

The King's Highway

Mrs. Judson Hillman
March 57

AN ADVOCATE OF SCRIPTURAL HOLINESS

VOL. XXXVIII

MONCTON, N. B., SEPTEMBER 29, 1956

No. 397

Personal Purity

Nola D. Hartley, in "Sunday School Times"

Practically everyone who has even the slightest association with the business world recalls with distaste the inevitable stock-taking. It is doubtful if anyone really enjoys the tedious task of itemizing and evaluating shelf after shelf of dusty stock. Yet if this process were not faithfully performed at specific intervals, the businessman would have little or no idea where he stood or what he needed to be of utmost service to his public.

One day recently my mind was repeatedly bombarded with the question, "Why?" Why isn't our church growing to a greater extent? Why is that huge auditorium sparsely filled—the balcony rarely used? Why is there such evidence of worldliness among too many Christians of all churches? Why are no more souls being saved? Why? Why? Why?

My first impulse was to think of what I could do to right the situation. But then I began to take inventory. I looked over the dusty shelves of my own heart. No, I did not enjoy the task any more than stock-taking for my employer—in fact, I enjoyed it even less, for I was searching myself, and I did not like what I saw. Surely if it was hateful to me, it was an abomination unto the Lord! Like the businessman who has completed his inventory, I, too, decided what I needed to discard and what I needed to acquire.

I know now what I need more than anything else, and I believe that if I am more or less typical of the average church member today, it is what the entire body of believers in Christ needs: It is personal purity as we can experience it through the person and work of the Holy Spirit. We need to clean up, both inside and outside! We need to get a fresh vision of the Lord—a vision that will force us to our knees and cause us to writhe at the contrast we see between a pure and holy God and ourselves—filthy, vile, wretched!

Isaiah saw such a vision of the Lord. Let us consider his experience and see how it enabled him to be God's answer to the need of his time.

Look at Isaiah 6:1-9, and note the significance of the seraphim with his six wings, mentioned in verse 2:

"With twain he covered his face." This suggests reverence. The angelic being could not bear to look upon the dazzling glory of God. If angels are so reverent in their attendance upon God, with what godly fear should we approach the throne of grace! Yet today we see little or no real reverence. Children are not taught to enter the house of God with awe and respect. Bedlam reigns in many church services where young children are allowed to squeal and wriggle to their heart's content, while parents sit idly by, perhaps secretly relieved that they cannot hear too clearly the voice of God through the pastor.

(Continued on Page 3)

The King's Highway

The Price of a Harvest

Dr. O. G. Wilson

From everywhere comes the cry for a revival, for an ingathering of souls. Conventions are held, crusades are undertaken, fund-raising campaigns are launched, but still the harvest is delayed. What is the secret; what door have we failed to enter? It is my settled conviction that God has given to His people of all generations the sure method of bringing souls to Christ. Here it is: "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Pa. 126:6).

"Goeth forth."—You cannot produce a harvest by pious wishing. More machinery, more organizations, more modern methods will not avail. It is the going forth that will answer the need of this desperate hour.

"The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing" (Prov. 20:4).

The first two letters in gospel spell "go." It means to go everywhere with the Gospel Message—not to wait on the pulpit steps for people to crowd the church; not to rest quietly in our churches and expect inquirers to find their way; not to sit still, but to run swiftly with the King's message of pardon to a race that is doomed. The early Church triumphed over every obstacle and overleaped every barrier because it was a company of believers—driven by an inner impulse of love, scattered by persecution—who went everywhere proclaiming the gospel of God through the death of Jesus Christ the Lord. Their feet were on the march—willing feet, weary feet, bleeding feet on the highway of the Roman Empire.

The soul going forth after souls follows the blood-stained tracks of the Master. Out in the desert the lost sheep cries. It cannot come to the shepherd, so the shepherd must go to it. Lost souls are not generally sitting in the front pew, but they are out where the tides run viciously and where only the skill of Spirit-anointed men will reach them.

We cannot occupy the unoccupied areas without willing feet—feet to tramp hot sidewalks and plod dusty roads.

"Weepeth."—Some great soul has declared, "Every revival begins with the Church on her knees." I think it was John R. Rice who said, "Churches that have no weeping, no confessing, no fasting and prayer, do not have visitations of power from on high."

As I study church history I am convinced that God is not looking so much for correctness in doctrine as He is looking for men who "sigh and cry for all the abominations which be done in the land."

There are churches where the pastor is skillful in sermon building and magnetic in personality, where the members

(Continued on Page 2)