



# The Mission Trail

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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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## *A Space for Repentance*

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Good morning, friends. I am happy for the privilege of once again coming your way by means of radio. To begin with, I want you to consider this scripture in the third chapter of Ecc., verse 1, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven". Now going on down in this chapter it mentions a time to be born, a time to die, a time to weep, a time to laugh, a time to get, a time to lose, a time to keep silence, and a time to speak. And even more things than this is mentioned. But I am especially concerned about the fact that there is a "time" for these things. Some folks take time for many things which are not nearly as important as one thing which everyone should take time for.

Now listen to this verse from the second chapter of Rev., verse 21, "And I gave her space to repent. . . and she repented not." This is one thing of vital importance to everyone. The Lord gives space and time for folks to repent, yet some people try to fool themselves, apparently, that they don't need any repentance. But let me tell you something. If you are living in sin and doing things that are wrong you need to repent of it. Psa. 7:11 says, "God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day." But there is one thing sure, folks are not fooling the Lord. Do you remember the account of Elisha's servant Gehazi? Well, there was a time when Naaman who had the leprosy came to Elisha for healing. This is the time that Elisha sent a messenger and told Naaman to go dip in the river Jordan 7 times. Well, Naaman became very angry and thought there was no need for him to waste his time to go down to the Jordan river to dip.

In fact, he was disappointed, I believe, because Elisha didn't come out to see him and he was about ready to leave in a rage but one of the servants said, "If the prophet had told you to do some great thing wouldn't you have done it?" So the account goes that Naaman did dip in the river and his leprosy was cured. But when he came back to show his appreciation and to make some kind of contribution to Elisha, Elisha refused to take anything from him. Even though Naaman urged him to take some clothing or silver or some of his other possessions, he wouldn't take a thing.

But the thought that I want to get across to you is that Gehazi, Elisha's servant, just thought, "Now this is a good opportunity and I am going to get something off of that fellow". So he secretly slipped out of the house and ran to catch up with Naaman after he had gone down the road a ways. And he told Naaman that there had been a

couple of young men of the sons of the prophets came to his master's house and he claimed that Elisha had sent him to get a talent of silver and two changes of garments. Well, Naaman was just delighted to give him something so he gave him 2 talents of silver and some clothing. And after Gehazi had slipped these things into the house he came back in the room where Elisha was and Elisha said, "Whence cometh thou, Gehazi"? Then Gehazi told him, "Thy servant went no whither. Or in other words, I haven't been anywhere. Do you suppose he thought he was fooling Elisha, a man of God? Well, if he thought that he was sadly mistaken because Elisha wasn't being fooled. Here is what Elisha told him, "The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever." And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow. Now, friends even though people have broken God's laws and they have disregarded his will and they have closed their eyes and hearts to his warnings, many many times the Lord gives them a space for repentance.

The 3rd chapter of II Peter speaks about folks who shall come in the last days that will be scoffers. They walk after their own lusts and say, "Where is the promise of his coming?" Or in other words, they just act like God doesn't see or know anything they are doing, so they can just do what they please and get away with it. This is the way they seem to feel. Well, it is true that God is long suffering and he is not willing that any should perish because he wants them to come to repentance.

But let me remind you of this, this space of repentance is limited. To-

day is the day of salvation and now is the accepted time. God's spirit is not going to always strive with men, neither is the door of mercy going to be open for ever. When that time comes all hope will be gone and there will be no more opportunity to be saved. Some folks are going to be like the foolish virgins, I fear. After the bridegroom came they sought from their friends oil to go in their lamps, but it was too late. It does something to a person when they refuse God's mercy. For one thing, their heart becomes hardened and it makes future repentance much less likely. Another thing, it increases their guilt because they know they should turn from their wrong and they will not do it. Furthermore, it grieves the spirit of God and brings them nearer to the time when God will quit dealing with them. It is written of Esau that he found no place of repentance though he sought it carefully with tears.

The rich man lifted up his eyes in hell being in torments. Then he sought favor from Abraham and he wanted Abraham to send Lazarus and dip the tip of his finger in water to cool his tongue, but it was too late. He had gone beyond the point of return. There was a great gulf fixed between them. Neither could cross to the other. He had waited too long. Listen to this:

#### THE FOUR CALLS

The Spirit came in childhood,  
And pleaded, "Let me in."  
But Oh! the door was bolted,  
By thoughtlessness and sin.  
"I am too young," the child replied,  
"I will not yield today.  
There's time enough tomorrow,"  
The Spirit went away.

Again he came and pleaded,  
 In youth's bright happy hour.  
 He came, but heard no answer,  
 For lured by Satan's power,  
 The youth lay dreaming then,  
 And saying, "Not today;  
 Nor till I've tried earth's pleasures,"  
 The Spirit went away.

Again he called in mercy,  
 In manhood's vigorous prime.  
 But still he found no welcome,  
 The merchant had no time.  
 No time for true repentance,  
 No time to think or pray.  
 And so, repulsed and saddened,  
 The Spirit went away.

Once more he called and waited,  
 The man was old and ill.  
 He scarcely heard the whisper,  
 His heart was cold and still.  
 "Go leave me, when I need thee,  
 I'll call for thee," he cried.  
 Then sinking on his pillow,  
 Without a hope, he died.

Friends, should this message reach  
 someone with whom God is dealing,  
 it is my sincere hope that you may  
 give heed and turn to the Lord before  
 it is too late. Perhaps you have said  
 "no" to the spirit of the Lord over and  
 over again. Are you willing for God  
 to accept the "no" which you have said?  
 Are you willing for the spirit to leave  
 you and never come to you again?

Many folks have already settled their  
 destiny even in life. If you say no to  
 God today who of us can tell whether  
 or not the spirit of the Lord may ever  
 deal with your heart again? We don't  
 know what tomorrow holds. Uncer-  
 tainty is there in the future and es-  
 pecially is this true for one who is  
 separated from God. Would you be  
 willing to meet the Lord in your sins?

Jesus said, If you die in your sins,  
 whither I go you can not come.

Let me tell you what you should do.  
 Find a time and a place for repen-  
 tance. Do it now for surely now is  
 the accepted time. There is no pro-  
 mise for any time but now.

Let us pray,

O Lord,

Bless each listener of the broad-  
 cast. It may even reach to some un-  
 saved person who is near the edge of  
 eternity. Cause them to have a willing  
 heart to repent and make good use of  
 the space which God has given them  
 for that purpose, and to thee we will  
 give the praise through Christ our  
 Lord. Amen

Thank you, friends, for listening. Do  
 tune in again next week at this same  
 time and if we may be of further help  
 to you please let us know. You could  
 do so by writing to The Mission Trail,  
 Guthrie, Okla. Here is a song, "Who  
 shall abide in thy tabernacle?" The  
 singers are Lynn Carver, Arnett Car-  
 ver, Troy Gentry, and Edgar Martens.

Until we meet again this is Willie  
 Murphey saying may God's richest  
 blessings be with each of you and a  
 very cheerful good-bye!

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### *Testimonies*

From La. : "It's such a beautiful day  
 and so was yesterday. It's a pleasure  
 to be out and work in the yard on days  
 like this. We can look all around us  
 and see the mighty handiwork of God  
 and to think and look on these makes  
 his presence seem nearer and that's  
 what we love."

--Marie and Manuel Mitchell

From Wisc. : "The Lord has given us another beautiful day for which we are thankful and the men folks are making good use of it. They are planting oats. Last week at this time it was snowing and quite cold. What a difference a week can make. . . I have been reading in the book Life and Labors of D. S. Warner and would like to quote a little taken from his diary that made a deep impression on my mind: 'During my afflictions, the Lord not only kept my mind in perfect peace, but also taught me many precious lessons of my littleness and his exalted greatness. I saw myself but a speck of dust resting upon a invisible grain of sand. Oh how the eye of God scrutinized my past life and showed me yet more than at the camp meeting my weakness and unworthiness. Oh how vile I had been in the sight of God. How many times Satan had succeeded in resurrecting self in me. The spirit has plainly shown me that I should never speak of having prayed for certain persons in connection with their conversion etc. Oh I am so ashamed of my folly and weakness in often relating such things. I thought I was doing it all to the glory of God but now I can see some self in it. O Lord! save me in the future from such presumption and sin.' I thought as I read this how many times we are like that. In Matthew we read 'Take heed that ye do not your alms before men to be seen of them otherwise you have no reward of your father which is in heaven.' And I believe we can also say be heard of men, telling how much we give of our time and money to the Lord's work. One time years ago when working at the parsonage I felt others should be there as much as me and I wasn't too happy about it and my mother in law said I should do it as unto the Lord. And after all he is the one to reward us so we don't need to feel bad if man

doesn't know how much we do. In the word also says: 'But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.' Matt. 6:3-4. My, I didn't plan to write so much. May the Lord richly bless you in your labors for Him."

--Sis. Bertha LaVeau  
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From Ga. : "I thank whoever sent me the little paper. I enjoy reading it very much and wish I could hear it on radio. I am not strong. I never go any where and I do enjoy reading about all the meetings in different states. Please remember us in your prayers."

--Ray Sloan  
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From Ky. : "I wish to praise God for saving and keeping power. I have been a servant of His for many years. Now I'm an old man--well up in years. But He is precious to my soul, though weak in body, also dull of hearing. . . Truly God is great and greatly to be praised."

--G. M. Bates

### "The Power of Prayer"

There is an eye that never sleeps  
Beneath the wing of night;  
There is an ear that never shuts,  
When sink the beams of light.

There is an arm that never tires,  
When human strength gives way;  
There is a love that never fails,  
When earthly loves decay.

That eye is fixed on seraph throngs;  
That arm upholds the sky;  
That ear is filled with angel songs;  
That love is throned on high.

But there's a power which man can wield,  
When mortal aid is vain,  
That eye, that arm, that love to reach,  
That listening ear to gain.

That power is prayer, which soars on high,  
Through Jesus to the throne,  
And moves the hand which moves the world,  
To bring aid to His own.

From La. : "Well I guess if the Lord permits--in a few days we will get the ole Bus rolling for the summer. We



Guess Who-

hope to leave about June 7th and go to Holly Hill. Then to Bro. Curtis Williams, then maybe into Ohio. After that kinda take a northerly route to Oregon meeting, then down into Calif. --Back to Monark and Myrtle. So you see we have quite a tour mapped out if the Lord permits. The Lord has surely been good to us of late. A few days ago Dora was using ammonia to wash something and the ammonia bottle slipped out of her hand and fell splashing the pure ammonia in one eye. It just gave her terrible pain for several hours and it felt it had just peeled the skin from the inside of the eye. We just went earnestly to the Lord like we always do and you know the Lord just completely healed that and she hasn't suffered any ill effects from it. Dora still has quite a time with arthritis at times but the Lord always comes to her rescue. A few weeks ago I was feeling bad with several complications with my body. But now the Lord has strengthened me to where I am able to help out quite a bit around the house. So you see the Lord is just our all in all and we are very encouraged to trust him. We appreciate getting to hear the broadcast and the good solid truth and appreciate the prayers of the saints! The Lord bless you."

--Dale Doolittle and family

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From Mo. : "My husband passed away Dec. 27, 1969. My 2 sons took me to Florida to be with them. . . I am at home now by myself, (no) the Lord is with me. I don't know what I would do without Him. I am 70 yrs. old. . . the Lord is so wonderful to me."

--Maggie Sewell

From Calif. : "Greetings in Jesus dear name, yet saved, sanctified, and pressing on. I do so much enjoy the Mission Trail. As soon as it comes I sit down and read it through. Some times dear Sis. Atha calls and wants me to read the testimonies to her and she enjoys them so much. I am sending a little love offering to use as you see fit."

--Sis. Dessie LeMelle

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From S. Ca. : "I am writing to let you hear from me again. I am still enjoying the little Mission Trail. I hope the Lord will still bless you for the printing of them. I am sending you a little offering to help in the printing. I know it takes a lot of money to bear that work on. So may the Lord bless you in it. Pray much for me. Your brother in the one body standing for the whole truth of God's word,"--Eddie Driggers

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From Minn. : "Thought I would drop you a few lines to say how happy I feel this wonderful morning. The Lord has been so wonderful to me in so many ways and I surely thank and praise his wonderful name for ever and ever for it. I hope this will find each one of you well and enjoying the wonderful blessing of the Lord. . . Please pray for me to be true and faithful to the Lord till the end."

--Sis. Pearl Whitcomb

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From Okla. : "We are still saved, sanctified and satisfied in the Lord. Oh! how satisfied I am with this precious holy way. God is becoming more and more real to me from day to day and I thank Him for it. I'm learning how to feast on prayer and the word of God. Surely my desire is as David said: 'Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord my strength and my redeemer.'"

--Frances Chandler

