personal salvation? Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness," and what then? Will you go to the poorhouse? No! "And all things needful"; Not everything you want, "shall be added unto you".

And Paul has told us that the kingdom of God is not meat and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. If we will put God first our soup will be sure and we will not neglect the soap.

Mr. Roger Babson is probably the best interpreter of economic conditions, in America. He says that the Times are out of joint, not because there is not enough to go around, but, because we are not living right. And we are not living right because we are not right.

In ancient days, when God's people humbled themselves before the Lord, He rebuked the devourer and restored the years that the locusts had eaten. If we as a people today would humble ourselves and individually seek the face and favor of God, we should see a far more speedy im-

provement in economic conditions than can be brought about by governmental tinkering and social stunts.

If Jesus had been a mere teacher, a reformer or a humanitarian instead of a Saviour, he might have said, "Nicodemus, the social life of this people is very drab and monotonous. They are crushed down by their labor and druggery. What they need is more relaxation, recreation, and amusement. I have come to institute such a programme."

Well, are we not the greatest pleasure-seeking people under the Sun? Are we not pleasure mad? Are not our play-houses and our athletic stadiums filled to overflowing, and that in spite of the so-called hard times? We have enough automobiles to take our entire population on a joy-ride at the same time. And yet last year, in this land of fun and frolic, more than ten thousand people took the plunge into Eternity with their own hand. They had become so sick and tired of life they confessed that it was not worth the candle, and flew to ills they knew not of. And these, for the most part, were not the poor and the most distressed. They belonged to the middle class and to the higher class. Some had wealth, and most of them had abundant means to gratify their desire for change and recreation.

Well did St. Augustine, out of a heart that had tried to find satisfaction in the enjoyment of sensual pleasures cry, "O God these hearts of ours were made for Thee, and they never can find rest and satisfaction till they find it in Thee."

These hearts of ours are too big to be satisfied with anything less than "the blessing of the Lord that maketh rich and addeth no sorrow thereto."

If Jesus had been a mere reformer, or a humanitarian rather than a Saviour, he might have said, "Nicodemus, lawlessness is increasing in Israel. Not only is the road from Jerusalem to Jericho infested with robbers, but the great road running up through Galilee is thronged with them. I and my little band have been held up time and again, but they find that we have nothing and so they let us alone now; but the safety of the rich caravan is determined by its armed guard."

"Nicodemus, we must have more stringent laws, with severer penalties for violations, and more rigorous enforcement. We must send better representatives to our legislatures, before my kingdom can have a chance."

We thank the Lord for good laws and all the machinery that makes them effective. The man that has been regenerated by the Spirit of God believes in laws and its enforcement. He keeps the law not because of expediency, but because the fear of God is before his eyes. But after all he recognizes the fact, that the best that law can do is to restrain the actions of bad men and regulate the conduct of good men. Laws can put on the lid but they cannot control that wriggling, writhing and squirming condition under

the lid. And unless public conscience is purified and energized by an outpouring of the Spirit of God, sooner or later the lid will be blown off and we shall see a terrible reaction to our sumptuary legislation.

Oliver Cromwell, perhaps better than any other ruler put the lid on England in the seventeenth century. Multitudes of people conformed to his severe puritanical rules and regulations, not because their hearts were free to do so, but because they feared the iron-hand of the great protector. But when Bonnie Prince Charlie was recalled and the proud Stuarts ascended the throne again, the lid of repression was blown off, and England plunged into excesses of sensuality and pleasure the like of which had never been seen before. History will repeat itself with us unless we seek God.

If Jesus had been a mere teacher or reformer and not a Saviour he might have said, "Nicodemus, the intellectual status of this people is very low. The people to whom I minister are very ignorant. They know enough to eat the bread I make, and to bring their sick and afflicted to me to be healed. But Nicodemus we must see an improvement in the intelligence of this people before my kingdom can prosper."

But did not Athens see the "Golden Age of Pericles", when every citizen of that city was eminently qualified to discharge the duties of any public office? And yet Greece perished. And we may multiply our schools and universities twice over but without God we are worse off than ever. A godless science will continue to put God farther and farther away, and instead of having a blessed loving Father and an all-sufficient Saviour, we shall be reduced to thinking of God as an impersonal force and energy that grinds out certain inevitable results by the operation of invariable laws. The best kind of faith under such conditions will be Agnosticism that says, "I don't know"; or mechanistic philosophy that reduces man to the level of a machine. But Sir Arthur Eddington tells us that there is a realm which science cannot invade. It is the realm of spirit. Here faith projects itself and gains facts and knowledge quite as real as those that are attested by the five physical senses. He urges us to hold tenaciously to our faith in the spiritual for it will lead us far nearer the ultimate truth than anything the symbolizers or the codifiers can gain. This from a scientist is encouraging. The person that is born of God welcomes truth from any source, but refuses to accept the unproven hypothesis of a pseudo science, that deny the foundation principles of divine revelation. If Jesus had been a reformer or a humanitarian rather than a Saviour, he might have said "Nicodemus, the political situation in Israel is intolerable. Rome has her heel on the necks of this people. I have come to break the yoke and restore to them their national prestige.

We praise the Lord for civil liberty. The regenerated man has a greater desire for and a

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