

EDITORIAL

"LEAD ME TO SOME SOUL TODAY"

The above caption ought to be the desire and prayer of every Christian. Personal evangelism is the greatest means by which to extend the Kingdom of God. At the same time it is perhaps the hardest thing for many Christians to do. Most of us shun the personal contact that we feel should be made each day. "The fear of Man" refers very definitely to most of us when it comes to speaking to others about the Gospel of Christ. When God called Jeremiah to speak to the people about their sins Jeremiah was loathed to do it. He was of a retiring nature and disposition and the thoughts of facing people made him to fear the consequences. But Jeremiah could not get by with the fact that he felt he couldn't do it, God made provision for that so He said to Jeremiah, "Be not afraid of their faces; for I am with thee to deliver thee."

Most of us are like Jeremiah. We have the call of God to speak to the people yet the people appear to resent us, and our words. Each Christian faces this problem and none are able to overcome this in their own strength. The situation must be faced and the problem solved for we must obey the voice of God. What have we in our favour as we approach people with the Gospel?

I. The Lord is with us. The presence of God is always with those who speak for Him. "If God be for us WHO can be against us." One man with God can do wondrous exploits. The whole of Heaven is at the back of the would-be Christian who attempts to speak in the name of the Lord. The resources of Heaven are at his disposal. David and God slew Goliath. David went to the giant with the words, "I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts." Tremendous words and great truth. Every Goliath will be slain if we go to battle with the name of the Lord upon our lips.

II. Our Christian experience is with us. Not only have we the consciousness of God but also an experience that has come to us through Him. In other words, He has done something for us that we know He can do for all men everywhere. Experientially we know the Grace of God. There is nothing so satisfying as knowing whereof we speak. We have the witness of God that we are His child. We have been delivered from sin and its consequences, have felt the pardoning touch of God and know by spiritual intuition that it is well with our soul. We cry, "Abba Father."

III. The Sword of the Spirit is ours to Use. We could have the Lord with us and have a Christian experience but this wouldn't necessarily make us useful in service for Christ. We must attack the enemy. Our course is to do, and dare and venture for God. The greatest means of defense is to attack. We must press the battle. Faces will appear hard and stubborn, the enemy of men's souls will do all he can to thwart us in our purpose, the battle may be hard and the struggle long, but with Jesus we will win. The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, must do the work. We must do the wielding.

LOVEST THOU ME?

John 21:17

LOVEST THOU ME? This probing, searching question of my Lord demands an answer—sincere, honest, true! And as I search my "prayer life" through and through—I wonder—aye—I wonder if I do? Have I His great compassion for the lost? Do I His intercessory burden share? Does my Gethsemane of anguish prove close fellowship with Jesus—when at prayer?

LOVEST THOU ME? The query makes me scan my stewardship of talents, time—of life's possessions few! Dear Lord—I oft have thought I really cared, but now I find I've withheld much from You! Time wasted—when I should Thy witness be! Some talents—ne'er surrendered, Lord, to Thee! Self-satisfied by luxuries beyond need! My heart asks—"How canst THOU love such as me?"

"A LITTLE WALK AROUND"

When you are criticizing others and are finding here and there

A fault or two to speak of, or a weakness you can tear;

When you are blaming some one's meanness or accusing one of pelf—

It's time that you went out to take a walk around yourself.

There's lots of human failures in the average of us all.

And lots of grave shortcomings in the short ones and the tall.

But when we think of evils men should lay upon the shelves,

It's time we all went out to take a walk around ourselves.

We need so often in this life this balancing of scales.

This seeing how much in us wins and how much in him fails

Before we judge another, just to lay him on the shelf,

It would be a splendid plan to take a walk around ourself. —Selected

THE WILL OF GOD . . .

It has been God's will from the beginning that we should be holy. It was not an afterthought by which He hoped to "patch up" our conversion. Regeneration is, in itself, a perfect work, planting within the soul the germ of eternal life. Sanctification is entirely distinct, removing from the heart-soil all roots of bitterness, that the divine germ implanted at regeneration may develop in perfect symmetry.—Iva D. Vennard.

Souls must be saved, we have everything in our favour. Let us look at our resources and count what we have to begin with, and then with prayer and determination let us go forward each day, to speak to one soul, and God will give to us those for whom we pray and labour. Every Christian young person a soul winner is my prayer for 1953. May God grant it to be so.—Ed.

TAKE THE BURDEN KNEELING

Today at eventide I saw a caravan of camels winding their way out of the Gobi Desert into the fertile plains of Peking. I saw how the camels kneeled down at the close of the day to have their burdens removed by their masters. I saw how the masters did stroke their camels affectionately, it seems, as a sign of good will for a day's faithful toil.

I, too, have carried my burden today. As the evening shadows steal over me, I want to kneel in solitude before my Lord and Master, in order that He may remove my burdens. The removal of my burdens means His approval, His good will. He gives, He takes. Praise His name!

Tomorrow morning the same camels will kneel again before those same masters to have their burdens replaced. Carrying burdens is the business of camels. Camels have talents for that kind of service. Back to the desert they go. The heat of the sun is theirs to bear. The hot desert sand they must tread. The burden stays, but the master is with them. Both the camel and the burden are a concern to the master.

"Lord, tomorrow morning I want to kneel willingly before Thee and have my task placed upon me. I want to carry my burden, if Thou wilt but put it upon me and if Thou wilt but accompany me. Teach me to kneel and have my burdens from Thee placed upon me, and to have burdens removed by Thee!" —Lee S. Huizenga.

TOO TIRED

You are "too tired" to go to church? That's sheer nonsense. There isn't a place on the continent so restful as the church. You are going to lie around the house all day, loll in the big rocking chair, go to sleep over a book. That isn't resting, that's loafing. Tell yourself honestly—did you ever see a loafer who did not look tired all the time?

You have no need to loaf all day Sunday. An hour in church, an hour in the quiet; the sermon, the reading; the uplift that comes from the new channels into which your thoughts are led—these will rest you more physically, morally, intellectually, than all the day spent in trying to "rest."—Robert J. Burdette.

SEND ME! SEND ME!

It is said that Bishop Hedding of New York once addressed a candidate for the foreign mission field as follows: "Have you considered that you will have to go away from home and friends, and be among strangers and enemies?" "I have," replied the young man. "Have you considered that you must leave your native land, with all its institutions and privileges and be a foreigner in a strange land, where everybody will regard you with suspicion and prejudice?" "I have considered it all," said the preacher. "Have you considered that in that land your health may fail, you may be prostrated with malarias and fevers of violence?" "Yes," continued the young man, "and if I had a thousand lives I would give them all to Jesus. Bishop, please don't ask me any more questions, but SEND ME, SEND ME!"—Selected.