

## I PLEAD WITH THE ISRAEL OF GOD

A Message for Intercessors Everywhere

Charles V. Fairbairn

'And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell upon his face before the ark of the Lord, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads. And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord God, what shall I say when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies. \* \* \* And the Lord said unto Joshua [along in the eventide], Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? \* \* \* Up sanctify the people, and say, and do (vv. 14, 15). \* \* \* So Joshua rose up, and did (vv. 16-26). \* \* \* And the Lord said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed; arise, go up to Ai; see, I have given [the victory] into thy hand" (Joshua 7:8-1).

Israel had won a great victory at Jericho, but at Ai met ignominious defeat. It drove Joshua and the elders of Israel to their knees. This and the words of their prayers proved to Jehovah that they were strongly on His side and against His enemies. God has invited all mankind to bring their burdens to Him in prayer; but just as truly as He moved Joshua to prayer, as truly did God say, "Get thee up, Joshua; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Arise, go, do!" And the result was victory at the very place of former defeat. There is a time to pray; there is a time to arise and do, if prayer is not to be rendered abortive.

Our Lord retired to mountaintops for prayer; thence He went forth to face and successfully handle most unusual situations. Prayer—action. His threefold call to us is "Come," "Tarry" (pray), "Go Ye." Prayer—action. His exhortation is, "Pray ye \* \* \* the Lord of the harvest, that he \* \* \* send forth laborers into his harvest." That prayer answered brings assignments. Prayer—action. Some tackle their assignment with great effort but little or no prayer; Matthew 7:22, 23 and 23:15 show their terrible doom. Others go at their task with prayer only, refusing to add a single personal effort to help answer their own prayers. James 2:14-16, Matthew 7:21 and Luke 13:25-28 reveal how small their hope of success or reward.

I travelled miles to help in a revival. The pastor had done practically no preparatory work at all. No tracts had been handed out. No dodgers had been thrown in at doors. No signboard announced anything. No bell was rung. His "faith" (?) was, "When we pray enough, and get blessed enough, sinners will come" But faith, without works, being alone, was dead, dead, DEAD. I mean "dead."

"But what can 'I' (little me) do? Oh, what can I do?" almost wails one.

Well, I have known some folks in my time: a doctor who carried tracts for patients to read; a nurse who, wherever possible, got in a good word for God; a dentist who made his chair a mourner's bench; a barber who testified while he worked; a drummer who wrapped his wares with salvation; a mother whose cradle was preparatory school for preacher sons; a Sunday School teacher who failed to "get to the lesson" but got her class to God; a schoolmom who made her day-school a pioneer Sunday school on the Lord's Day; a woman who averages two postals per day for Christ and souls; an oil-man who has the knack of turning even paths into texts for sermons; a blacksmith who drove home more testimonies than he did horseshoe nails; a farmer who frequently drove miles to help neglected

souls; a quite untalented layman who became chauffeur to the Lord Jesus Christ. I have not named a preacher yet. And Jesus turned a request for water into an altar-call to a Samaritan city. Oh, to be willing in the day of God's power!

Christ's word is, "Ye shall receive power—ye shall be witnesses." Receive the Spirit—the results follow. Holy inevitability. Throttle the results—frustrate the power and quench the Spirit. To expect success without the Bestowment is to expect effect without cause. But to expect power in answer to prayer with neither prospect nor intention of using it in service is expectation without sense, propriety, purpose, or value—contrary to divine economy. O Beloved, this is the dispensation of the Holy Ghost; this is the day of God's power, the day of its bestowment, the day for its reception, the day for its release in soul-winning. "Go home to thy friends!" "Go out into the highways and hedges." "Go ye into all the world, and make disciples of every creature." Oh, let the word of the prophet be fulfilled in us, "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power."

I plead with the Israel of God.

—Free Methodist

## THE HABIT OF JUDGING

R. Barclay Warren

When Jesus said, 'Judge not that ye be not judged' (Matt. 7:1). He was not speaking of the ordinary execution of justice which is necessary in a sinful world. Neither did He mean that we should not have any sense of discernment between good and evil; He Himself said, "Ye shall know them by their fruits." He addressed the religious leaders of His day as hypocrites, whited sepulchres, and a generation of vipers.

But our Lord was reproving the habit of finding fault with others and condemning them. Such a habit is beset with dangers, for one may condemn on insufficient evidence. Men have been hanged because all the evidence was not given. Reputations have been besmeared and their possessors subjected to unspeakable anguish because they have been condemned on insufficient evidence. Moreover, it is hard to prove motive from evidence. Nevertheless, people have been condemned as proud because they stood erect, or malicious because they missed shaking hands with some sensitive person after church. Be careful. Your interpretation of motive might be wrong.

Those who are most ready to condemn are invariably least fitted for it. While they would remove the tiny particle from the eye of another, a whole beam is sticking in their own. "First cast the beam out of thine own eye: and then shalt thou see clearly to cast the mote out of thy brother's eye."

Sinners are often prone to condemn inconsistencies, real or imagined, in the lives of professing Christians, while they overlook their own beam of rebellion to the claims of Jesus Christ.

Another reason against this evil habit is to be found in the words: "For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged." We shall be measured on our own scales, both by our fellowmen and at the great Judgment.

Lord give us more of Thy love that we may not be looking for the faults but for the virtues in our fellow men. For more love we pray. Amen.

## WINNING THE CROWN

"They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb; and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." —Rev. 12:11.

When James and John came to Christ with their mother, asking Him to give them the best places in the Kingdom, He did not refuse their request; but He told them such would be given them if they could do His work, drink His cup, and be baptized with His baptism. Do we want the competition? The greatest things are always hedged about by the hardest things; and we, too, shall find mountains, and forests, and chariots of iron, and giants.

Triumphal arches are not woven out of rose blossoms and silken cords but reared by hard blows and bloody scars. Hardship is the price of coronation. The very hardships that you are enduring in your life today are given by the Master for the explicit purpose of enabling you to win your crown. Do not wait for some ideal situation, some romantic difficulty, some far-away emergency; but rise to meet actual conditions which the providence of God has placed around you today. Your crown of glory lies imbedded in the very heart of those things—those hardships and trials that are pressing you this very hour, week and month of your life.—Selected.

## A TEACHER'S REWARD

Canon Dyson Hague tells of a man who was ministering to a dying soldier. The soldier wanted to leave a message to his Sunday School teacher. He said, "Tell her I die a Christian, and I have never forgotten her teaching."

He wrote the message to the teacher, and a few weeks later received a reply, the substance of which was, "God have mercy upon me! Only last month I resigned my Sunday School class, for I felt that my teaching was doing no good, and scarcely had I, through my cowardly, faithless heart, given up my appointed work, when I got a message from you telling me that my teaching had been the means of winning a soul to Christ. I am going back to my Rector at once to tell him that I will try again in Christ's name and I will be faithful to the end."

After relating this incident Canon Hague continues, "Oh, that I could speak with a loud voice to every Sunday School teacher in the whole world and to every parent in the Christian Church and could say: Teachers, teachers; parents, parents! Go on! Go on! You are sowing seed. God only knows what fruit it is bearing."—The Evangelical Friend.

## OBITUARY

Our church and the community of Seal Cove, N. B., suffered a great loss in the passing of **Deacon H. J. Benson** at his home, on October 8th, aged 74 years. A faithful servant of God has gone to his reward. The funeral was held at his late home on Friday, October 10th, conducted by Rev. Ronald T. Sabine, assisted by Rev. J. A. Owens, and Rev. H. M. Haney. He is survived by one son, Moody, and one daughter, Mrs. Laurence Cook, both of Seal Cove, and five grandchildren.