

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

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EDITORIAL

A SUCCESSFUL CAMP-MEETING

And they stood every man in his place round about the camp.—Judges 7-21.

In the book of Judges we have an account of a great victory won by God's people over their enemies, the Midianites.

This victory was not won in the ordinary way, that is, by force of arms or because of the numerical strength of God's people. As you know, Israel was without any weapons of warfare at all, and Gideon's army that went into the battle numbered only three hundred men. The inspired record says that the Midianites and Amalekites and all the children of the East lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude: and their camels were without number as the sand by the sea-side for multitude. Now the question naturally arises: What was the secret of Israel's victory? There were two reasons for their success which are both mentioned in the record of Gideon's battle in the Book of Judges. The first one is that the Lord was with Gideon and his three hundred. The word says that Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites and the children of Israel cried unto the Lord. And it came to pass when Israel cried unto the Lord that the Lord heard and sent a prophet who preached to them, and showed them their sin and disobedience which was the cause of their trouble.

When they repented of that, and continued to cry to God he raised up Gideon to be their leader. Who under God led them to victory. All this suggests to us friends that one of the great needs for a successful camp-meeting, or for success in God's work in our Churches or anywhere, is prevailing, believing prayer on the part of God's people as well as putting away everything that is displeasing to Him.

This will bring God in our midst, which is the most important factor to success; for without him all human effort is in vain.

The other condition which made victory possible to Gideon's little band is mentioned in our text. "They stood every man in his place round about the Camp." I believe that the work of the Lord has been greatly hindered many times by men who fail to find their place in His service, or who do not stand in the place where God can use them. Someone has said, there are men in the pulpits who ought to be in secular work of some kind, and no doubt some engaged in other callings who ought to be in the gospel ministry. I think it is a great mistake for any one to urge young people to become preachers of the gospel or missionaries until they have had

a definite call from God to enter that work. It is in keeping with Christian experience that every truly converted person has a strong desire to help others to get saved. And because they have such a desire, some people who have more zeal than wisdom will tell them they ought to preach or go out to a foreign field as a missionary. Beloved, it is a great mistake for anyone to tell a young person that they have a call to preach before God calls them, or puts on their heart that "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel." Some people seem to think that if a person can get up and talk and quote some scripture, and perhaps ramble from Genesis to Revelation, and make quite a lot of noise, or even exhort some, they must be called to preach. Well, they might do all that, and tell how they preached here and preached there and preached this and preached that, without having a call from God to give their lives to the gospel ministry. Some one has said that one of the evidences that God has called a man to the gospel ministry is that he can preach. A man may have the gift of exhortation and be useful in the work of the Lord as a layman without being definitely called to become a preacher. There is a place for, and a great need of exhorters, teachers, and especially for intercessors in the church of Jesus Christ. And no church is complete without these to stand by the work of the Lord in the Church. Don't think, beloved, that everyone who has a desire to be used of God, must become a gospel minister. I fear that many a good man who is trying to preach has missed his calling, and that God could have used him better in some other place. I have read that a young man came to John Wesley one time, and told him he thought God had called him to preach; and Mr. Wesley asked him if he could do any thing else and keep saved; the young man answered, yes, he could, whereupon Mr. Wesley told him then he would better do something else. That is what the apostle meant when he said, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel." However, we would not discourage any soul whom God is calling; we would rather encourage them; but God will let them know if he wants them in the ministry without our help, and if God really calls them, they will obey or have a mighty unsatisfactory life, if they don't backslide altogether. So now my friends let us pray much and yield ourselves fully to God, and I know that he will show us each our place, and let us all go to our camp-meetings this summer determined to stand in our place round about the camp. If we do I feel sure that we will have a great number of intercessors, exhorters, teachers, and helpers, as well as preachers of the Word. Let us be workers together with God and trust Him for a mighty victory. Brethren I believe we can have it, "Let every man wherein he is called, therein abide with God. I Cor. 7:24. Let all the people say. Amen.

The shadows of the mind are like those of the body. In the morning of life they lie behind us; at noon, we trample them under foot; and in the evening they stretch long, broad and deepening before us.—Longfellow.

When we avoid our neighbor who is suffering, when we wrap ourselves in the cold blanket of selfishness, we forget the possibilities of real happiness, for true happiness comes only through sympathy and by comparison. The sufferings of others softens our hearts and make us sensible to our own blessings.

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WALKING WITH CHRIST

Cares cannot fret me if my soul be dwelling
In the still air of faith's untroubled day;
Grief cannot shake me if I walk beside Thee,
My hand in Thine along the darkening way.
—Unknown.