

## THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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## EDITORIAL

### WHY GOOD MEN MAKE MISTAKES

But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. 1 Sam. 16:7.

Israel's first king, Saul, had persistently disobeyed God, and God set him aside, and told Samuel his prophet to go to Bethlehem, and anoint a man from the sons of Jesse to be king in Saul's stead: When Samuel saw Eliab, Jesse's oldest son who evidently was a noble kingly looking man, Samuel said surely the Lord's anointed is before him. Then the Lord spoke to Samuel in the words of our text.

The prophet Samuel, would have made a serious blunder, and anointed the wrong man, had not God spoken, and stopped him, and if Samuel had not been living near enough to God to hear his voice, the mistake would have been made. So we see that good men can make mistakes, and that, in spite of all the promises that God has made of divine guidance: Here are some of them: "The meek he will guide in judgment." Psalms 25:9. "I will guide thee with Mine eye." Psalms 32:8. "For this God is our God forever, he will be our guide even unto death." Psalms 48:14. "Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel." Psalms 73:24. "The Day spring from on high hath visited us, etc., to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1:79. "How be it when he the spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth." John 16:13. "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them and they follow me." John 10:27. "And the Lord shall guide thee continually. Isa. 58:11.

Having therefore these promises of divine guidance dearly beloved, then why do good men make mistakes? Very often we hear godly people, preachers, and teachers, say: Oh yes we all make mistakes. One preacher said I have made many mistakes in the past, and expect to make more. They seem to think that making mistakes is only a small thing, they say a mistake is not a sin and God is merciful, and does not condemn us for wrong doing when it is a mistake. That may be quite true but, God surely does not want his people to do wrong, and many times in past years, men in their zeal for what they thought was right and best in the Lord's work have done many things which proved to be a hindrance rather than a help, to the gospel of Christ.

Well the text tells us why good men make mistakes; hear it again: "Man looketh on the outward appearance". In other words he is guided in his doings by his natural faculties, his sight, his judgment, his hearing, instead of by the Spirit of God, who says, Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs.

If we were living as near to God as Samuel was, so that we could hear God speaking to us as he did when he was tempted to depend upon the sight of his eyes and to anoint Eliab instead of David, me thinks, we would not make those most regrettable mistakes.

In view of God's many promises for guidance, if we are seeking to know God's will, that we may do his will, then if we don't get in a hurry and act rashly, but wait until God speaks, he will surely speak in time so we will know his will before we need to act. "He that believeth shall not make haste". Beware of that voice which says, Hurry!

When young people are seeking a companion for life, if they would take the wise man's advice, and trust the Lord to guide them in that important matter, instead of leaning to their own understanding they would save themselves much sorrow because of disappointments, disagreements and broken homes which come to so many in after years.

But man still looks on the outward appearance, which sometimes is a pretty, little painted face, but he cannot see the heart underneath full of sin and selfishness, which when displeased breaks forth in anger, abuse, and stubbornness. It is amazing to learn how such a devilish spirit can be hidden from human eyes under a pretty smiling face.

That innocent young girl, like her mother Eve, so long ago still listens to fair speeches about future happiness, living in beautiful homes in much pleasure, until she is completely deluded, and yields to every request of her deceiver, and only when it is too late does she realize what a mistake she has made. Hence, the old saying, Marry in haste, repent at your leisure. "He that believeth shall not make haste." Isa. 28:16. "Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he will give thee the desires of thine heart. Psalms 37:4.

For man looketh on the outward appearance; but the Lord looketh on the heart.

(To be continued in next issue)

### THE KING'S BUSINESS

Frances Ridley Havergal

"The king's business required haste"

(I. Sam. 21:8)

The King's business requires haste and yet there is no other business about which average Christians take it so easy. They must go their usual round, they must write their letters, they must pay off their visits and other social claims, they must do all that is expected of them; and then, after this and that and the other thing is cleared off, they will do what they can of the King's business. They do not say "must" about that, unless it is some part of His business which is undertaken at second-hand, and with more sense of responsibility to one's clergy-man that to one's King. Is this being "faithful and loyal and single hearted"? The King's business requires haste. It is always pressing, and may never be put off. Much of it has to do with souls which may be in eternity tomorrow; and with opportunities

which are gone forever if not used here and now; there is no convenient season for it but today. Often it is not really done at all, because it is not done in the spirit of holy haste. We meet an unconverted friend again and again, and beat about the bush, and think to gain quiet influence and make way gradually, and call it judicious not to be in a hurry, when the real reason is that we are wanting in holy eagerness and courage to do the King's true business with that soul, and in nine such cases out of ten nothing ever comes out of it, but "As thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone." Have we not found it so?

Delay in the Lord's errands is next to disobedience, and generally springs out of it, or issues in it. Let us see to it that we can say, "I made haste, and delayed not to keep Thy commandments" (Psalms 119:60). We never know what regret and punishment delay in the King's business may bring upon ourselves.

We find four rules for doing the King's business, in His Word. We are to do it—first, "Heartily"; second, "Diligently"; third, "Faithfully"; fourth, "Speedily." Let us ask Him to give us the grace and energy to apply them this day to whatever He indicates as our part of His business, remembering that He said, "I must be about my Father's business."

Especially in that part of His business which is between Himself and ourselves alone, let us never delay. Oh, the incalculable blessings that we have already lost by putting off our own dealings with our King!

What shall be our word for Jesus? Master, give it day by day;

Ever as the need arises, teach Thy children what to say.

Give us holy love and patience; grant us deep humility,

That of self we may be emptied, and our hearts be full of Thee.

Single-hearted, strong and fearless—Thou hast called us, we will rise!

Let the might of Thy good Spirit go with every loving word;

And by hearts prepared and opened, be our message always heard!

### HOLINESS

Holiness—in other words, pure and perfect love—is required of all persons. It is written very plainly upon all parts of the Bible, from the beginning to the end of it. "But as he which hath called you is holy," says the apostle Peter, "so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy."

Those who aim at the possession of the hidden life, who wish to walk with God, and to hold communion with Him in the interior man, as a friend converses with a friend, will find these glorious results impossible to them, except on the condition of holiness of heart. So long as they indulge voluntarily in any known sin, they erect a wall of separation between themselves and their heavenly Father; and He cannot and will not take them into His bosom, and reveal to them the hidden secrets of His love. They must stand far off. We do not say that they are utterly rejected; but they occupy the position of their own selection; obscure and perplexed in their own experience, and darkness and perplexity around them.—Upham.