



Gospel Broadcasting and Publishing

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

VOL. 6 NO. 44

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

NOVEMBER 20, 1970

Honesty

Radio Broadcast for week of November 15, 1970 (See back page for list of stations.)

"Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work; That saith, I will build me a wide house and large chambers, and cutteth him out windows; and it is cieled with cedar, and painted with vermillion." Jer. 22:13, 14 Good morning, friends. It is a pleasure to be coming your way another time with a short message from the Word of God. I want to talk to you briefly concerning "honesty". Honesty seems to be a forgotten virtue by so many in this our modern day. Listen to the definition from Webster concerning "Honest". "Free from deception, truthful, genuine, real." Then it goes on to describe it further as "humble, plain, reputable, respectable, good, worthy, creditable, marked by integrity." Finally it gives the meaning of honest as "frank, sincere, innocent, simple". That sounds to me like a valuable virtue, doesn't it to you?

Now let me show you the value which God places upon honesty. In II Cor. 8 and 21 we have this admonition, "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men." Here is another scripture which says almost the same thing, "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men." Rom. 12:17 All the shrewdness, ability, education, and learning of a wise man is worth very little in the absence of honesty. What kind of a person does a store keeper desire to employ? Well, he wants someone who can take care of his business. It needs to be someone who can evaluate merchandise, make mathematical calculations, and all that sort of thing. But that is not all an employer wants. He wants a man or woman who is going to be honest. I would say this is even more important than the first require-

ment. Sometimes employees and contractors are even placed under a heavy bond. Why is this? It is to ensure the employer if this man fails to be honest with him, his business will not be completely ruined and he will be reimbursed for the dishonesty of this employee. I regret that so many people do not live up to their word. They will tell you one thing and do another. Honesty and truth can not be evaluated in dollars and cents. It is worth more than material things. I am of the firm conviction that a true child of God values his word and integrity more than financial gain. Did you notice that first text I read which pronounced a woe on that person who built his house by unrighteousness?

Jesus in telling the parable of the sower had this to say about the good ground. I quote, "But that on the good ground

are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience." Luke 8:15 So Christ put a premium on honesty also.

One may be ever so shrewd and yet use his ability in a dishonest manner. Notice this verse from Rom. 13:13, "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying." You see, the one who walks honestly and uprightly before the Lord has a greater defense than those who indulge in rioting and drunkenness. Truth will overcome evil. Truth is more powerful than evil.

Josephus, the noted historian, tells the story concerning King Darius. It seems that during his reign he had a feast. The rulers of the Medes and the princes of the Persians, along with the generals of his armies had gotten together in eating and drinking. Now, I am not telling this as from the scriptures, but as the story given by Josephus. Well, after King Darius went to bed he couldn't sleep. Of course that wouldn't be hard to understand either, would it? But he got to thinking and fell into conversation with 3 of his bodyguards. So he made an agreement with them and he gave each of them a topic for study. They were supposed to make a speech. He wanted the first one to discuss, "Whether wine was not the strongest?" The second one was supposed to make a speech on whether kings were not the strongest. Then the third one on "whether women were not the strongest or whether truth was the strongest of them all?" So when the morning came King Darius sent for his great men and princes. Then he had the guards of his body to declare what they thought proper concerning the proposed

question in the hearing of them all.

The first fellow went into some length describing the power of wine. He pointed out how it deceived the mind of those who drink it and reduces that of the king to the same state with that of the orphan and he who stands in need of a tutor. He showed how it quenches the sorrow of those who were under calamities and makes men forget the debt they owe to others and makes them think of themselves as the richest. Nay, more it makes them insensible of their commanders, and their king, and their friends, and takes away the remembrance of their companions.

The next fellow pointed out the strength of a king. He said, "They are men who govern all things; they force the earth and the sea to become profitable to them in what they desire, and over these men do kings rule, and over them they have authority. Then he went on to say, "when these kings command their subjects to make wars, and undergo dangers, they are hearkened to; and when they send them against their enemies, their power is so great that they are obeyed. They command men to level mountains, and to pull down walls and towers; nay, when they are commanded to be killed and to kill, they submit to it, that they may not appear to transgress the king's commands; and when they have conquered, they bring what they have gained in the war to the king." He also mentioned how those who labor in the field brought of the fruits of their labor as tributes to the king. Then he finished with this question, "How then can it be otherwise, but that it must appear that the king exceeds all in strength, while so great a multitude obeys his injunctions?"

Then this third fellow began by saying,

"Wine is strong, as is the king also, whom all men obey, but women are superior to them in power; for it was a woman that brought the king into the world; and for those that plant the vines and make the wine, they are women who bear them, and bring them up: nor indeed is there any thing which we do not receive from them; for these women weave garments for us, and our household affairs are by their means taken care of, and preserved in safety; nor can we live separate from women . . . We also leave father, and mother, and the earth that nourishes us, and frequently forget our dearest friends, for the sake of women; nay, we are so hardy as to lay down our lives for them. But what will chiefly make you take notice of the strength of women is this that follows: Do not we take pains, and endure a great deal of trouble, and that both by land and sea, and when we have procured somewhat as the fruit of our labours, do not we bring them to the women, as to our mistresses, and bestow them upon them?"

Well, after this fellow had finished talking about the power of women Josephus reports that the princes and rulers looked one upon another and then this fellow began again to speak about "truth". He said, "I have already demonstrated how powerful women are; but both these women themselves, and the king himself, are weaker than truth; for although the earth be large, and the heaven high, and the course of the sun swift, yet are all these moved according to the will of God, who is true and righteous, for which cause we also ought to esteem truth to be the strongest of all things, and that what is unrighteous is of no force against it. Moreover, all things else that have any strength are mortal and short-lived, but truth is a thing that is immortal

and eternal. It affords us not indeed such a beauty as will wither away by time, nor such riches as may be taken away by fortune, but righteous rules and laws. It distinguishes them from injustice, and puts what is unrighteous to rebuke." End of quote.

Friends, don't you think we ought to be like this scripture in Prov., "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding." Prov. 23:23 If there was ever a time when the people of our nation needed to turn away from dishonesty it is today. I believe the example should begin with us as the people of God. Let us walk honestly from day to day. I want to give you more on this subject of "Honesty" next week. Be sure to tune in again. For the benefit of our listeners may I say we certainly appreciate those who help us keep this message going from week to week. If you would like to write us or if the message proves a blessing to you you may write us by addressing your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Let us pray,

Our Father,

Bless each listener of the broadcast in the way which they need most. We ask that the words of the message may be carried by the Holy Spirit to the heart of each listener and for that which is accomplished we will give thee the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen

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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"But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness". II Cor. 4:2

Testimonies

From Okla.: "Greeting in Jesus. I love Jesus. He has done so much for me. I am thankful for the love of God. I love the Mission Trail. Happy and thankful for the broadcast, the gospel of the kingdom of God, that's proclaimed over the radio. We want the world to hear it. Praying for the salvation of souls. We love the dear saints also in Jamaica." --Sis. Eva Penner

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From W. Va.: "We were just realizing today that it's been almost a year since writing you dear ones but oh! how time flys and we have been real busy this year. Our Lord has been so wonderful to us this past year. We just wouldn't have time to write you about the many times He has answered prayers for us and has worked out problems that no one else could possibly do for us and truly this makes us seem so small and undone before our Lord when we think of His great love for us. . . We are driving when possible to Sunday School about 70 miles from here where Bro. and Sis. Senic are having service in an old school house. These dear people have been a real blessing to us. Please remember them and their little work there to the Lord, also some of these who haven't been saved very long that they may grow in the Lord. . . We get to visit with Sis. Karen Lambert and her family quite often. This dear young sister has been a real encouragement to us. . . We are enjoying the Mission Trail very much and look forward to getting it each week and then we try to pass it on to some one else. . . Will close for now and please remember us in prayer also the work in these parts. May the Lord ever keep you dear ones looking up and pressing on in this life. We are praying for you."

--Bro. James White

From Mo.: "Oh, what a friend we have in Jesus. If every lost soul just knew what peace and joy God's children have, what contentment and satisfaction, they surely would want to get saved. May the Lord help us to so live, speak and act in such a way that we might help some souls to desire this great salvation and turn from sin to the Lord who wants every soul to be saved. I want the prayers of all God's children that I do God's will and be faithful to souls."

--Sis. Becky Barnes

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From Mo.: "We often think of you all and remember you in prayer. The Lord sure is good to his trusting children. We have no fear as long as we live for him and do his will. I'm so glad and happy I ever did find him precious to my soul. He means more than I can tell. I surely do enjoy the sermons each Sunday. It does our soul good to hear it and the good songs. I know how my dear Sister Lottie did enjoy the sermons before she was called to be with the Lord. Oh, how I do miss my dearest precious mother and sister, but I know they are better off. I'll say by by for this time. Yours in him,"

--Sister Myrtle Glass

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From Ariz.: "I'm still encouraged, pressing on for God. And I do thank Him for his goodness and mercies to us. . . The Arizona weather isn't so nice today. We have such a strong wind the air is full of dirt and dust. We've had quite a few of these windy days this fall, which is unusual for here. But we do appreciate the nice days more after one of these. I guess it's getting cool there by now. It would be so good to be in services, but I'm thankful for the printed pages. When you remember pray for me and my family. I have loved ones I desire to be saved."

--Sis. Ferne Laub

