

## - Editorial -

### MEN WITH NO ANSWER

Mark 14:40 "Neither wist they what to answer him."

The Master had said, "Couldst not thou watch one hour?" Then, alone, he went away to pray. Upon his return he found Peter, James and John asleep "for their eyes were heavy." But the Master's approach awakened them and they groped helplessly for an answer. For once, Peter was speechless. James looked at John and John looked at Peter. Nothing to say. No alibis to make. No explanation to justify. What embarrassment!

And there was good reason to be embarrassed, for these men failed their master just when he needed them most. Gethsemane's cup was a bitter one. It could not be drunk alone. In his grief, the Master turned to his closest friends. Surely they would not fail.

Two things stand out at this point in the story. First, the blindness of these men to the significance of events around them. Second, the fact of lost opportunity. It would never again be the privilege of these men to share a similar hour with their Lord. There would never be another Gethsemane.

We wonder what will be said of us by those of generations to come. Will it be said that we too were blind? and ignorant of the hour in which we lived? And we wonder if we are not missing a golden opportunity that may not come again. Are we not heavy with sleep while the Master prays yonder, making intercession for lost men?

Christian, this is your hour—your hour to work, to witness, to win, to give, to pray, to act. Today has been given to us. Tomorrow may never be. The Master is soon to return. He told us so. What will he find? What will he say?

Shall we too be speechless?

### LET GOD'S WILL BE DONE

For many pastors "calling time" is the most difficult time in the church year. This is also true of congregations where some may feel that a change in pastor is due. To make your feelings known in the best way and to do what is best for the cause of God is not an easy assignment, for either the pastor or the congregation. Few areas of church life and business have caused more difficulties and misunderstandings. At times, good men have been hurt deeply because they were incapable of discerning "the times and the seasons." The congregation wanted a new pastor but the present pastor did not seem to sense this fact.

On the other hand, some pastors grow restless too soon and decide to move at just the point in their ministry when they could have done their best service for their church. To chart the course that is wisest and best requires wisdom and care.

In some instances a church may decide, too soon in a man's ministry, that it needs a change of pastor. This has happened, on occasion, before a man has had an honest chance to prove his worth to the church. The majority of church problems are not cured by getting a new pastor. Sometimes a church sees, when it is too late to reverse the course of events, that it was better off with the former pastor than it is with the new one.

Here we are then, in the midst of calling time. Let both pastors and people make a promise to God to be kind, patient, and understanding. Let us pray before we speak and before we vote. Let us be sensitive to the mind of the Lord in all our decisions. And let us refuse entrance to our minds and hearts anything that will create ill-will and regret. And may the will of the Lord be done!

## Thanks, Reader

Serving as an editor, just like any other job, has its good days and its bad ones. There are days when you cannot seem to think and nothing catches your eye by way of helpful material for publication. Then there is the occasional letter to the editor that leaves you wondering just why any man agrees to serve his church in such a capacity. Not least of all, the inevitable deadlines are always with you.

However, there are some happy rewards along the way — the satisfaction of seeing the finished copy in print and of knowing that news of denominational interest is being read and shared by over one thousand subscribers, both at home and abroad; the hope that someone, by reading each issue, is finding spiritual strength and inspiration; and, the receiving of letters from those who are appreciating its ministry in their lives.

The following letter would make any editor's face look just a little brighter:

Dear Editor:

Enclosed is my renewal for The Highway. I don't like to think of this payment as just another bill but as an appreciation of the work that goes into our paper and the time, effort, and thought that must be given to it.

I am sure I speak for others besides myself when I say I have received many a blessing and inspiration from The Highway and would be very sorry if for some reason it had to be discontinued.

Praying for His work to continue.

Sincerely,

We do not know, personally, the one who has written these lines, but may we take this opportunity to say "Thanks" to you and to others also who have expressed like words of encouragement.

### A SIN FIRST!

A man may not be responsible for his last drink, but he certainly was for the first. No disease germ is powerful enough to lead a man to a saloon for his first drink. Drinking was a sin first, a disease last.

—Billy Graham

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