



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. 48

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

DECEMBER 18, 1970

A Door-Mat for Christ

Radio Broadcast for week of December 13, 1970 (See back page for list of stations.)

"Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father. And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren." Matt. 20:20-24

Good morning, friends. I hope that things have been going well for you this past week. I am glad to be coming your way once again by means of radio for a few moments of spiritual meditation from the scriptures. I have a subject which is somewhat unique. I have chosen to call the title of it, "A door mat for Christ". Now, you know what a door mat is, don't you? There are several different kinds of door mats. Some are made of rubber while others are made of fibrous material such as hemp or burlap, and some doormats are even made from the caps of soda pop bottles. They are just scraper type affairs. But all of these serve one useful purpose. Do you know what that purpose is? It is for the folks who enter that house to scrape and clean their feet on. And indeed this is a useful purpose which a door mat serves. It would be a lot better to have the mud scraped off outside the door, wouldn't it? Than it would be

to take it inside on the carpet or on the waxed or polished floor?

But let us go back to the scriptures. This mother was very interested in seeing her sons promoted to respectable places of honor. I suppose this is only natural for a parent. It may be that even her sons, James and John, were interested in this promotion also. In fact I am quite sure that they were because in the 10th chapter of Mark and the 35th verse it says, "And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire." So let us not accuse the mother of the sole responsibility of this request. These boys were interested in having a place of honor in the kingdom of God, too. Jesus asked them if they would be able to go through with the things that he was facing. This no doubt was a reference to the cup of suffering and death which he should die.

Well, these disciples said yes, we are able for that. Then do you remember what the Lord told them, "And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father." Matt. 20:23 So God was indeed going to call upon James and John to suffer for him. But Jesus let them know that this place of honor would be selected by his father only.

Then Jesus went on to give them the key of understanding as to how one is to gain favor in the sight of God. Let us get it here from the Word. Beginning with verse 25, "But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Now, Jesus didn't say so in so many words, but he sure brought out the thought of how one is to be used, even as a door mat, didn't he? He said he didn't come to be ministered unto but to minister and give his life a ransom for many. Christ was numbered with the transgressors. It was outside the city of Jerusalem where he suffered and died on the cross of Calvary. It was not in the warmth and cheer of the city, but it was out there on a bleak barren hillside, which was called the place of a skull. Some of the folks who saw him on the cross ridiculed him. They said "save thyself". Well, now the simple truth of it is,

Christ saved others but he could not have done so if he had saved himself.

There are many today who are willing to sit in the seat of honor, but where are those consecrated, dedicated laborers for Christ who are willing to be a door mat for him? Do you remember what John the Baptist said in reference to Christ? He said, "Whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose". That was certainly an humble attitude he took, wasn't it? Now listen to this observation which Christ made, "And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out of the chief rooms; saying unto them, When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honorable man than thou be bidden of him; And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: Then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Luke 14:7-11 Now, dear ones, I believe that God has a place for every one of his children. The scriptures teach us that God sets the members in the body as it pleases him. The thing for you to do is this: Find out what God has called you to do, and then do that job for him. Don't be affected one way or the other by the criticism, condemnation, or scoffs, either from the world or professors. Then don't let any praise of men, honor or glory, cause you to swerve from your duty and devotion to God. Just be willing for God to use you in any way that he chooses and I

believe that your life will be useful. You may have a lowly calling, but if you are faithful in the little things, God is faithful to remember you in the greater things. Now, listen to this poem:

A DOOR MAT

We can not all be corner-stones,
Or panels on the door,
Or pillars; for there needs must be
A door-mat on the floor.

It's easy, when we need a light
Or dainty little vase,
To find some one who says he's
"called
To fill that very place. "

It's nice to be a sculpture-piece
That's noticed by the score,
But who is ready to be wiped
By feet, outside the door?

Some people are as true as steel!
When position keeps them there,
But who's as true when duty calls
To take a lower chair?

And others wish to rise and shine
With laurels by the score,
But these must first consent to be
A door-mat on the floor.

And those who make a door-mat true
Will rise to higher graces;
God has his honors for the few
Who will not choose their places.

Let us pray,

O Lord, our Heavenly Father,
We give ourselves to thee to be used
in whatever manner you shall choose.
Keep within us always a willing heart,
and as each of thy children fulfill the
lowly place to which you have called

them, give them grace sufficient for every need. Bless each listener of the broadcast this day in a special way and thine shall be the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen

Friends, if you would like to have a copy of this poem which I gave you, or of the thoughts expressed in the message, all you have to do is just write and let me know. There is no cost or obligation. We do desire your prayers. When you write just address your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla. Here is a song, "Camping in Caanan". The singers are Lynn and Alma Carver, Arnett and Genevieve Carver.

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 Okla. : ' . . . so few these days that are willing to consecrate their lives and be willing for the Lord to have His way with them. The fields are white, the laborers are few. We do thank the Lord for the few. May God keep our hearts stirred to pray that others will see the need of giving their time and talent while they have time and opportunity. We are surely living in perilous times. If it ever was a time we need to be watching and praying it is now. . . I feel I can't do much but I want to do what little I can. . . I want to help those that are giving all their time to the Lord's work to help get the gospel to lost souls that are in sin and be an encouragement to the saints. May God bless and reward you dear ones for every effort you put forth for His cause and kingdom. '

--Della Perry

From Mo. : 'Surely I am thankful this morning for the mercy of our wonderful God, and His great plan of salvation which His wonderful Son made possible on the cross at Calvary. We surely do enjoy the Mission Trail paper, as we don't live close enough to hear the broadcast. We also enjoy the good testimonies.' --Sis. Opal and Bro. Kenneth Christiansen

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From Okla. : 'Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I do hope that you all are well. God has wonderfully blessed me thus far on the way. I am still pressing on. My chief desire is to see souls saved, Christians strengthened and the Word furthered in the land. I so enjoy The Mission Trail that I just wish that every one could read it and understand the pure truth of God. Please continue my name on your 1971 mailing list.'

--Sis. R. C. Wadley

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From Mo. : 'I received the paper with the card and letter today, and I want to say I was glad to get it, and for the good report. . . I don't hear every one of the broadcasts but I do enjoy every one I hear. I do read the paper as soon as I get it, and it is food to my soul. I did so much enjoy this last one Nov. 29th that I got today. I did hear it too. Oh, how I feel I would like to do more for my blessed Lord. Recently I was reading in the place where David was so concerned that the Lord was dwelling in a tent and he lived in a house. My heart almost breaks when I think of how many souls are on the broad way and that Jesus said, 'And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.' Oh, do pray for me that God will so deal with me that I might be of more service in the great harvest field.'

--Bro. Austin McMillian

From W. Va. : 'It has been some time since I have written you. My time seems to be limited any more since I have the care of a sick husband. He is some better, but still requires care and attention. Please remember him in prayer for soul and body. Hope this finds you prospering in the Lord, and all needs supplied.'

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From Minn. : 'Greetings in the name of the only begotten Son of God who has done so much for us that we can never repay Him, but we try by living for Him in the Bible way. Love one another, give good for evil. Pray for one another, give thanks unto God for all things. I will be 84 in January and still get around good for which I thank the Lord. I don't get to go to campmeetings as it is so far to go alone. I am getting the Mission Trail regularly. It is a blessing and helps to keep me in the straight and narrow way. Much love and prayers. God bless you all.'

--Bro. Andrew Senti

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From Okla. : 'Just a note while sending in the coupon for the paper for 1971. Cecil suffered a stroke Nov. 25. He is helpless. We put him in a nursing home at Tecumseh, because there was not sufficient help in the Golden Rule Home to lift and care for him. His right side is affected. The last few days he has moved his right arm and foot a little, but he cannot raise up his head or shoulders or move his body. His mind has cleared pretty good. He can talk low. We are trusting the Lord, and praying his will be done. He was getting more helpless all the time before he had the stroke with the arthritis and neuritis. So we don't know how he is going to be. I have him committed into God's hands. Must close now. Christian love, your sister'

--Rada Watkins

From Kansas: 'I heard you Sunday morning on station KGGF reciting your nice poem. Do you have the poems in printed form? I would like to have 3 if you can spare me that many. Here is a little gift for your ministry in the Lord's work. Would like for you to remember my wife in your prayers. She is going on 82 and her heart and eyes are failing.'

--Gilane Robert

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From Okla. : 'Thanks so much for the nice greeting message from you folks. I've never had the pleasure of meeting you folks but I sure hope to some day and I do enjoy reading the Mission Trail paper and the good testimonies in it. I am 76 years old and don't get to go to church regularly and don't get the messages on radio as my radio is out of order. Hope to get it fixed or a new one before long. I want to read the Mission Trail message just as soon as I get it. I am enclosing a small offering and please keep me on mailing list. Hope to send more later and remember me and my loved ones that are in sin and need prayer.'

--Sis. H. S. Dotson

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From Mo.: 'I am thankful for salvation this morn and a desire to live for the Lord. There is much evil in the land today and the Word of God needs to go forth as never before and we as God's children need to witness to the world that there is something better to live for. I'm sending a little offering as I enclose the slip as I do enjoy the Mission Trail paper and don't want to miss a copy. I very seldom get to be in meeting but I'm glad I can read the Bible and pray each day, keeping encouraged and looking to the coming of the Lord. 'May the Lord bless you in the coming year. Christian love,'

--Norma Allen

From Ore.: 'I sold another pair of booties. Want to send the \$1 to help in your work for precious souls. I am not very well. Pray for me that I get closer to the Lord. God bless you all. I lost my only son. Has been an awful sad blow on me.'

--Sis. O. K. Myers

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From Mo.: 'It has been quite a while since I wrote but have often thought of you and I remember all God's workers and all the saints in prayer. I know your labors are not in vain and many souls are blessed by the Mission Trail. I'm still encouraged and happy in the Lord and have no desire but to live for Him until He comes or calls for me to come home. What a wonderful day when all the saints meet on that heavenly shore. Pray for me and my family. Many things burden our hearts thru the lives of unsaved loved ones but we must go on and just keep them committed to God so pray for us all when you think of us. Christian love,'

--Zella Dollins

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From Manitoba, Canada: 'Greetings in Christ Jesus our precious Lord and Savior. May His grace and love support and sustain your efforts in His great harvest. It has been a pleasure to receive your Mission Trail for the last 12 mos. I have received much encouragement and good food for my soul there from. I am happy to hear that it gives you pleasure to do this very beneficial work. I am sure that many souls are reached, who would otherwise seldom or never come in contact with the full truth of the gospel. My prayer to God is that he may further support your effort in giving you both good messages as well as the strength and means to deliver them. May His special blessing rest on your whole family.'

--Alfred G. Lange

