

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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SPECIAL NOTICE

All correspondence for The Highway should reach us before the 12th and 25th of each month.
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EDITORIAL

SPARED TO SEE ANOTHER YEAR

"And he answering said unto him, Lord let it alone this year also." Luke 13:8.

* * *

The foregoing is a part of the parable spoken by our Lord, who is endeavoring to convey to the people an adequate idea of God's will or requirement concerning them. There were those present who told Jesus of serious calamities which had befallen some Galileans. Pilate had killed some of them while they were in the act of worship, and the tower of Siloam had fallen upon eighteen others and killed them. (See verse 1.) And those who told Jesus of these things evidently supposed that these disasters were marks or evidences of God's displeasure, because these afflicted ones were great sinners. But Jesus said, "I tell you nay, they were not sinners—above all Galileans because they suffered such things. But except ye repent ye shall likewise perish."

The Word teaches that troubles, afflictions or trials are not necessarily a mark of God's displeasure. Paul says, "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Neither is temporal prosperity an evidence of God's pleasure, because wicked men often become prosperous and very rich. The Psalmist saw them spreading themselves like a green bay-tree: But he also saw that they were standing in slippery places ready to be cast down to destruction in a moment, while the righteous though afflicted here like Job of old, were upheld by God's powerful hand and kept in His love.

Jesus spoke the parable of the barren fig tree to teach us that men will be punished not only because of the things they do which are wrong but also because of their failure to do the things which are right, or for their sins of omission, in failing to bear fruit. It is not enough for us to be moral people, law-abiding, honest, etc. These things will keep us out of jail but not out of hell. Someone has said, for one to be good, he must be good for something. Let us consider this parable a little, and see what Jesus is teaching. Here is a fig tree planted in a favorable place, cared for by the dresser of the vinyard and under such circumstances should have produced fruit; but the owner of the vinyard came three years expecting fruit, and found none. And he said, "Cut it down, why cumbereth it the ground?" Then the caretaker of the vinyard replied with the words of the text. A plea for mercy, a prayer of intercession, "Lord let it

alone this year also." And he promises to do his best to make this barren tree productive. He said, "I will dig about it," etc., "and if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down."

When we come, as we have now to the beginning of a New Year, I often think of these words, "Let it alone this year also," and wonder how many of us might have fallen under a blow from the axe of Divine justice; because of our lack of fruitfulness, in the past year or years, if it had not been for the intercessory prayer of Jesus, our great High Priest, who is at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. And when the trials, losses and crosses come to many professing Christians, as they often do, I also think of the words in the parable, "I will dig about it." And I wonder if Jesus, by whose mercy we live and are saved from the axe of Divine justice, is digging about our lives, endeavoring to make us produce more fruit to the glory of God. Sometimes people complain and fret under trials, and harden their hearts, and defeat our Lord in His efforts to make us more fruitful. When the digging by trials and losses come, let us humble ourselves beloved, and remember that "whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth." And let us seek to learn the lesson which he is endeavoring to teach us that we may better glorify Him. Jesus said, "Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit." The word "fruit" used in the Scriptures has several shades of meaning. It often means the result of our labor, or doings either good or bad. It sometimes means the salvation of souls, the result of the efforts of God's people. Jesus said to His disciples, "I have chosen you, and ordained you that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain." The Apostle Paul also speaks of the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, temperance, faith. Gal. 5:22. This fruit is what the husbandman, our God is seeking in every life, and which is the evidence of our salvation, and can only be produced satisfactorily to God by those whose hearts are cleansed from sin and filled with the Holy Spirit. And remember beloved, if we have not been bearing the fruit of the Spirit in sufficient quantities to please God in the past years, and He has spared us to see this New Year of 1938, that He may dig about us this year by trials of various kinds, and if we bear fruit, well; but if not, then what? Justice, "Thou shalt cut it down." Let us all endeavor to make this year the most fruitful one of all our life, and thus glorify God. "Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit, so shall ye be my disciples." John 15:8. And to this end the Editor wishes all our readers a very happy and prosperous year.

—H. S. D.

LEAVE IT TO HIM

When night comes, the day's work done, and I would fain know its worth but cannot, I say to my heart: "Be still! Leave all to God." 'Tis then I rest, closing my eyes to what is past, only praying to wake with clear vision for the new day and with strength and courage to do its task the best I can and be glad. Sometimes—or when and where is not significant—sometime, life done, and I unskilled to know its worth or fix its destiny, I will say to my heart: "Be still! Leave all to God." I think I shall rest then, closing the eyes to all of earth, to wake with clear vision of the new life, and with ample power and zest for enterprise and infinite joy.—Albert D. Knapp.

—Sel.

OBITUARY

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.—Revelation 14-13.

Ella May Wiley

It was with great sorrow that the many friends and loved ones learned of the death of Sister Wiley which occurred at her home on North Street, Calais, Me., on Saturday, Dec. 11.

Sister Wiley had been in poor health for several months, being confined to her bed for the past eight weeks, bearing her suffering with patience and Christian fortitude. Her testimony the last given on earth was, "Peace, peace, wonderful peace coming down from the Father above," etc.

Sister Wiley was born at Robinson, Me., Dec. 25, 1866, a daughter of the late Henry and Lucy McLaughlin. In 1884 she was united in marriage with Robert Wiley and since then has resided in Calais, Me. Beloved by all who knew her she lived a life of unselfishness and untiring devotion to others.

She was a member of the Reformed Baptist Church, a regular attendant and active worker as long as health permitted (God bless her memory).

Those left to mourn their loss are her husband, Mr. Robert Wiley; three daughters, Mrs. George Barnes, Mrs. Harry Purton of Calais, Me., Mrs. Estella Coleman of Boston, Mass., also two sisters, Mrs. Bertha Putman of Calais, Mrs. Fred Curtis of Rumford.

Funeral services were conducted from her late home at 2 p. m. Dec. 13, the writer officiating assisted by Lic. A. D. Cann. The large attendance and many floral tributes showed the high esteem in which our sister was held. Interment was in the Calais cemetery.

We feel as a church that we have sustained a great loss but that it is her eternal gain.

H. S. WILSON

"I CAN DO ALL THINGS"

How much can we do for Jesus?
How much for our fellow man?
There's a way to do more than we're able,
With Jesus within to enable,—
We all can do more than we can.

How much can we do for Jesus
In this life with its fleeting span?
If Jesus within us is dwelling,
Our life and our actions infilling,
We all can do more than we can.

How much can we bear for Jesus?
How much for our fellow man?
If within us His love is constraining,
If beneath us His arms are sustaining,
We can all bear more than we can.

How much can we give for Jesus
To succor our fellow man?
If within us His love is o'erflowing,
Our life will be ever outgoing,
And we'll try to give more than we can.
—Selected.

PERSEVERENCE

"Hold on, my heart, in thy believing—
The steadfast only wins the crown;
He who, when stormy winds are heaving,
Parts with his anchor, shall go down;
But he who Jesus holds through all,
Shall stand tho' heav'n and earth shall fall.
Hold out! there comes an end to sorrow,
Hope from the dust shall conquering rise;
The storm foretells a summer's morrow,
The Cross points on to Paradise;
The Father reigneth; cease all doubt;
The Father reigneth; cease all doubt;
Hold on, my heart, hold on, hold out!"—Sel.