

We Are All Trustees

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has given you and put it to work. If you have only one to start with, you can cultivate Christlike kindness until your one talent is two, or, if you start with five, you can increase it to ten. In Colossians 3:12 the Holy Spirit through Paul tells us that as Christians we are to "put on . . . kindness." Take it from the Lord, he seems to say, and wear it as part of your wardrobe. The more you take the more you will have to give away, and the more you give away the more there will be to take.

Kindness isn't sacrifice

Or giving alms, my lad—

It's simply sharing happiness

With someone who is sad

Kindness is a soothing light,

That seeks out darkened hearts,

And makes them flame with new-found hope,

New joy—and then departs.

Kindness is unselfish thoughts,

Unselfish, friendly deed,

Inspired by the wish to aid

Some brother who's in need.

Kindness is a loving guide

That shows us how to live,

A treasure which, the more we spend,

The more we have to give."

Whatever the direction our talent takes, it should be to advance the cause of Jesus Christ and not our own piffling little interests. Get that spirit into your discipleship, my fellow Christians, and we shall begin to do great business for our King. After all, it is what He demands: "Take these talents I give you." He says, "and multiply them by putting them to work."

Think, finally, of the danger of which Christ warns. It is the danger of unfaithfulness. It was in this that the man with the one talent failed—and only in this. He was not a wicked man. He had no desire to hurt the interests of his master. But he was an idler. He was a do-nothing servant of his lord. He took his talent, says Jesus, and "buried it in the earth." And what he hid, he lost. He was faithless to his trust. He was the man who should have preached the gospel, instead he stayed in business. She was the woman who should have taught a Sunday School class; instead she slept late Sunday mornings. He was the young person who should have dedicated his life to the work of a missionary; instead he settled down to a mediocre sort of church membership, with no dash in it, no drive, no infectious enthusiasm.

The tragedy of this faithless steward, who buried his talent in the ground, is being re-enacted all around us. He lost that talent; it was the same as if it had rotted on his hands, all because he failed to use it. It's the ugliness Christ sees in the lives of people who have money to give to the church and its enterprises, but they hold back. It's the twisted, shrunken soul He sees behind a well-groomed face when time and energy and skill are being held back from Him and expended on selfish pleasures and secondary achievements.

The man with one talent just buried it; and therein lay his condemnation. He wasn't vicious. Nobody heard him swear. Nobody saw him rob. Nobody caught him drunk. He looked outwardly respectable. But Jesus, with an eye on the inner ugliness that a faithless complacency produces, makes the master say to

THE PLACE OF PREACHING IN SOUL WINNING

By Rev. R. G. Flexon

The Kind of Truth Needed

The best plan in presenting truth: "How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" God hath chosen to save the world through the foolishness of preaching. To preach is to "read the scripture and give the sense." This can be done to an audience of one as well as one thousand. The results will be determined by the spirit of the preacher, the condition of the hearer, and the use the Holy Ghost makes of the truth. Faith is founded in truth and the clearer the truth registers on the mind the easier it is for faith to find fruition in fact.

The Kind of Preaching

Preaching in generalities will never bring definite or immediate results. Revival preaching must be doctrinal, practical, forceful, and in a sense inspirational. It must be doctrinal to give a foundation to experience. It must be practical to give the hearer a right conception of what is required of him in seeking God and retaining God after he has been found. It must be in a sense inspirational enough to inspire the hearer to a desire for God until he will act and act now. It must be forceful enough to make the hearer believe the preacher is in earnest and believes what he is preaching.

The Best Plan in Presenting Truth

In preaching one must present truth in such a way that it will appeal to the whole man; mental, moral and emotional. Preaching that appeals to the mental only sends men away thinking but not to act. Preaching that appeals to the conscience only will send men away condemned but unyielding. Preaching that appeals to the emotions only may yield quick but unlasting results. Gospel preaching that appeals to the intellect proving to man God is right, to the conscience proving to man that he is wrong, and to the emotions, appealing for action now, will usually yield immediate and lasting results. In making an appeal one should give the listener ample time to make up his mind before closing the door. An emotional stir without action results in a hardening effect which will eventually murder internal sensibility to truth.—Pilgrim Holiness Advocate.

A WALK PLEASING TO GOD

Every life is a preaching life. Are you walking in love? Is that your manner and habit? Walking by faith? Is that the standard of your conduct? Does your life illumine as you pass by? Do people feel the better because they have seen you? Does seeing you lift all their thoughts to a loftier plane, and make the day a cleaner day?—Dr. John MacBeath.

that servant, "Thou wicked and slothful servant . . . thou oughtest to have put my money to the exchanger . . . Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness."

We are all trustees! Some are faithful, some are faithless. Which are you?

Vanished Power

B. H. Pearson

The tragedy of vanished power is the tragedy of living on a memory.

"And the Lord shall judge His people, and repent Himself for His servants when He seeth that their power is gone." (Deut. 32:36).

We are familiar with God's gift of power to His people. "Thine enemies that rise up against thee . . . shall come out against thee one way and flee before thee seven ways" (Deut. 28:7). "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life" (Josh. 1:5). "Be thou strong and very courageous" (Josh. 1:7). "Behold I give unto thee power to tread on serpents and scorpions over all the power of the enemy" (Luke 10:19). "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (Acts 1:8). From Joshua's conquest to Jehovah's victorious armies of the apocalypse, power is given unto God's people.

But with what amazement we read that God will judge us if we have no power, or if our power "is gone." At first sight, nothing could seem more unfair than to judge a person for his weakness. It would seem that weakness and lack of power would appeal to sentiment and sympathy, but how much more astonished are we when we learn that a Christian's spiritual weakness is self-imposed. Power is available to faith. One is responsible before God for what he might be if utterly yielded to God.

God puts no premium on weakness. Weakness is not humility. It is sin. God judges us, not for what we are, but for what we might be. His perfect will, His mighty power, His abundant grace could be made perfect in our weakness, if we would only "trust and obey."

The tragedy of vanished power is not alone weakness. The tragedy of vanished power, in addition to weakness, is the withdrawal of the PRESENCE, the stilling of the VOICE, except it be to "judge" us.

"Couldst thou in visions see
The man God desires of thee,
Thou never more couldst be
The man thou art."

But such a condition need not continue another hour. Help is available. His power can be yours once more.

Is your power gone? Quick! There is not a moment to waste. Before the Lord shall judge thee, run to the secret closet of prayer and begin living once more in the Word of God. Take hold of the Lord from whence thy strength is drawn. Recover the vanished power. Go from "strength to strength," from "glory to glory." "This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord."

It is a command. We can, we must obey, "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might". (Ephesians 6:10).

UNCEASING IN SERVICE

The trouble with too many people is that they fill the day with neglects, with postponements, with omissions, with idle words, and idle silence. We do not realise vividly enough that there are many things which if not done today need not be done at all. If we have slept through the hours when duty waited we may as well then sleep on.—Dr. J. R. Miller.

"We have too many opinions and not enough convictions."—S. S. Roddy.