

"ARE WE FOLLOWING JESUS?"

By Rev. Paul F. Elliott

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19).

The great lesson of the text may be summed up in this, "Successful work for Jesus must spring out of a devout following of Him." With Christ as our example there are two points which stand out.

First, in estimating the value Jesus Christ placed upon the souls of men and women, we discover that His appraisal of the worth of a soul was far above any object.

Second, His entire ministry and career centered around His paramount objective—to save men—that was His mission, I must work—that was His motto. These thoughts were always present in His mind and constituted the underlying motive in all of His dealings with men. As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, the central theme and controlling purpose must be following the Master.

There is work to be done and we can only do this work successfully and effectively as we follow Christ. C. H. Spurgeon said, "We must be separated to Him that we may pursue His object. We must abide with Him that we may catch His spirit. We must obey Him that we may learn His method. We must copy His life that we may win His blessing from God, for true soul-winners are not self-made, but Christ-made. It is by following Christ that we are instructed and learn to become proficient in the holy art of soul-winning."

Note that Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you." Fishermen are made, not born. So it is true with those who fish for souls. It is not in human training, but as we follow Christ we come to know the worth of a soul.

One writer has stated: "What a book can tell a man about fishing is worth knowing, but it is little that a book can do towards making a man a true fisherman. If a man is going to fish for fish, he must become their scholar before he becomes their master. He must go to school in the brook to learn its ways. And to fish for men, a man must learn their nature, their prejudices, their tendencies, and their courses. A man, to catch fish, must not only know their habits, but their tastes and their resorts. He must humor them according to their different natures and adapt his instruments according to their peculiarities; providing a spear for some, a hook for others, a net for others, and baits for each one as each one will. To sit on a bank or deck and say to the fishes, 'Here I am, authorized to command you to come to me and to bite what I give you is just as ridiculous as it can be even though it does resemble some ways of preaching. The Christian's business is not to stand in an appointed place and say to men, 'Here am I; come up and take what I give you as you should.' The Christian's business is to find out what men are and to take them by that which they will bite at."

Mark Guy Pearse tells the following story: "I watched an old man trout-fishing the other day, pulling them out one after another briskly. 'You manage it cleverly, old friend,' I said. 'I have passed a good many below who don't seem to be doing anything.' The old man lifted himself up and stuck his rod in the ground. 'Well, you see, Sir, there be three rules for trout-fishing, and 'tis no good trying if you don't mind them. The first is, Keep yourself

The King's Highway

THE MINISTER'S WIFE A SILENT PARTNER

When a new pastor is employed, his wife is watched more closely and more critically than the pastor himself. Her tasks are handed her, tasks that require long hours of hard work, and she must do her work well if the pastor is a "success." Sometimes her church puts her in the limelight; sometimes it keeps her in the background.

Hers is not an easy place to fill. More is required of her than is required of her preacher husband. Usually things required of her are considered "little things," but they are more exacting than are the requirements of any other persons in the community.

She must open her home to the local church at all times in all ways, regardless of the inconvenience to her own family. She must be able to fill any place in the church work which someone else has failed, in the last moment, to fill, but she must not seek a place of leadership for herself. She must forever hear the secrets and the grievances of most of the homes of her church people, but must never, never divulge one.

All these duties and many more are hers. She is truly a servant of God.

—The Cumberland Presbyterian

"AN UNDERSTANDING HEART"

Solomon's prayer, "Give * * * thy servant an understanding heart," should be the prayer of every Christian. Only as we have the understanding heart can we truly know the grace of God in our lives and His love toward us; and only so can we look upon the mistakes, sorrows and burdens of our fellow men with sympathy and helpfulness. In our crowded world of today we have innumerable contacts. We see for ourselves, and read in the daily newspapers of the follies and weaknesses and sins of men. It is, under such circumstances not to become critical, selfish, or indifferent; but if we have an understanding heart, we can help one another, be kind one to another, and love one another. We are able, then, to see our fellow men as we ought to see them—through the eyes of Christ.

—Christian Observer.

THE LITTLE LUNCH IS MULTIPLIED

It is extraordinary power from God, not talent, that wins the day. It is extraordinary spiritual unction, not extraordinary mental power, that we need. Mental power may fill a chapel but spiritual power fills the church with anguish. Mental power may gather a large congregation, but only spiritual power will save souls. What we need is spiritual power.—Chas. H. Spurgeon.

out of sight; and the second is, Keep yourself farther out of sight; and the third is, Keep yourself farther still out of sight. Then you'll do it.' 'Good for catching men, too,' thought I.

It takes tact, patience, wisdom, and perseverance to win men to Christ. Lost, sinful men are not especially interested in creeds and ritualism—they want a cure for the affliction and the malady of sin. Christ is the answer. He said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." May each one of us be possessed with the spirit of humility and lift up Christ in such a way that our fellow men will see Him in our lives and desire Him.—Pilgrim Holiness Advocate.

"HEAVEN"

Sometime ago Dr. Charles Fuller, Calif, announced he would speak on 'Heaven' the following Sunday. During that week a beautiful letter was received from an old man who was very sick. The following is part of his letter.

"Next Sunday you are to talk about Heaven. I am interested in that land because I have held a clear title to a bit of property there for over 55 years. I did not buy it. It was given to me without money and without price. But the donor purchased it for me at tremendous sacrifice. I am not holding it for speculation since the title is not transferable. It is not a vacant lot. For half a century I have been sending materials out of which the greatest architect and builder of the universe have been building a home for me which will never need to be remodeled nor repaired because it will suit me perfectly, individually and will never grow old. Termites can never undermine its foundations for they rest on the Rock of Ages. Fire cannot destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away. No locks or bolts will ever be placed upon its doors for no vicious person can ever enter that land where my dwelling stands, now almost completed and almost ready for me to enter in and abide in peace eternally, without fear of being ejected. There is a valley of deep shadow between the place where I live in California and that to which I shall journey in a very short time, I cannot reach my home in that city of gold without passing through this dark valley of shadow. But I am not afraid because the best friend I ever had went through the same valley and all its gloom, long, long ago. He has stuck by me through thick and thin since we first became acquainted 55 years ago and I hold His promise in printed form never to forsake me nor to leave me alone. He will be with me as I walk through the Valley of shadows and I shall not lose my way when He is with me. I hope to hear your sermon on Heaven next Sunday from my home in Los Angeles, California but I have no assurance that I shall be able to do so. My ticket for Heaven has no date marked for the journey—no return coupon—and no permit for baggage. Yes, I am all ready to go and I may not be here while you are talking next Sunday evening but I shall meet you there someday."

WINNING AND BRINGING

A Christian woman was pleading with a poor sinful girl who had gone far away from her mother's God, to come to Jesus for pardon and peace. Suddenly the girl turned upon her.

"And have you been to Him?" she asked.

"Yes, indeed, I have," was the reply.

"And has He given you rest?"

"He has. Oh, thank God, He has! He is my Savior and Friend."

"Then put your arms about me and take me with you to Him," murmured the girl. "It will be easier to go with one who has been before."

It was the secret of success. Many will resent an attempt to draw them out of evil courses who will be won by that "touch of nature which makes the whole world kin." Let it be rather: "Come thou with us, and we will do thee good." Selected