

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

THE ORGAN OF THE REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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SPECIAL NOTICE

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EDITORIAL

INDIFFERENCE

"But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise."—Mat. 22:5.

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In the parable of the marriage supper which our Lord spoke in describing some phases of this gospel dispensation, He spoke of various attitudes which the people took toward those who invited them. Some made excuses that they had other engagements, and were not able to come. Some were angry and entreated the servants who invited them spitefully and slew them. Others compromised like the man who came but did not fully qualify and put on the wedding garment for while he responded to the invitation and did come to the feast, he was finally rejected and cast out into outer darkness at the King's command when he came in to see the guests. This man seems to represent a great many people professing to be Christians today who are members of churches, and quite active in religious work, and seem to give evidence of some degree of grace in their lives, and as such perhaps feel quite safe about their soul's salvation: but do admit that they are not fully keeping God's commands in loving God with all their hearts, and their neighbor as themselves, neither do they love their enemies as Jesus commanded.

In other words they, like the guest without the wedding garment, are still lacking something which the King (God) requires of us all. For He has said, "As He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, be ye holy as I am holy." 1 Pet. 1:15-16.

But we want to speak especially of the indifferent class who are mentioned in our text, those who made light of the invitation and went their ways. This seems to be the attitude of the masses today, both in our churches and out. The greatest barrier to the work of the gospel in the salvation of men seems to be indifference in every church where the gospel is being preached in this civilized land of ours. No class of people are so hard to reach as those who are totally indifferent. And we would have our readers notice that this class of people had been invited before, for Jesus said in the parable, "The King sent forth His servants to call them that were bidden and they would not come," and again He sent forth other servants saying, "Tell them, behold I have prepared my dinner," etc. So we see they had had several invitations

and had not responded; then they made light of it and went their ways.

Now this part of the parable seems to explain the cause of indifference in religious circles today. That is, people have heard the gospel so often and have not responded to it, but have hardened their hearts to that degree that they no longer are convicted of their need of salvation when they do hear it, hence become indifferent. There is hope for a man if he even gets angry when the claims of the gospel are faithfully presented to him, for it shows concern on his part. He is interested at least, and very often that man who fights the truth and the truth teller will like Saul of Tarsus see his own need, and yield to God and become converted. But who can tell us how to stir, or awaken the indifferent ones of which there are so many. Jesus said, "If the light that is in you become darkness how great is that darkness." When souls have heard the truth often enough to know what God would have them do, and they do not make that knowledge the rule of action, or "walk in the light" as the scripture says, then the result is spiritual darkness, hardness of heart, and indifference.

This seems to be the condition of thousands in our so-called holiness churches who have never prayed through to a definite experience of holiness or heart cleansing, although they have listened to the same truth which thousands of others have heard, and obeyed and have obtained the blessing. But these indifferent ones, while many of them are faithful in church attendance and help to support the work of God, yet they never seem to have any refreshing seasons from the presence of the Lord or make any progress in spiritual things. They never laugh, or shout, or weep for joy. Their vessel seems to be in a dead calm where no heavenly winds ever blow or breezes fill their sails. They seem to be satisfied with their present attainments in grace, and as the poet has said, "Along the cool sequester'd vale of life they keep the noiseless tenor of their way." I say if God will raise up some man who can stir these indifferent, complacent souls to seek God's face and receive new and fresh blessings, he will certainly render a great service to the church of Jesus Christ. It seems, however, that the stirring must begin in the pulpits first. The old saying is, "The water will not rise above the fountain head." The preachers must get the vision and mightily preach the Word under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, until the best members of the church are on fire, and the awakening or revival spirit continues on down the line, and the world is reached, and made to feel that God has again visited Zion with a mighty outpouring of His Holy Spirit. We should urge our people to give themselves up to much prayer, and the leadership of the Holy Spirit and hold themselves in readiness to obey him, not only in their everyday living but also when we come together to worship we ought to expect him to take charge of us and move us to prayer, supplication, and demonstration in any way He pleases. Is it not possible, friends, that because some have run into fanaticism in their services in recent years, that many more of us in trying to keep mere human demonstration or fanaticism out, have gone too far to the other extreme and perhaps have put restrictions on the Holy Spirit and substituted our human plans and programs in His place until there is very little margin left for Him to work in our midst. It is written that John Wesley said in the latter years of his life, "Oh that God would send us another Holy Ghost inspired revival. We would have it without the fanaticism if we could; but

if not, Lord send it fanaticism and all. And we say Amen. And let all the people say Amen. And pray, oh God come in a new way and save us from this awful paralyzing indifference and dearth." Let us pray.

NEGRO ACHIEVEMENTS CITED

Making a plea for justice to the American Negro a short time ago, Rev. Dr. Robert W. Patton, Director of the American Church Institute for Negroes, cited before the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church twelve achievements of the Negro in America:

1. From a population of about a million in 1800 he has increased to twelve million.

2. The Negro worker is an indispensable part of American agriculture and industry.

3. His labor for the most part has built the economic empires of cotton, sugar cane and tobacco.

4. He furnishes nearly ten per cent of American breadwinners, including about the same of farm labor.

5. Emancipated in 1865 with scarcely any property at all, Negroes today operate 22,000 business establishments.

6. Having scarcely any money at all when they were freed, they annually buy \$4,500,000,000 worth of goods.

7. They have \$206,000,000 worth of church property and spend \$43,000,000 annually to maintain their religious enterprises.

8. In the World War 150,000 Negroes went to France, and many gave their lives that democracy might live.

9. Negroes are members of twelve State Legislatures, and Negro judges are on the bench in several states. Twenty-two Negroes have sat in the United States Congress.

10. One hundred sixteen Negroes are members of Phi Beta Kappa. More than sixty have won the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and ninety-seven are in "Who's Who in America."

11. Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington were orators of the first order; George W. Carver is one of America's greatest chemists; Paul Laurence Dunbar, the poet, and Roland Hayes, with his glorious voice, are men of whom any race might well be proud.

12. They have created the immortal music of the Negro Spirituals.

Dr. Patton pointed out that the conspicuous examples of great achievement by Negroes represent only that "small percentage of the race who have been accorded opportunity denied to the race as a whole."—War Cry.

A GREAT TASK

If Christianity had not been divine, how could it have endured and made progress in this present world? "If it had not been the Lord who was on our side," the task would have been too great for human courage and strength. These figures from the Herald of Holiness show how serious the work still is:

"We wonder just how fast the world is being evangelized, and possibly a few statistics will answer the question. The world is growing more heathen at the rate of 6,000,000 yearly. In the period from 1890 to 1935, Christianity made a net gain of 200,000,000, but in that time the heathen population of the world made a net gain of 470,000,000. What is to be done about it?"

—The Presbyterian.

No road is too long to the man who advances deliberately and without undue haste, and no honors are too distant for the man who prepares himself for them with patience.—Bruyere.