

The King's Highway

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Our Missionaries Speak



GOD'S CALLING

TO CHRISTIAN SERVICE

by

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When we consider a subject such as this, we are frequently inclined to picture in our minds a directive from the Lord to some special field of Christian service. And, indeed, the Scriptures are full of instances in which men and women, even the youthful such as Samuel and David, were called to specially appointed tasks of leadership and service.

While this is a normal reaction for us to take in viewing the subject, I would submit that a calling from the Lord to Christian service is not at all limited to a few fields of Christian leadership. I would like to say at the outset of this discussion, however, that my purpose is not to underrate the importance or esteem of Christian leadership. A calling to the Christian ministry, for example, is, and I believe most would agree, God's loftiest calling and denotes a position of respect as well as one of serious responsibility to the spiritual welfare of the church and leadership in the evangelization of the lost. Such people, by virtue of their calling, need to devote much time to prayer and meditation of the Scriptures.

But what about the many of us who are engaged in what by contrast is termed secular work? We may be factory workers, farmers, teachers, storekeepers, or homemakers. Should we be any less called to our occupations? or to put it another way, should we find ourselves any less in the center of God's will or be any less devoted to our Saviour because we are thus engaged? I think we will find in examining the Scriptures that this is not to be the case. Although we will not all be called to leading positions of Christian service, all Christians are called to glorify God in everything that they do, even to the very common every-day activities that they perform. I Cor. 10:31.

In searching the Scriptures on this subject, I have been led to believe that God's calling is first of all an universal one—a calling of all men to come unto repentance and to be saved from the power and condemnation of sin (Matt. 9:13); this is the heavenly calling of which all may, by choice, be partakers (Heb. 3:1); and thus the commandment of our Lord to take the Gospel to all the world (Matt. 28:19-20).

But is there an individual calling? Is there a work that God has expressly for the individual to do? Is there a place which He has for the individual to fill among the great body of believers? I believe that there is, and, while

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the call to salvation is an universal one, yet the salvation of the individual is a personal contract between himself and God, one that may be paralleled but cannot be duplicated by that of others. As an individual, God has an individual work for each to do which will lie within the confines of His general will and passion for the salvation of a lost world.

I would like to emphasize, therefore, that when God calls the individual personally to salvation, He calls him personally to a life of Christian service. Serving the Lord is to be always the prime preoccupation of every Christian; God will show each Christian how he can best accomplish this in the work or occupation that He will call him to do.

What if I fail to heed God's call to salvation? What if I, as a Christian, fail to take seriously the prime responsibility of Christian service and devotion to God? Will someone else fill in the gap? Perhaps, God is omnipotent. But, strangely, in His great will and program, He is counting on each of us.

"He Shewed Them His Hands and His Feet"

Luke 24:40

Lord, when I am weary with toiling,
And burdensome seem Thy commands,
If my load should lead to complaining,
Lord, show me Thy hands,
Thy nail-pierced hands,
Thy cross-torn hands.
My Saviour, show me Thy hands.

Christ, if ever my footsteps should falter,
And I be prepared for retreat,
If desert or thorn cause lamenting,
Lord, show me Thy feet,
Thy bleeding feet,
Thy nail-scarred feet.
My Jesus, show me Thy feet.

O God, dare I show Thee
My hands and my feet?

Written by Bishop Bradley, Anglican Bishop in India

YOU WILL BE TEMPTED

You will be tempted to the end of your life, and the nearer you live to Christ the more you will be tempted. It was after Jesus had seen the open heaven that He was led into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil; and the man that stands under the open heaven and sees that heavenly vision, is the man whom the devil will tempt to the uttermost. God will permit it because temptation does for us what the storms do for the oaks—it roots us; and what the fire does for the painting on porcelain—it makes us permanent.—F. B. Meyer.