



The Mission Trail

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THE MISSION TRAIL

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"The Leaven of the Pharisees"

Radio Broadcast for week of February 6, 1972 (See back page for list of stations)

Good morning. On our last visit with you over the air we considered "The leaven of Herod". This time I would like to go a little further and include the leaven of the Pharisees. Here it is in the scripture: "In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid that shall not be known." Luke 12:1-2.

Let us not forget that leaven is that working force within the dough which penetrates the total of it. Its form is changed. Did you ever see the dough rise so much that it overlapped the edges of the pan it was in? But then it could be taken in the hands of the baker and squeezed into a very small lump! If the pretense and profession of some people were squeezed out of them there wouldn't be much left! This was the case of the Pharisees.

What did Jesus consider the supreme virtues? Well, the love of God, of course. The first commandment is to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, soul, mind, and strength. The second one is like it--love thy neighbor as thyself. So the important thing is charity or love. That is brought out in this verse: "And now abide faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." 1 Cor. 13:13.

In other words, charity should be the leaven or motivating force within the life. Then what virtue would you con-

sider next highest? This might be a little hard to come to perfect agreement on, but I will say a very important one is that of sincerity. Sincerity is among the fairest of the virtues. Jesus saw Nathanael under a fig tree where the man perhaps thought no one could see him. There he was seeking for the approval and favor of God while all alone under the fig tree, but Jesus saw him. Listen to this verse: "Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee." John 1:48. Jesus was judging by what Nathanael really was when he was all alone. He saw that he was sincere and in earnest. It was not hypocrisy and pretense that this man had. He was genuinely in earnest. So what was the result? Jesus promised him he would see even greater things.

Friends, it is not what you may profess to be which counts before God, but it is what you really are basically at heart when you're all alone. It is what you are when you're there in the darkness

and no one else knows about what you're doing or where you are. If you're sincerely genuine and a child of God, with all the humility and love that he would have you to have, you'll be true to God, out there all alone just the same as if you were in the light.

Let us not forget--the motivating force or leaven which moved Herod was his search for power and self glory. The leaven of the Pharisees was hypocrisy. They prayed on the streets to be seen of men. They enlarged their robes to look more dignified, religious and pious. They disfigured their faces when they fasted, so men could know they were fasting. I wonder if they didn't wash their hands publicly before they ate so others would see they were clean! They may have been clean on the outside, but how about the inside? Do you remember the words of Jesus along this line? Listen:

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also." That is found in Matt. 23:25-26. It seems Jesus was really hard on them, wasn't he? But notice the next verses:

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity."

Now don't you see what Jesus meant when he said to beware of the leaven of

the Pharisees? They were hypocrites! Hypocrisy puffs up, isolates, makes hard and brazen. I am reminded of the way some of the bus drivers do in South America. To them it is cowardly to back up and give in, even though they may be in the wrong. I remember one incident when my daughter Kathleen and I were on the bus traveling from Quito to the valley. Our driver decided he was going to pass the vehicle just ahead so he pulled out to go around him. (This was shortly after we left Quito) Being heavily loaded it took some time to get up enough speed to get around him. In the meantime here came another oncoming bus or truck, I believe it was. Do you think the driver of our bus pulled back in line to wait until the one we were meeting had passed? No sir, that would have been cowardly. He kept going, hoping to make it! We did make it, but it was by a narrow margin. There were a number of other American travelers in the rear of the bus and in sheer mockery and fun, they gave a shout when we made it safely! Can't you see what hypocrisy will drive one to do? Now, in contrast to this, let us consider what was in Jesus. Would it not have been worthwhile (this is, in the minds of some people now) for him to yield a point here and there and to have been in agreement with the Pharisees, even though they were hypocritical? They were already in power and if he had compromised a little here and there perhaps they would have accepted him.

Would this have been to his advantage in winning the people? Evidently he didn't think so. What do you think, friends? He attacked their traditions, spoke the truth and nothing but the truth knowing they would kill him. Even though he desired disciples to follow him, yet he told in all frankness the difficulties and dangers of discipleship.

It seems to me Pilate was disposed to be kindly toward him while the mob was yelling for blood, yet he would not shade the truth nor compromise.

There are two values about positive love and sincerity. One of these is self-respect. Without self-respect we degenerate and are lost. The other is God's respect. The Father who sees in secret rewards us openly.

Dear ones, the thing that counts is what you really are at heart and in secret. Here is a poem:

HUMILITY

There is a grace few mortals find,
A star all heaven loves to see;
It is a meek and lowly mind,
The gem of pure humility.

No ornament on earth so rare,
No jewel in all heavens' mart,
Can beautify a soul so fair
As deep humility of heart.

O God, hath e'er thy balance weighed
A jewel so sublimely sweet
As that pure life that's ever laid
All humbly down at Jesus' feet?

All earthly crowns shall turn to mold,
All glittering pride and vanity;
But meekness decks the soul with gold
That shines through all eternity.

Within my hidden man, dear Lord,
That priceless ornament bestow,
The sweetest gift in all the world;
O Jesus, Keep me meek and low.

Let us pray:

Our father, bless the message to the good of every listener. Should any find themselves filled with the leaven of malice and wickedness, help them to

purge out the old lump and be filled with the grace and peace of God. Help us always to have the humility of heart where you will always be willing to live in us and thine shall be the praise and glory through our Lord and Saviour, Amen.

Thank you, friends, for a few moments of your time. I hope the thoughts may be a blessing to you. May they linger in your mind all day. If you would like to write us you may do so by addressing your letter in this way: The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla.

And now this song: "Camping In Caanan"
By the Carver Quartette.

Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey, saying May God richly bless and keep you and a very cheerful good-bye!

Testimonies

From Calif.: "Just a few lines to say I am still in the land of the living both in a natural and spiritual sense. Hope this finds all of you well and pressing on in the fear and name of the Lord. Enclosed find small check. My appreciation in part for blessings, through reading "Mission Trail"--It's always a welcome guest, also cherished as a bosom friend or a close relative."

--Sister Ethel K. Miles

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From South Carolina: "This testimony finds me still building on the rock of Jesus Christ, praise the Lord. I sure did enjoy your last message in the Mission Trail and likewise all of the testimonies from the saints of God. We always love to hear from one another because we love one another and have the same care for one another. It is so good to be in the family of God."

--Eddie Driggers

From Calif.: "I am so thankful for what the Lord does for me and that he lets me have a little part in sending out the gospel of good news of salvation to a lost and dying world of lost sinners."

--Sister Flossie Atha
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From Ga.: "Greeting to you all in the name of the good Master. We are all well here, thank the good Master. I am trying all I know how to please the good Master. I have made up my mind to live for God every minute in the day or night. I think that is all I can do."

--Bro. Friendly Green
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From Pa.: "Just a note asking for prayer. I am very ill for weeks, am somewhat improved, as my temperature is back to normal. I suppose it is the flue, so much of it here. . . Enjoy the Mission Trail. Greetings of christian love to all the saints. I am enclosing a love gift and a poem I composed:

"AROUND THE CORNER"

Around the corner I have a friend
In this great city that has no end.
Yet days go by and weeks rush on
And before I know it, a year has gone,
And I never see my old friends face
For life is a swift and terrible race,
He knows I like him just as well
As in the days when I rang his bell
And he rang mine.
We were younger then,
And now we are busy tired men,
Tired with playing a foolish game.
Tired with trying to make a name.
Tomorrow I say, I will call on him,
Just to show that I am thinking of him,
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes,
And the distance between us grows & grows,
Around the corner yet miles away,
Here's a telegram sir, --"Jim died today"
And that is what we get and deserve
in the end,
Around the corner, a vanished friend."

--Sister Sarah M. Aldinger

From Ark.: "Today finds me still saved and encouraged to go all the way. The dear Lord is so good to us. I love him more and more each day--like the song: If I didn't have Jesus what would I do. Sinner people have trials and hard things to go through but they don't take them to Jesus. . . I have asked God to look right down in my heart and if there was one little thing that was wrong to please let me see what it was. By his help I want to be measured up and want my heart to be pure. . . Bro. Kenneth Probst was with us and he sure did preach the word straight and plain. Every message was sent from God. . . remember us when you pray and my loved ones who are not saved."

--Sis. Della Anschultz
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From Oregon: "Please keep my paper coming as it is a great encouragement to us who live so far away from meetings. I'm thanking the Lord for protecting us from broken bones. Both my husband and I have fallen this winter on the slippery ground after it snowed and then partly melted. I fell and hurt the lower part of my back which hurt painfully to get up or down for two weeks. . . . now it is all well."

--Sister Lucille Trimble
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From Calif.: "I am happy this morning to be saved and on God's way to heaven, I used to say on my way, but it is God's way and I am glad, for none but the pure in heart are on his way. If it was my way I might feel sorry for some that was not just right and let them on my way, but thank God for his way and it just suits me. . . I am happy to labor for the Lord even in my illness. I get calls for prayer and I am happy when I can be a help to a soul. That is my desire. . . we are workers together for God. I am glad to be a willing worker."

--Sis. Melissa Greer

From Ohio: "Another year has come. The old is in history. God has been so good to us, and especially the past four weeks that I've been so bad with the flu. I believe I had pneumonia. . . but thank the Lord I'm gaining. This has truly put us on our faces before the Lord, made us to search our lives and sink deeper into the things of God than ever before. We have been earnestly praying for dear Sis. Maudie Sharp ever since she had that bad stroke along first of Dec., '71. We been praying God to restore her speech and thank God he has. When we went in to her room yesterday at her grandson Johnny and Della Neff's in New Carlisle, Ohio she began to talk to us, oh how we did rejoice. Now she desires all pray that God restore her to perfect natural and normal so she can again have her phone and use her typewriter again to write letters which was the joy of her life. God is blessing us here in a special way. I do so much appreciate the congregation here. They have made me so welcome and so at home. Pray for us that we keep little and low at Jesus feet. There's no time to idle away."

--William & Evelyn McCoy,
621 Tyron Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45404

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From Ky.: "Some one sent me the Mission Trail . . . I do enjoy the paper so much as I am in bed most of the time with back trouble and have been for 3 years. I know the Lord can heal me. Would you all have special prayer for me. . . I want to thank the one who sent me the little paper."

--Mrs. Clarence Price

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"I think of this scripture where it says to "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Prov. 3:5-6.

--Bro. John Watson

"It is wonderful how the Lord works things out for us. Truly He is good to us and I do praise Him for all His goodness and mercy to me."

--Sister Lena Bowman

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"I am glad to report victory over sin and thankful for the joys of salvation. I find it sweet to trust in Jesus and depend upon his word."

--Sis. Amy Hunter

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From Calif.: "Greetings this rainy evening. Yes, please continue sending the little paper. It's a joy to me and read from cover to cover the day it comes. Nice reading the testimonies from the saints I don't get to see. Being isolated from God's people is my cross to bear. I enjoy the sermons on tape from brother Busbee and beautiful hymns on records. Praise the Lord this evening for salvation and His love to us. Jesus says He will never leave us or forsake us. Heb. 13:5. And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Matt. 28:20. What wonderful promises to us that will never be broken. I enjoy the poems and the diary on your trip. Please tell us some more. Did you hear from the young native? . . . Please remember us in your prayers."

--Sis. Lucille Allen

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From Wisc.: "I am so glad that I have a heavenly Father to go to for help when I need help. I fell the other day but no broken bones, only a black eye and I am so thankful. I wish you all a Blessed New Year."

--Jennie Chapman

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From S. Car.: 'You all pray for us. Keep us on your prayer list as the nights and days are so long when you are up sitting alone. You need someone. So God is always there no matter how dark or cold it may be. Thank God I am never alone. He is with me. Husband suffers so much.'

--Sis. Nettie Harbeson

Children's Page

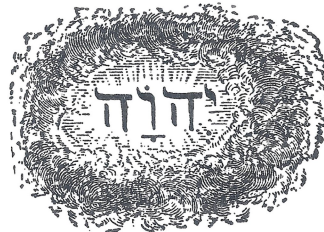
And there were in the same country



and, lo, an



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LUKE ii, 8, 9.

at press time

we understand:

Oklahoma weather as usual has been somewhat changeable this winter. We have had some lovely days and then wintry blasts with some snow. During a snow storm recently it was encouraging to see some 30 or 35 people at the Wednesday night prayer meeting. The Lord was there to bless and the testimonies were rich.

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St. Louis, Mo.: "My dear Christian friends, you asked me to keep in touch with you and let you know about Sister Adams. Our dear sister was buried yesterday, Tuesday, Feb. 1st. We have been close friends since in the early 1930's. She was a real true Christian with one thought in mind, making heaven her home, and she left that witness to her relatives and friends as in her last hours here she told them the angels had come for her to take her home."

--Mrs. J. Edw. Leach

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"We wish you each one a Happy, Joyous 1972. I pray that I will be a better Christian, a better parent, a better person, especially I desire this in the little every day living, things. Pray for us."

--Betty & Jimmy Howell

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From Colo.: "The Lord has been good to me. . . Bro. & Sis. Wollert aren't too well. She's having the flu, she thought. . . Well, keep praying for us all. We feel our need of His help. . . I still love the Guthrie saints. So glad you dear ones got to come help us. We do appreciate all you did for us."

--Sister Addie McEndree

". . . time is getting short. I hear heaven calling come home and be in peace with the Lord and saints for ever."

--W. D. Harmon

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From Kansas: "Time is swiftly passing by and we are made to declare unto God like David of old: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Psa. 80:12. To number our days is to take one at a time and make our present moments count for God. Our duties to perform in all that we say or do, eat or drink must glorify our maker. Eternity will reveal what we have done with our lives."

--Donald, Lois Sharp and children

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From Quito, Ecuador: "Dear and always remembered brother Willie C. Murphey, Receive a sincere greeting from your brother in the faith of God. I remember you much, when I had the good fortune of meeting you in Quito. My prayers are with all faith for you that God may guide your way. Bro. Willie, I received your courteous reply in which I acknowledge that God has received me for my glory. I give thanks to God and later to you for giving me your valuable attention through which I gave myself with all my heart to God, Amen. . . I also thank you for sending me my picture and such a beautiful message which is to me a light of life to my soul. For all this may God bless you abundantly in your life. . . I will say goodbye with "adios" my brother. Attentively yours,"

--Mentor A. Freire



THE MISSION TRAIL, originating in Guthrie, Okla., is broadcast by radio and published weekly in printed form by Willie and Frances Murphey with the help of others. It is mailed free of charge to those who request it. Its purpose is to reach the hungry hearts of the unsaved everywhere with the gospel which will save them. Its principal support comes from the free will contributions of its listeners and readers. Those who feel directed by the Lord to assist may do so by sending their offering to: THE MISSION TRAIL, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.



For some it will come true: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20. Let us hasten with the message which Jesus gave: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Broadcast Schedule

Listen for THE MISSION TRAIL weekly on one of the following stations:

RADIO STATION	LOCATION	DIAL SETTING	TIME
KGGF	Coffeyville, Kansas	690 kc.	Sunday, 8:00 a. m.
KCKW	Jena, Louisiana	1480 kc.	Sunday, 7:30 a. m.
WFPR	Hammond, Louisiana	1400 kc.	Sunday, 7:45 a. m.

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