

— Our Missionaries Speak —



WHAT JESUS SAID

ABOUT MISSIONS

Rev. William Morgan

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT MISSIONS

Undoubtedly the most oft-repeated missionary utterance of Jesus is the one He made to His disciples just prior to His ascension. "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" are words familiar to anyone who has heard anything about the Bible. They constitute what may well be considered as the last will and testament of our Lord. They express His parting desires, reveal His intentions for the future program of the Church and set the course of action for His followers for all time. The marching orders there given have never been revoked nor replaced by a new program. It is still "Go".

But this is not the only utterance of Jesus in a missionary vein. Such expressions began early in His life. He seems from early boyhood to have sensed the importance of His own life in a missionary capacity. At twelve while His earthly parents sought Him sorrowing, He was eventually found, discussing with the learned men of the temple service. When mildly rebuked by His worried mother His astonishing reply was that He must be about His Father's business. It is for us to better comprehend what He meant by those words which so completely baffled His parents. In the light of what later transpired as the child of Mary and Joseph became the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world, the mystery of interpretation resolves itself into another mystery—the mystery of the depths and heights of the love and compassion of God. In those few words of Jesus, so confusing to His parents, He was saying, "My Father has sent me as a missionary, and I must be about my duties in that capacity." Later He repeated that same strain when He gave His first recorded public address before the gathering in the synagogue in Nazareth, His home village. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised . . . and He began to say unto them, 'This day is the scripture fulfilled in your ears'. Is it not significant that the first recorded words of Jesus announced in effect that He was a missionary?

In sermon, in parable, in conversation all through His public ministry He was saying things that sprung from wells that were strongly missionary in character. His call to follow Him was a call to be a missionary, for He Himself was a missionary. When He commissioned the seventy it was to the work of a missionary. Read about it in Luke 10: 1-16. He sent them forth as lambs among wolves. They were charged with the responsibility of declaring the message of the Kingdom of God. The response to the message was not their responsibility, but rejection was not to deter them or turn them from their course or release them from their responsibility. Faithfulness was to be the watchword-faithfulness and the

sure knowledge that the Word would not return void. God would visit upon the hearers blessing or cursing according to the manner in which they received the messengers and the message.

Even while Jesus was discoursing concerning the close and blessed relationship between the Shepherd and His sheep, He could not restrain Himself from declaring that, "other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring . . ." Other sheep were always in His thoughts and hence in His words. He must bring them, He said. Should we not take our cue from Him? There was compulsion in that statement. It is infected with that same urgency with which another great missionary, the apostle Paul, spoke when he vehemently affirmed. "The love of Christ, constraineth us . . ." Have the 'other sheep' now all been gathered in? Then if we possess the Shepherd heart can we rest in Zion and care not that there are yet countless precious souls still lost in the mountains cold and bare?

In Jesus' discourse concerning the coming of the end He made it perfectly clear that the closing out of this present age and the ushering in of the next hinged on the successful conclusion of the missionary program. He declared emphatically that "this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; then shall the end come". Basically then the whole program of future events in God's program is awaiting the termination of this present missionary commission. Jesus taught His disciples to pray "Thy kingdom come." Can we pray that prayer and not be deeply disturbed about missions?

PRACTICAL EVIDENCES OF CHRISTIANITY

by Rev. H. C. Mullen

Today we will think of Christianity in respect to THE FACILITY WITH WHICH ITS SCHEME ACCOMMODATES ITSELF TO THE CAPACITY OF EVERY INTELLECT.

This implies that one does not have to have the brain of an Einstein, or to be educated like Noah Webster, to be a Christian. The Gospel suits the intellect of the little child as he listens to the good old story at his mother's knee, or it challenges and satisfies the intellect of the greatest scholar. Christianity is also unique in this particular.

No one can arise and say that it is only the weak-minded, or little children who become followers of Christ. The absolute fact is: that Christianity has always championed the cause of education and has drawn to itself the world's greatest scholars. Christian men and women have led the world in painting, in literature, and in music. So much is this true, that if one wants the best and highest in these particulars, he will have to come to the Christian Church.

Men and women of the very highest attainments have found their inspiration in the Holy Scriptures. Without the Bible we never should have had Milton's poems, Bunyan's *Pilgrims' Progress*, Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*, Michelangelo's sculpture and painting, nor Handel's unexcelled music, "The Messiah."

We could follow this line further, but would find the proofs too numerous to mention. In the realm of government we could point to Queen Victoria, a wise and capable ruler, who as a humble and devout follower of Christ, won for herself the title, "Victoria The Good." We could point to William Ewart Gladstone, a great and wise politician and prime minister of England, a man of most excellent intellect, but a devoted Christian. We could name the famous British general, Charles George Gordon, often spoken of as Chinese Gordon, a great and wise soldier

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