



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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Saying and Doing

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Good morning, friends. Listen to this scripture: "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." Matt. 21:28-31 Then this scripture, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 7:21 The real test of sincerity is not in words only but in deed. Christ did not say to the people, "What say ye more than others?" but in Matt. 5:47 we find these words, "what do ye more than others?" So it is in doing that we are to fulfill the will of God.

Let me speak just briefly of the man who had the two sons. When he came to the first one and requested that he go work in his vineyard this boy said I will not go. But the more he thought about what he said the more he realized that he had made a mistake. So he changed his mind and did his father's will. Then the second son said to his father, "I go, sir", but in reality he never did go. He just talked about it. That is as far as it ever got. Isn't this typical of the way some folks pretend to serve the Lord today? They can tell you how much they love the Lord and they put on a good front but really in heart they are far from doing God's will. These folks are professors of religion but they practice very little of it.

But on the other hand, you take the man or woman who is a down and out sinner. They know it and the world knows it. But when they come in con-

tact with Christ and accept the truth some actions begin to take place and these actions prove that they love the Lord and have been born again, translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of his dear son. Their deeds prove that they love him because they live no longer in sin.

This parable represents two classes of people. First, there are those who live in open transgression, who make no profession of righteousness, who openly refuse to come under the yoke of restraint and obedience which the law of God imposes. But, some of these people later obey the call of God and repent of their sins and accept the truth.

Then the other class of people are represented by this son who said, "I go, sir" and went not. The religious life of the Jewish nation had become a pretence. When Christ came in person

to set before them the principles of righteousness, they rejected him. At one time he said of them, "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men". You see, John the Baptist came preaching the truth and by his preaching sinners were convicted and converted. They went into the kingdom of heaven before the ones who in self righteousness resisted the solemn warning. The publicans and harlots may have been ignorant of much of the truth but these learned men knew what the scriptures taught. Yet they refused to walk in the path of righteousness. Their own stubborn hearts were the obstacles to their receiving the truth. They resisted the conviction of the spirit of God and refused to obey his commandments. While professing to obey they refused to render obedience to God. They were not doers of the truth which they professed to teach. Listen to these words of John the Baptist. I quote, "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance? And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." Matt. 3:7-10 That is the way John talked to the professors of his day and Christ declared John the Baptist to be one of the greatest of the prophets. He showed his hearers that they had had sufficient evidence that John was a messenger from God. The words of the preacher in the wilderness were with power. Had the profession of the Jewish leaders been genuine they

would have received John's testimony and accepted Jesus as the Messiah, but they did not show the fruits of repentance and righteousness. The very ones whom they despised were pressing into the kingdom of God before them. They trusted to self and prided themselves on their goodness but they set the commands of God at defiance. Many today claim to obey the commandments of God but they have not the love of God in their hearts to flow forth to others. Like the unfaithful son they make false promises to God. They do not surrender their will to God. The heart is hardened and the conscience is seared. Do not think that because you do not show a decidedly hostility toward Christ that you are doing his service. There are some folks who deceive their own souls. How impossible it is for a truly converted person to live a helpless, useless life. It is not possible for us to drift into heaven and it is not the sluggards who are going there. Those who refuse to co-operate with God on earth would not co-operate with him in heaven. It would not be safe to take them there.

Let us especially notice this one verse in John 13:17, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." Now the proof of whether or not we love the Lord lies in the doing of his will. Here Jesus said, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." It is the doing which brings satisfaction.

Listen to this poem:

Your Mission

Hark! the voice of Jesus crying:
 "Who will go and work today?
 Fields are white and harvest waiting;
 Who will bear the sheaves away?"
 Loud and strong the Master calleth;

Rich reward he offers thee:
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I; send me, send me"?

If you can not cross the ocean,
And the heathen lands explore,
You can find the heathen nearer;
You can help them at your door.
If you can not give your thousands,
You can give the widow's mite;
And the least you do for Jesus,
Will be precious in his sight.

If you can not speak like angels,
If you can not preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say he died for all.
If you can not rouse the wicked
With the judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior's waiting arms.

If you can not be the watchman,
Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
Offering life and peace to all, --
With your prayers and with your
bounties
You can do what Heaven demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's hands.

If among the older people
You may not be apt to teach--
"Feed my lambs," said Christ, our
Shepherd;
"Place the food within their reach."
And it may be that the children
You have led with trembling hand,
Will be found among your jewels
When you reach the better land.

Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the souls of men are dying
And the Master calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly;
Let his work your pleasure be;

Answer quickly when he calleth,
"Here am I; send me, send me!"

Let us pray,

Our Father in heaven,

Help us that we may be doers of the
word and not hearers only deceiving
our own souls. Bless the word of truth
as it goes forth over the broadcast and
may the seed sown fall into good and
honest hearts. Bless each listener in
a very special way and thine shall be
the praise through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Friends, I have been telling you about
the national campmeeting. Let me re-
mind you again that this old fashioned
Church of God campmeeting began Fri.
July 24. Today, Sunday the 26th, this
meeting is well under way. It runs for
10 days so why don't you just plan to
come and enjoy yourself with the saints
of God and hear the truth preached like
it was many years ago. The camp-
ground is located about 5 miles east of
Neosho, Mo. Plan now to attend. If
we may be of help to you, be sure to
let us know. Address your letter to
The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Oklahoma.
This is Willie Murphey speaking.

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

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Testimonies

"I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations. For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever". Psa. 89:1, 2

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From Calif. : "Greeting in Jesus name again. I want to say I still enjoy the little paper, much in it that helps us to press on to do good. . . I crossed my 90 milestone so pray for me that I will be some help along the way."

--Guy Littrell

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From Calif. : "Greetings of Christian love to you and family. I thank the Lord for his goodness to me and to my family. I enjoy the little paper and pray you may be able to keep it going also the radio broadcasting on the radio. Find enclosed a little gift to help out. I desire your prayers in a certain affliction I am going through on my arm. Also Evelyn Wilson can't seem to rest so well nights since she had this last affliction. Much Christian love,"

--Edith Wittenborn

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From Okla. : "Greetings of love to all. Praying this finds all well and that all will be able to attend Monark camp meeting. Hoping to see all there. We need rain and are hoping for a good rain before campmeeting starts. The Lord gave us a good well of water at 526 ft. Some of the wells around here are 14 hundred feet, some not so deep, but they do not have plenty of water in a dry time. We feel very humble and thankful for this blessing of the well. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped. Therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth, and with my song will I praise him. Psa. 28:7 Lord willing see you soon."

--Doris Bowers

From Miss. : "This leaves all well in soul and body for which we do thank the dear Lord. Bro. Willie, I really enjoyed the brother's testimony from Jamaica. It is the need of the hour. I still love the little Mission Trail."

--John E. Watson

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From Okla. : "Greetings in Jesus precious name. Trust this will find you all well this hot weather. Am sending 2 dollars to help a little. I enjoy the Mission Trail very much. I want to go visit some nursing homes and take them there. It is time for the mail man. May God bless you one and all real good is my prayer. Pray for my unsaved loved ones. Much Christian love,"

--Ida Ruckman

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From Okla. : "I'm so thankful that I live at Enid where I can hear the real Bible truth preached. I thank the dear Lord for his many blessings to me. I want to serve him in truth and righteousness every day. I love to hear your broadcast and also love to get the Mission Trail. . . Remember me in your prayers. I'm not well in my body . . . Trust you are all well. Christian love,"

--Sarah Hoffman

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From Mo. : "Just a few lines. May God bless and keep you is our prayers. I wrote you requesting prayer for my daughter who had a nervous breakdown. She didn't know any one for 3 or 4 days . . . The Lord completely healed her. She was home normal in less than a week. She didn't know anyone when she went in hospital. To God be all the glory. I am so thankful. . . She feels a little weak but is doing all her work. . . I wanted so much to go to the campmeeting but just not able. I could never make the trip in this heat. . . Pray for us as we always do for you all."

--Sis. Mary Adams

"From La. : July 23 Dear Bro. Willie, Sis. Frances and family, Saints and Friends scattered abroad! It is with a heart full of love that we send greetings to each of you this morning. We have been unable to write each one personally and thank you for the many Get-Well cards, love offerings, phone calls and expressions of love that you have shown us during Merrill's illness; most of all; your prayers. It will be seven weeks this coming Saturday that he had a heart attack which put him in bed. Two of our neighbors got a hospital bed for him which proved very helpful. Neighbors and friends have been so kind to us, and all would be here to visit him if his condition had been such that they could. He has had a lot of trouble with his nerves since he had the attack and we have learned that any little thing that affects his nerves will also affect his heart, so we have just had to keep him quiet. I know that the people of God all over the United States that have known about Merrill's condition, are praying for him, and I want to tell you that we have felt those prayers many times when it looked as though he was in the jaws of death. Merrill told me from the very beginning of his affliction that he intended to trust God all the way, whether the Lord saw fit to take him or spare him. What better hands could we trust these old bodies in, anyway? He made these old bodies out of the dust of the earth and then breathed life into them and since he made us, he knows exactly the part to heal. I am glad to report this morning that he has never failed me all through my life. . . James 5:15 says "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the Church and let them pray over him anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up;

and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." So many other promises that I can't relate here. Merrill's Mother and Daddy reared ten children and trusted God with each one, and all of us could testify of many miracles the Lord performed. The Lord is just the same today, and as I write this, I feel that we both have our lives fully committed to the Lord and are just waiting on Him to raise Merrill up. We didn't know for a while but that he might see fit to take him, but I believe the Lord has given us the assurance he is going to raise him up again. Merrill said he had received many blessings and the Lord had taught him precious lessons through this sickness that he wouldn't have gotten if the Lord had healed him instantly. The Lord has also blessed me and helped me in my body and soul. I know I have many places I can move up. The Lord gave Merrill a definite touch to his body during the Hammond Camp Meeting on Fast Day and he improved rapidly for several days but something set him back again and he was pretty bad again, but we feel he is gradually gaining strength now again. We just need prayer now that the Lord will strengthen his nerves which seem to be broken down, and then I think he will rapidly improve. When he can get rest, he feels strengthened in other ways. He still has soreness around his heart. When this disappears completely, we feel he will be about well. However the Lord wants to give his healing, we say Amen. The Church here at Midway has surely stood by us and helped us in every way they could, even though they couldn't come. We certainly appreciate all they have done for us. May God bless each and every one and when the Lord brings us to your minds; we will appreciate your prayers."--Merrill & Ruby Williamson, R. 1, Olla, La. 71465.

