

With Jesus, on Vacation

By Wesley B. Nussey

Vacationing is big business in the U. S. A. It is one of the nation's important industries. For instance, Michigan's tourist trade is second only to the manufacturing of the cars in which people go vacationing. Newsweek, July 3, 1950, estimated that more than 50,000,000 Americans would go vacationing in 40,000,000 cars in 1950. Of this number 99% will stay in the United States. The same periodical further estimated that these vacationers would spend between \$6,000,000,000 and \$7,000,000,000 from July 1 to Labor Day. This is big business!

Since vacationing is a major American industry, and since many of us have gone, or will be going, on trips this summer, let us consider the subject of vacationing with Jesus.

Our Lord suggested a holiday to his weary disciples (recorded in Mark 6:31) when He invited them to go aside with Him to a shaded place by a country lake where they might rest for a time. Jesus proposed this relaxation at a time when the apostles had returned from an intensive preaching tour; at a time when "there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat." The preaching mission being completed, the Master desired to lead them into a season of peaceful retreat, a period of fellowship with Himself, and a time for further training in the work to which He had called them. Then too, Herod was perplexed at the appearance of another prophet who attracted even greater numbers to himself than did John the Baptist whom he had beheaded so recently. Hence, Christ leads His disciples for a season to a place beyond the limits of Herod's jurisdiction.

Mark refers to the place of apostolic retreat as a "desert place." It is not to be assumed it was so called because it was barren, for there was "much grass." The chosen shady nook was thus spoken of because it was uninhabited and therefore suitable for rest and meditation. Dr. William M. Taylor writes of this setting located on the northeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee: "What a magnificent sight this must have been! The rays of the western sun illumined the distant mountains with their purple glory, and glittered with dazzling sheen upon the surface of the lake close by. All around was the quiet of nature's afternoon, and above a sky of clear and cloudless blue."

Jesus, who sensed the need of His early apostles for physical, mental, and spiritual relaxation and recreation and guided His companions to an ideal lake resort, will do as much for His twentieth century disciples. He knows the strain of spirit, the stress of mind, and the fatigue of body that you have experienced in the home, in the office or shop, at school, or in the field. If you will take Jesus with you on your vacation this summer, He will guide you to an excellent place of physical and of spiritual retreat.

Taking Jesus with you on vacation will help you to avoid the relaxation of good morals while resting the body and mind. Satan may suggest the waiving of convictions when relaxing away from home. Take Christ with you and questionable conduct will seem unbecoming in His presence.

Vacation Gladness

By David Anderson

I must pass on to our readers for the glory of Christ, a unique experience which Mrs. Anderson and I enjoyed while vacationing among our relatives in Canada recently. In visiting my uncle who was almost one hundred and one years old, the Lord graciously helped us to lead him to Christ. After a wasted life of a century God melted him to tears, and we prayed until he truly confessed all his sins, and the joy of the Lord came streaming into his soul as he clasped his hand on his chest and exclaimed, "Peace has come into my heart." The glory of the Lord filled the room and we all sang and praised God together in a hilarious manner. What a time of rejoicing!

But this was not all. In the same home lived his son-in-law, eighty years of age, without God and without hope. As we pressed the claims of Christ, and also His boundless compassion, the man replied, "It's no use, Dave." But God was present in power to save and helped us to convince Jack that his wasted life could be blotted out. Then he began to pray and confess his sins. We continued until he confidently declared that his burden of sin was gone, and that Christ had taken him in also. So, inside of half an hour, one man over one hundred years of age, and another over eighty, found the Lord.

Vacation gladness? Decidedly. Let us all keep awake and on the alert for lost souls while we are on our vacations. It pays.—Wesleyan Methodist.

Mr. Motorist, taking Christ with you will help you to drive like a Christian. Jesus is weeping now over the graves of 35,000 who were carelessly killed on American highways last year. He is bending low over the mangled bodies of another 100,000 who were injured. Let us drive like Christians thus avoiding unnecessary mishaps.

Plan to spend the Lord's Day in rest and in worship. John the Divine, being in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, received a new vision of Christ. Be in the Spirit on the Lord's Day so that you may return to your home with a greater knowledge of God and, consequently, you will be a better Christian because of your vacation. Or, like Moses, you may hear God speaking to you out of a burning bush concerning some new task to be accomplished when you return to your home.

No matter where you may travel, you will find people needing the Bread of Life. When Jesus and His friends arrived at their desired haven of rest, behold, there were the needy! The disciples, because of insufficient faith, would have sent them away hungry. Christ, moved with compassion for the multitude, made them sit down on the grass that he might supply their needs. You will find hungry souls wherever you go; "Give ye them to eat."

Rev. David Anderson, pastor of the Elmira Wesleyan Methodist Church, tells of finding a needy soul while vacationing in the early summer. He was visiting friends of his youth in Canada. Providentially, he called at the

Ministerial Unfaithfulness

A young minister preaching very earnestly in a certain chapel, after service had to walk four or five miles to his home along a country road. A young man who had been deeply impressed during the sermon requested the privilege of walking with the minister, with an earnest hope that he might get an opportunity of telling his feelings to him, and obtaining some word of guidance or comfort. Instead of that, the young minister, all along, told the most singular tales to those who were with him, causing loud roars of laughter. He stopped at a certain house, and this young man with him, and the whole evening was spent in frivolity.

Some years after, when the minister had grown older, he was called to the bedside of a dying man. He hastened hither with a heart desirous to do good. He was requested to sit down at the bedside, and the dying man, looking at him and regarding him more closely, said to him:

"Do you remember preaching in such a village, and on such an occasion?"

"I do," said the minister.

"I was one of your hearers," said the man, "and I was deeply impressed by the sermon."

"Thank God for that," said the minister.

"Stop!" interrupted the man; "don't thank God till you have heard the whole story. You will have reason to alter your tone before I have done."

The minister changed countenance; but he little guessed what would be the full extent of that man's testimony.

Said he: "Sir, do you remember after you had finished your sermon that I, with some others, walked home with you? I was sincerely desirous of being led in the right path that night; but I heard you speak in such a strain of levity, and with so much coarseness, too, that I went outside the house while you were sitting down to your evening meal. I stamped my foot upon the ground; I said that you were a liar; that Christianity was a falsehood; that if you could pretend to be in earnest in the pulpit and then come down and talk like that, the whole thing must be a sham. And I have been an infidel," said he, "a confirmed infidel, from that day to this. But I am not an infidel at this moment, I know better. I am dying, and about to be damned, and at the bar of God I will lay my damnation to your charge. My blood is upon your head!" And with a dreadful shriek, and a demonical glance at the minister, he died.—Holiness Mission Journal.

home of an uncle, now 101 years old, who had never been a Christian. Brother Anderson, sensing the aged uncle's need of Christ, leads him into a saving knowledge of sins forgiven. Think of it—a man of 101 years old gloriously saved because a disciple took Jesus with him on vacation.

The vacationing industry, which is largely monopolized by Satan but not intrinsically evil, offers unlimited missionary opportunities for all who take Jesus with them. This year, let us take Jesus with us on vacation!—Wesleyan Methodist (Aug. 1951).

Are you praying for the Camps and the Crusade?