



The Mission Trail

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VOL. 6 NO. 20

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

JUNE 5, 1970

Loaves and Fishes

Radio Broadcast for week of May 31, 1970 (See back page for list of stations.)

Good morning, friends. I am going to open this broadcast with this verse from the book of John. It is the words of Jesus and I believe there is enough in it to cause us to analyze ourselves and the motives which we may have in life. Listen, "Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled." John 6:26

Now, let us go back and see what happened. There was that great multitude of people following Jesus and it came time for lunch so Jesus said to Phillip, "Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" You see, Jesus already knew what he was going to do but he said this to just see what Phillip would say, or in other words, to prove him. Of course, it was beyond the comprehension of Phillip when he realized that 200 pennyworth of bread wouldn't be sufficient for them. But Simon Peter came up with the solution, if we might call it that. He said, "There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?" Friends, do you know what Jesus did? He just had that great multitude of folks to sit down on the grass. There were about 5,000 of them, and Jesus took those five barley loaves and the 2 small fishes and first of all he gave thanks, and then he passed them out to the disciples and they gave them to the people. When they were filled and had eaten all they wanted, they gathered up 12 baskets of the fragments of the food. But this is just one time that he fed the multitude.

There was also another occasion when they had 7 loaves and a few small fishes and Jesus fed about 4,000 people and then they gathered up 7 baskets.

But here is what I am getting at. There is something more important than just eating loaves and fishes. Jesus told these folks, "Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves and were filled." You see, after these folks had this meal they just followed the Lord, evidently for more of the same thing. They weren't too much interested in what he really was, or the miracles which he performed but their hunger was satisfied by being around when the Lord brought forth the food.

Now, friends, let us bring it a little closer home. You say you serve the Lord; that is good. You say you love him; you ought to. You say you belong to God's church; this is the only one that saves, and you sure ought to be a member of it. I am speaking about the true people of God, those who are in the Church of God and have been born again. But I am persuaded that if the

secrets of every heart were known we would find a great many people with a profession that they love the Lord, but they are really following along with his people for only the benefits they receive by doing so. Well, someone might think if we know who these folks are, let us just exclude them from getting these blessings. No, that is not the thing to do. Jesus didn't separate the crowd and say, now we are only going to give this food to those of you who are sincere, and who really believe in me as being the Son of God. No, but he just fed the multitude any way. No doubt there were unbelievers in the crowd who were not sincere at all, but they received a blessing from even being there. But let me tell you something else. There is going to come a day of separation when those who are following along just for the loaves and fishes, those who come just to get the meals, those who are interested because they receive financial gain, are going to be separated from the true saints of God. They will be able to go just so far and that is all.

Now think of this, there is nothing wrong in giving an offering, is there? Why no, that is a good thing to do. In fact, that is the way the Lord supports this work of his which we are doing. It is by those who give free will offerings. But wait a minute. Did you know that it is possible to give of your money and still miss your reward in heaven? You might get a reward here in this life but that is all. Listen to this, "Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." Matt. 6:2

And again it is certainly a good thing

to pray. We are taught to pray, the Bible teaches it. Jesus taught his disciples to pray. In fact we are told to pray without ceasing. But did you know that some folks can pray and never receive a reward from the Lord for doing so. Listen to this verse, "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." Matt. 6:5 The secret of our praying and our giving lies in our motive, that is if we would please the Lord. We do it because we want to do it for the glory of God and not for the praise of men. Again I say, some folks are pretending to follow the Lord just for the loaves and fishes. In other words, this is why they really are following him regardless of what they may be pretending to do. Jesus went on to point out when you do your alms, don't let your left hand know what your right hand doeth, and when you pray enter into thy closet and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy father which is in secret, and thy father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Then in this 6th chapter of Matthew Jesus went on to tell about some folks who fasted with a sad countenance, and they disfigured their faces, so the folks would know they were fasting and he said, verily I say unto you they have their reward.

Friends, why are you following the Lord? Is it because you really love him and you take delight in doing what he said, or is it for the gain that you may receive by doing so, even in this life. Take the Apostle Paul for instance. He was raised a strict Pharisee. He said of himself, "touching the righteous-

ness which is in the law, blameless." So he must have prayed, he no doubt fasted, he was no doubt very strict in his manner of living. But do you know something? He wasn't satisfied and he wasn't happy. Not when he came in contact with Christ. There was something wrong and he realized that. But listen to his testimony then after he came to the knowledge of salvation, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith". Phil. 3:7, 8, 9

Now, do you think Paul was following him for the loaves and fishes? Do you think he endured the hardships of being wrecked at sea and beaten by the rulers of the land, and suffering the reproaches of the religious leaders just for a show or the praise of men? I say no. Paul followed him with sincerity of heart and trueness of purpose. It mattered little whether they praised him or hated him. They could wish him well or they could lock him in prison, but his decision was made. All the while I believe that God stood with him and he reaped a rich harvest of his Christian living right here in this life.

Listen to this poem:

PRESENT SALVATION

Is it just the hope of heaven
When this troubled life is o'er,
And the thought that there's a mansion
Waiting on the other shore?

Is it just the hope of having
Peace and gladness by and by?
Though on earth are sighs and sorrows,
All is glorious in the sky?

No! the hope I have now gives me
Joy and peace beyond compare,
And my blessed Lord has taken,
All my trials and my care.

Oh! the precious hope we harbor
Is an anchor to the soul;
Never need the heart be troubled,
Though the raging waters roll.

No, we need not cross the river
Ere our dark forebodings cease;
For just now my heart's o'erflowing
With a stream of perfect peace.

Let us pray,

Our Father,

Call unto thyself men and women who will follow thee through the storms of life with trueness of heart and purpose because they really love you. Deliver us from the praise of men; forbid that we should compromise the truth just for the pleasures of this life. Bless each listener of the broadcast this day in a special way and to thee we will give the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen

Friends, if we may be a help to you be sure to let us know. If you would like a copy of the broadcast send for one. There is no charge or obligation on your part. Address your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Oklahoma. Listen to this song, "In the shelter of His . . . [Arms]".

And now 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!

Correspondence

One brother finished his letter in this way: "Your brother in the Lord standing for the whole truth of God's word, not going along with fads and fashions of this world"

--Bro. Archie Sweat

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From S. Ca.: 'My dear Lord is still watching over me day and night. I thank God for his love. . . He is my strength and he protects me from all evil. . . I want to praise God for saving and keeping power over me in the time of trouble. . . I mean to go right on. . . I thank God for bringing my son out of the hospital. I went in there and had prayer for him. . . God saved and he is home. I praise the dear Lord. . .'

--Sis. Sallie Sweat

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MEETING REPORT

A very profitable meeting was convened in Massillon, Dalton, Ohio area May 10th through 16th each eve. and Sun. 17th in Akron. The Lord was present in each service anointing singing, prayer service, and the word went forth with anointed power. . . and was received with much appreciation. This was a new area. . . yet, the Lord blessed with good attendance, interest, and the co-operative spirit was wonderful. . . Those from out of city, who shared burden of this meeting was Bro. and Sis. Mart Samon, Bro. and Sis. Ray Key, Bro. McCoy and Bro. James White. . . our dear saints from Pittsburgh, Pa. also our young people attending college at Denison and Ashton, Ohio. May the Lord bless all, and all are welcome here in Akron July 10th through 19th to the same spirit filled worship a non worldly, non denominational campmeeting. Come all.

--Sis. H. Clark, pastor, 555 Fernwood, Akron, Ohio 44320, Phone 762-4432

From Okla.: "Hope all are well. This leaves me doing very well, still trusting in the dear Lord. Some times I have some pretty heavy burdens. The scripture says cast thy burden upon the Lord for he shall sustain thee. So I just pray. I have some burdens I desire you to remember in prayer for me. I enjoy reading the Mission Trail."

--Sallie Williams

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From Mo.: "This day I am still looking up and thanking God for His mercy and goodness and for salvation. I want to tell you all how God spared my life. I went to light the gas stove and it blowed up, knocked the glass out of two windows. The flame went up my arm, burned some but I called for prayer and the Lord eased it. I hoed in the garden that evening. He healed it. Also my lips were burned a little and hair was singed. It is just a miracle of God's mercy to me I know and I want to be faithful to Him and fulfill the purpose He has for me here on earth, do His will and try to help souls. People say to me you are lucky to be here but, dear ones, I do not call it luck. I tell them it is just God's mercy. . . Pray for me dear ones, and to the unsaved readers I say prepare to meet God. He has joy, peace, and pleasure for you that nothing else can give you. We had a good meeting the 3 Sunday and rejoiced to see many here. Every third Sunday is our meeting day. Be glad for all to come who can. Bro. Gordon Humphrey preached. Bro. Leslie and family and Bro. Gordon's family all here and Bro. Robinson who is near 97 years old was here and sang several songs. Was 33 of us all and we heard 2 good sermons. Bro. Leslie has been faithful to come and preach for us. Sometimes very few but the Lord was with us. Pray for us and may God bless every reader is my prayer."

--Becky Barnes

From Ill. : "Greetings again in Jesus dear name. This is hot summer evening, so I guess our hot weather will be here for a while. I don't have much time to write this evening as it's getting about my bedtime, and I'm tired. I haven't been feeling too good. My eyes and nerves are still bothering me quite a lot, so please continue to pray with me for complete healing. Also continue to pray for my husband. He is doing pretty good, but isn't completely well either." --Mrs. Truman Pitts

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From Ky. : "Greetings to you this lovely morning in the name of Jesus. Trusting this finds each of you in good spiritual, and natural health. I really appreciate the work you are doing. We had our Bible lesson, Dale and I, this morning . . . I am feeling very well. . . I should not complain for I am 72 and can still work, have a little garden. Thursday, I think it was, I painted the living room walls, also enameled the porch. I was tired but so glad the dear Lord gave me strength. In about a couple of minutes after I started on the porch my arm started aching. The Devil said now you will just have to quit. I laid the brush down, and reminded the Lord He has promised me strength sufficient, and it had to be done to protect the porch. He said finish it. I did finish it and my arm was all o. k. We had about 45 degrees--this morning--going up fast now. I sure enjoy every word of the Mission Trail. So glad for it and the truth it contains. Thank God let them hammer at the truth all they want to. It will stand the storm that will soon break upon us. Oh let us keep the whole armour buckled real tight, and press on for victory is sure. I sure would be glad to attend some of the camp meetings this summer if it's the Lord's will. . . I hear the voice of my saviour telling me still to fight on,

He promised never to leave me never to leave me alone. I am so glad I have learned how to truly walk with Him. And to know He will never leave us nor forsake us till we have finished all the work. Pray for us as we do for you all." --Sis. Alpha Baldrige and Dale

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From Mo. : "Hope all are encouraged in the dear Lord. Wife and I find him a very present help in every time of need. He has helped us out when the arm of flesh would fail. I think of what David said in Psalms 60:11: 'Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man' and also Psalms 118 verse 6, 7, 8. 'The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? The Lord taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man'. And Psalms 91:7, 'A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; But it shall not come nigh thee'. . . We enjoy reading the Mission Trail paper and remember what the Lord told Joshua in Joshua 1:9. And as God was with Joshua so he will be with them that trust him. Yours for the whole truth,"

--F. E. and Ellen Wilson

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From Okla. : 'So glad I can say I am living for God. I am not too well in body. . . I wish I could come to the meeting, but I don't think I will. I want the dear saints to earnestly pray for my healing. . . I really enjoy the Mission Trail. I was at the meeting in '68 and '69. It was really good. . . Our pastor, Bro. Warren, was doing fair Sunday nite, but he needs strength for his body. . . The Lord is so good to His children--all we eat and wear and life and breath come from the Lord. . . Please remember me in prayer.'

--Sis. Fannie Henderson

