



# 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

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. . . Greetings once again to all who are tuned to THE MISSION TRAIL of Guthrie, Oklahoma coming to you over radio station XEG each Friday night at 11:00. This is your speaker Willie Murphey for another of our weekly visits.

For our scripture lesson today, please consider this reading in James, chapter 1 and verses 22 through 25. I quote:

"BUT BE YE DOERS OF THE WORD, AND NOT HEARERS ONLY,

deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

Please observe by the contents of this scripture that there is quite a contrast between hearing and doing. It is one thing to hear the word and perhaps even be agreeable with it, but it is quite another thing to do the word and put it into practice. What God is looking for is not dreamers only, but those who will put their dreams into actions and in this way, they may prove a blessing both to God and also to mankind. Now I do not say that one should never have any dreams, for many of the greatest accomplishments of the world have been by those who were considered "dreamers".

Now, for example, take the well known writer John Bunyan. Here was

a poor man who had very little of this world's goods. He earned his living by mending pots and pans and was known as a tinker; however, his keen insight into the spiritual and eternal things of God brought a change into his life and he became known as the "dreamer" when he wrote his immortal Pilgrim's Progress.

But he was not only a dreamer, he was a man of action. This action was to preach the gospel of Christ. He did this unflinchingly, without a license from the Church of England, over all the protest of the public officials and others who endeavored to put an end to his preaching and told him to go back to mending pots and pans. This was a man of action.

Now notice again the scripture reading for in verse 25 it says: "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." So we see here that God is looking for doers of his word and not hearers only. He is ever willing and ready and waiting for those who will be

doers of his will. Not only is God waiting, but the world itself is waiting for those who will dare to stand for the truth. This is a challenge we dare not overlook.

Another scripture in Matthew 21 beginning at verse 28 would be in order. I quote: "But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you."

Here in this illustration which the master gave, we see clearly portrayed two different types of people. The one son was very agreeable and gave his word that he was going to work for his father, but either through neglect, or procrastination, or carelessness, or a combination of all these things, he failed to carry out his good intentions. His time was wasted, his life was misspent, his father was displeased and there was no reward for his services. He said he was going, but this he failed to do. There was no action to sustain and prove the words which his mouth uttered.

On the other hand, the one son who at first refused to enter into the service of his father later submitted his will and became a faithful son, and his actions proved that he was a different man, because he began to do his father's will.

Now let me repeat that what God is looking for in our lives is action. We may have good dreams, we may speak

good words, we may think good thoughts, and all of these be within the will of God, but it is not enough to stop here. We must put these thoughts and dreams and words into action. Remember the text, "but be ye doers of the word."

Here is Kathleen with a poem that will bear out this thought even further.

### "Practice What You Preach"

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one  
any day;  
I'd rather one would walk with me than  
merely tell the way;  
The eye's a better pupil, and more  
willing than the ear,  
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's  
always clear.

The best of all the preachers are the  
ones who do fine deeds,  
For to see the good in action is what  
everybody needs;  
I, too, can do it, if you let me see it  
done,  
I can see your hands in action, but your  
tongue too fast may run.

The lecture you deliver may be very  
wise and true,  
But I'd rather set my lessons by ob-  
serving what you do!  
I may not understand the good advice  
you sometimes give,  
But there's no misunderstanding--the  
religion that you live.

Thank you, Kathleen. We trust that this poem may cause someone who is listening to the broadcast tonight to do what the prodigal son did when he came to himself. It is said in Luke 15 and verse 20 that "He arose, and came to his father." Thus he put his good intentions into actions and he was blessed in his deeds.

Now let us spend a moment in prayer.

Our Father,

We pray that you would help, not only us, but all those who hear the broadcast tonight to be able to put into practice the deeds which will prove that we love God and keep his commandments. May we not do this in word only but in deed and in truth, for we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

Here now is a song by Bro. and Sis. Russell H. Douglas which I believe you will enjoy even more after I tell you how this song came into existence. A few months ago Bro. and Sis. Douglas were enjoying their ride down Interstate 35 at the close of the day. With no thought of violating the speed limit. To their amazement and surprise they were halted by an officer with the flashing of his red lights from the patrol car. Imagine, if you can, the surprise when Bro. Douglas was informed that he was driving too slow! The minimum speed limit was 40 and he was driving 38 mph.

He informed the officer, "Why I was over in the slow lane of traffic. But the patrolman came back with this very shocking statement, "Mr., there is no slow lane of traffic on this highway." This he decided was surely true as he saw the cars whizzing past him at a speed of 70 mph or sometimes even more.

After receiving this warning ticket, they proceeded along the highway once again, but his thoughts were still disturbed with this question. "Lord, why did I get this warning ticket?" But when he turned his citation over and read the back side he saw this statement, "Slow down at sundown and live". This even added to his perplexity for he had slowed down and yet received the warning ticket. But all of this he brushed aside and considered it within the will of God when the Lord gave him this

following song: "Kneel Down Before Sundown and Live".

This message has been brought to you by THE MISSION TRAIL of Guthrie, Oklahoma. If you would like to have a printed copy of today's message, you may have one free of charge upon your request. Until next Friday night at 11:00 this is Willie Murphey saying may God's richest blessings be yours and a very pleasant goodnight!

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#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S SECTION

by Kathleen and Patsy

All down through the years men have wondered what comes after death.

We thank the Lord that when Jesus came he told us not to be afraid. (St. John 14) He had come to us from his father in heaven that he might save the world from their sins. He made the complete sacrifice when he died on the cross, but on the third day he arose from the grave. Since then death has been conquered, and we now have this assurance in II Cor. 5:1, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

It is this assurance, this hope of an eternal life, which gives many things their value. It is this hope which makes us realize the importance of God's Word. If there were no eternal life, then would all men do as they desired to do, but because we know that God wants us to live for Him right now, we can see how unimportant the things that we wanted to do are in comparison with the things of God and eternal life. And because we know not the time when God is going to call us home, we must be prepared to live in the "building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

--KEM

## IN LOVING MEMORY

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Revelation 14:13

Inasmuch as we have been brought face to face with the realities of life and death in recent days, it seems well for us to consider and hold fast to the faith that was once delivered to the saints. Our minds have been so filled with the realization that man's days are few upon the earth and that it would be well for us to spend them wisely. Only this past week has sorrow found its way into the lives of three of the families of God. Surely one can never fully know the depths of a sorrow such as this until it comes into their own lives. Bro. White of Oklahoma City, Bro. Gus Poulos of Highland, California, and Brother Clark Porter of Guthrie, Oklahoma, all slipped away from their families by death on Thursday, Dec. 2. We were well acquainted with Clark.



Clark Porter (left)  
Willie Murphey  
approx 24 years ago

In recent days during his last sickness which he so bravely endured, I have thought of some of our earlier experiences we shared together in the days gone by. It was my happy privilege on



Frances and Clark Porter  
July 7, 1946

that summer afternoon in July 1946 to perform his wedding ceremony when he was married to Miss Frances White.

I remember the day he and I were having trouble with a home-made tractor. A man accused him of being one who worked at the store which did not sell tobacco. Imagine, a grocery store not selling tobacco! One might think it impossible to stay in business on such a basis, but Clark did, and that for many years. To me this small accusation seems an honor to his standard of life.

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