



The Mission Trail

GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA

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"LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST." — JOHN 4:35

VOL. 1 NO. 24

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

JULY 2, 1965

. . . A very pleasant greeting to all who are in tune with The Mission Trail of Guthrie, Oklahoma, coming to you over XEG from Monterrey, Mexico. It again gives me great joy to be back with you for another short visit concerning the most important things of life, that is your spiritual welfare.

For our subject from the scriptures at this time I think it would be well for us to consider the following four words:

"LEST ANY MAN FAIL"

Now let me read this verse to you in its fullness found in Hebrews 12:15. "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."

Certainly a danger exists of one failing in many ways. If this were impossible, it would never have been necessary for this scripture to have been placed in the pages of the Holy Bible. If there was an absolute security given to every believer, then it would become unnecessary for one to watch his every action and guard against even his thoughts lest they should lead him astray from the straight and narrow path.

But the very fact that we "have this treasure in earthen vessels" (See II Corinthians 4:7) is an evident fact that we must guard it diligently "lest any man fail".

Now there are many ways of failing God. One may fail because he commits an act which is sinful, and yet another may fail because he is unwilling to be obedient to the calling of God.

Now consider Judas, one of the twelve apostles who went to the chief priests and asked: "What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenated with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him." Matthew 26:15 and 16.

Surely Judas had the same advantages as the other disciples in that he had been with Jesus and witnessed many of the miracles and wonderful manifestations of the great power of God, but somewhere he failed to guard against the powerful forces of the adversary which were working in his life, and his character soon became like a honeycomb filled with covetousness and greed.

Now listen to the words of this poem which describes Judas so well.

Some place amongst the crowd, or throng,
Judas, who realized his wrong,

Stood crouching, trembling neath the gloom
Cast o'er him by our Saviour's doom,

Bowed down with sorrow, and with care,
The load was more than he could bear;
The hours that passed, were hours of grief,
From which he could not get relief.

Thoughts of eternity in hell,
Where he must now forever dwell,
Thoughts of all that our Saviour bore.
Thoughts of the punishment in store,

Filled with the thoughts of what had passed,
A mighty gloom was o'er him cast---
Gloom, and sadness, for what had been---
Remorse, and suffering for sin.

Made Judas mad, and racked his brain,
No doubt, he suffered so much pain,
He thought that hell was all around---
And he the hottest place had found.

Thoughts of the one he had betrayed
Thoughts of the sacrifice he made,
Thoughts of the days and years long past,
Thoughts of the gloom now o'er him cast,

From all these torments and this grief
He sought, but could not find relief,
For comfort, peace, and pardon plead,
And wished that he himself was dead.

Thoughts of the power of a Saviour's love,
Of the loss of a home in heaven above,
Of that betrayal by a kiss,
Thoughts of the serpent's horrid hiss!

How gladly would he now recall
The last few hours, and change them all;
And Jesus he would re-instate---
But now, alas, it was too late!

Yes, it must have been a dreadful day when Judas came to the realization that he should have guarded his life more closely "lest any man fail". Not all failures, however lead to such disastrous ending as Judas had. Sometimes a failure will awaken one to a keener sense of duty and through repentance and courage by faith in God, one will arise to accomplish his duty to both God and man.

Thus it was in the case of Peter. After proper confession of his denial of Christ, he received the kiss of pardon and arose to speak boldly of the crucifixion of his Lord. Thus it was also in the case of Jonah when he was given a second opportunity to warn that great city of Ninevah of the impending judgments of God, he boldly began to declare the overthrow of this city.

Take a look at a quotation from John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress. Here Christian was confronted by Apollyon, his adversary which resulted in a deadly conflict. The chances for the downfall of Christian were great, but he manfully withstood the enemy and did not fail of the grace of God. I quote.

APOL. Then Apollyon straddled quite over the whole breadth of the way, and said, "I am void of fear in this matter. Prepare thyself to die; for I swear by my infernal den, that thou shalt go no farther: here will I spill thy soul." And, with that, he threw a flaming dart at his breast; but Christian held a shield in his hand, with which he caught it, and so prevented the danger of that.

Then did Christian draw, for he saw it was time to bestir him; and Apollyon as fast made at him, throwing darts as thick as hail, by the which, notwithstanding all that Christian could do to avoid it, Apollyon wounded him in his head, his hand, and foot. This made Christian give a little back; Apollyon, therefore, followed his work amain, and Christian again took courage, and resisted as manfully as he could. This sore combat lasted for above half a day, even till Christian was almost quite spent. For you must know that Christian, by reason of his wounds, must needs grow weaker and weaker.

Then Apollyon, espying his opportunity, began to gather up close to Christian, and, wrestling with him, gave him a dreadful fall; and, with that, Christian's sword

flew out of his hand. Then said Apollyon, "I am sure of thee now." And, with that, he had almost pressed him to death, so that Christian began to despair of life. But, as God would have it, while Apollyon was fetching his last blow, thereby to make a full end of this good man, Christian nimbly reached out his hand for his sword, and caught it, saying, "Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall I shall arise"; and, with that, gave him a deadly thrust, which made him give back, as one that had received his mortal wound. Christian, perceiving that, made at him again, saying, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." And, with that, Apollyon spread forth his dragon's wings, and sped away, that Christian for a season saw him no more.

In this combat no man can imagine, unless he had seen and heard, as I did, what yelling and hideous roaring Apollyon made all the time of the fight: he spake like a dragon; and, on the other side, what sighs and groans burst from Christian's heart. I never saw him all the while give so much as one pleasant look, till he perceived he had wounded Apollyon with his two-edged sword; then, indeed, he did smile and look upward; but it was the dreadfulest sight that ever I saw.

End of quote. Now let us pause for a moment of prayer.

Our Father,

Take the words of the message today and may they cause each one to give good heed, "lest any man fail". Give courage to all who are in deadly conflict to be victorious for we ask it in the name of Christ who loved us with an everlasting love. Amen

Here now is a song by Brother and Sister Sell, Brother and Sister Amos Porter and Vera Porter.

Song with comments.

You are listening to The Mission Trail Broadcast of Guthrie, Oklahoma. If you have received encouragement, we would like to hear from you. Also if you would like to have a copy of today's message in printed form, you may have one free of charge by addressing The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Be with us again next Friday night at 11:00 over this same station. Until then this is your speaker Willie Murphey saying: May God bless you richly and a very pleasant "Goodnight".

At PRESS TIME we understand:

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Perhaps you have heard of Southern hospitality. This means that the people who live in the south are noted for their friendliness, courtesy, and generosity. Add to this their ability for cooking delicious southern foods. Combine all of these natural advantages and characteristics into a child of God as taught in Romans 12:13, "Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality". also as taught in Titus 1:8 concerning a minister, "But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate." Now, after this combination do you know what you will then have? The Hammond, La. campmeeting! The few days which we were able to attend this meeting the past weekend was a real blessing to us. Our entire family of six was present and we enjoyed meeting some of the saints which we had not seen for many years. I remember the first campmeeting which Frances and I attended here 29 years ago. This was before we were married. Surely the goodness and mercy of God has followed us and it was a real inspiration to see some whom we met many years ago that are still pressing onward to the reward which is promised at the ending of a faithful life of service and devotion! God is blessing Brother and Sister Coffey in their labors here. In this we rejoice!

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Urgent prayer is requested for the leading of the Spirit to be known in regard to a trip to Nigeria, West Africa, by Brother C. C. Carver. He is making preparations to leave by plane in the near future for this needy field. Let us stand by with our prayers and support and claim for him this scripture in Psalms 91:1, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

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At the recent 4th Sunday services at Enid, Oklahoma, Sister Marie brought the message for the morning and Brother Stover was present with a message for the afternoon.

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We enjoyed a short visit with Sister Carrie Shephard while in Louisiana. She has just returned from the mission work in Mexico.

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