



The Mission Trail

Box 99

Guthrie, Okla. 73044

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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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THE MISSION TRAIL

SEPTEMBER, 1975

"The Wedding Garment"

Radio Broadcast for August 24, 1975

Good morning, friends. What a pleasure and privilege it is to be coming your way once again. It is our sincere desire that each may be benefitted from the few moments we spend with the Word of God. We accept the Bible as our standard of rule and conduct. It is that which shall judge us in the last day, so we would do well to heed it diligently now. Notice the following scripture:

"And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come." Matt. 22:1-3.

Now, how many times have we heard these words! Perhaps there are many who could complete the story. Do you remember? You see everything was ready, but the guests would not come. In fact, "...they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:" Some even took the servants and treated them spitefully.

Jesus, no doubt, spoke this parable against the Pharisees of his day. They made a great profession, but inwardly, they rejected the truth and sought their own gratification. But Jesus didn't stop here. He went on to tell how the servants were sent out into the streets to gather together all they could find to come to the feast.

"So those servants went out into the

highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests." Understand, these folks were of all classes. There could have been those who were unlearned, and the poor as well as the rich and well-to-do. As surprising as it may seem, there were both bad and good ones. Some had a good moral standard and others were right off the street in their rags with their evil habits. No restrictions were placed on them up to this point! But, we come to the part which I am especially concerned about. All of these guests were required to change their garments and be dressed in the wedding garment furnished by the host. They were to leave their rags as well as their wealthy garments and be dressed in the beautiful wedding garment. In this way they all looked alike and were on the same level.

I don't know if this one man was rich or poor, who failed to put on the wedding garment. This wedding garment would represent the robe of salvation. The marriage represents the union of humanity with divinity. Here we see the gospel invitation given to all man-

kind after it was rejected by the Jews. But on the part of those who reject the invitation, this parable brings to view a deeper insult and a more dreadful punishment. Now, just think of being invited to a feast with the king. I have never had this opportunity in a natural way, although I do remember when I was invited to dine with a well-to-do rancher and citizen while visiting in the country of Ecuador. I was impressed with the big house, the lovely chandeliers and the servants he employed. Much preparation was made for my coming and it was a real honor to eat at his table.

Another time Frances and I were invited to dine with this very generous citizen of Frankfield, Jamaica. Great care had been taken to see that our meal was one of pleasure and satisfaction. The word had leaked out and had been passed along privately that Frances didn't eat onions. I want you to know there were specially prepared dishes for her without onions.

The dinner was simply lovely and we have not forgotten the hospitality of Mr. Dunkley. Upon other occasions we have eaten at the table of friends and relatives where the best of food was served. Now, these things were done for our enjoyment by those who cared for us.

But in a spiritual sense, this call to the feast is a king's invitation. It proceeds from one who is vested with power to command. Yet how often this call of God is unappreciated. The king's authority is despised.

This is so true today. This parable shows there is a preparation to be made by those who attend. Those who neglect this preparation will be cast out. "And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a

wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Remember, this was a mixed company. Some of them had no more real regard for the giver of the feast than had the ones who rejected the call. The class first bidden could not afford, they thought, to sacrifice any worldly advantage for the sake of attending the king's feast. And of those who accepted the invitation, there were some who thought only of benefitting themselves. They came to share the provisions of the feast, but had no desire to honor the king. But for every guest there had been provided a wedding garment. This garment was a gift from the king. By wearing it the guests showed their respect for the giver of the feast. But one man was clothed in his common citizen-dress. He had failed to make the preparation required by the king. The garment provided for him at great cost he disdained to wear. Thus he insulted his lord. The guests of the gospel feast are those who profess to serve God, but I am sure that not all who profess to serve God have their names written in the Lamb's book of life.

The wedding garment represents the pure, spotless character which Christ's true followers possess. To the church it is given "that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white," "not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing." The fine linen, say the Scriptures, "is the righteousness of the saints." It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character, that through faith is imparted to all who

receive Him as their personal Saviour.

The white robe of innocence was worn by our first parents when they were placed in the garden of Eden. They lived in perfect conformity to the will of God. I like to think that a beautiful soft, light, the light of God, enshrouded the holy pair. This robe of light was symbol of their spiritual garments of heavenly innocence. Had they remained true to God, it would ever have continued to enshroud them. But when sin entered, they severed their connection with God, and the light that had encircled them departed. Naked and ashamed, they tried to supply the place of the heavenly garments by sewing together fig-leaves for a covering. This is what the transgressors of God's law have done ever since the day of Adam and Eve's disobedience. They have symbolically sewed together fig-leaves to cover the nakedness caused by transgression. They have worn the garments of their own devising, by works of their own they have tried to cover their sins, and make themselves acceptable with God. But this they can never do. Nothing can man devise to supply the place of this lost robe of innocence. No fig-leaf garment, no worldly citizen-dress, can be worn by those who sit down with Christ and the angels in that last great day in the kingdom of God. This robe of righteousness, woven in the loom of heaven, is not made of human devising. We are told that 'all our righteousness are as filthy rags.' Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin. But the Son of God "was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin."

When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts

are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of his righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us, He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness.

It is not enough to believe that Jesus is the Saviour of the world, and that the religion of the Bible is no cunningly devised fable. We may believe that the name of Jesus is the only name under heaven whereby man can be saved, and yet we may not through faith make Him our personal Saviour through repentance unto salvation. It is not enough to believe the theory of truth. It is not enough to make a profession of faith in Christ. I am convinced there are many with their names on church-rolls who have never been born again. How tragic! The truth is to be planted in the heart.

Listen:

THERE'S A WAY

There's a way that no fowl knoweth
And no vulture's eye hath seen,
Over it no lion goeth,
Neither passeth aught unclean.

There's a way where weary mortals
Find release from sin and strife.
'Tis a way that's everlasting,
Blessed way and truth and life.

'Tis a way that's straight and narrow,
Where we walk by simple faith,
Even through the midst of trouble
And the shadowy vale of death.

'Tis a way beside still waters,
Where are found the paths of peace,
Where we rest amid green pastures,
And our sighs and sorrows cease.

There's a way, and walk ye in it
Meekly, humbly with thy God;
They shall run and not be weary,
That are hid with Christ in God.

Let us pray. Our Father, we are so glad for the "robe of righteousness" you have for each of thy children. This we desire more than anything else in the world. For when that great judgment day comes it is only the righteousness of the son of God which will take us through. Now, we ask a special blessing on each listener. May the desire of every heart be, to glorify thee, and I know that you will be pleased to grant it in Jesus name. Amen.

Testimonies

From Kansas: "We received our Mission Trail today and enjoyed reading the letters and testimonies of different saints. I especially thank the Lord for how he encouraged Bro. Smalling while suffering from the dog bite and how he healed him too. It is wonderful to be able to serve such a great and almighty God. He has certainly been good to me and so merciful and patient and I praise his name. I am endeavoring to keep heaven in view and I am determined by the grace of God to make it my home."

--Sis. Shirley Knight

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From Pa.: "I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior! When we think of how He came to earth a babe in the manger, then died on Calvary that we may be saved, it makes our hearts rejoice to know He cared enough for our souls to die and it is our decision. He never pushes salvation on anyone. I do love Him and want to do more for Him as the days go by. Mother had a little card with the verse on it "Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." That is so true."

--Sis. Eva Cox

From Okla.: "I'm glad to be numbered today among the "redeemed". My soul rejoices tonight to be set free and delivered from sin and its penalties. Our Saviour made many amends to restore man back to God. Souls are rejecting His great redemption plan and it is up to us, the church, to pray and carry the burden. I love God's church, the only one of her mother. She's above all! I'm reminded just now of how before I was saved I went to 6 or 7 different so-called churches, nothing satisfied. Then I really began to pray and seek the Lord. He gave me a vision of how we are born into her, leaving all others, world and sin and cleave only to her. Just as a couple that are taking the wedding vows are often asked something as these words, Do you take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife, to love, to hold, to cherish, forsaking all others, cleaving only to her? The church is the bride of Christ. I love her, plan to hold to her, and cherish her as supreme! I've forsaken all others and am cleaving only to her... I enjoy the Mission Trail very much, am sending a small offering to help spread the true gospel message to the lost. Do pray for me..."

--Sis. Malinda Penner

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From La.: "I can hardly write, but hope these few lines finds every one well and happy. I'm still listening and it's a joy to my heart. I wish every one would listen, take heed, just realize what it means to us. A greater love than God's has never been known to me and thank God for you who can tell us. Well, I am about the same as usual, better some times than others. I walk part time on walker, all I can without it... Well, I'm going. May God bless and keep us until we meet again. I ask your prayers always and my family, "

--Sis. Lillie Evans

From Guthrie: "The song says: 'Count your blessings, name them one by one.' But the wonderful Lord Jesus -- my blessings are many many more than I can count. Among them is the Mission Trail service by radio each Sun. morning, and also the written Mission Trail that is delivered to me by mail. I appreciate so much the work you spend for the salvation and encouragement of dear souls. I pray that many will be won to Christ and be blessed and encouraged thru your faithful efforts."

--Sis. Vera Forbes

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From Va.: "Greetings once again in the name of our most precious Lord and Saviour. 'His strength is made perfect in weakness.'...I have a deep love in my heart for the Lord. I want to always keep a perfect love toward him. I desire to please him and to find favor in his sight...No matter how much of this world's goods I possess I'd still be nothing but a lost soul bound for eternity, lost and without God. In the hour of death we must lay all our earthly gain down and face the Lord. Without him we are so hopeless and lost. We are all just passing through this world on our way home. Yes, I am looking for and am working toward that goal, to go home! To lay this ole robe down, to rest from this journey and to find favor with God at the end of the way."

--Sis. Nancy Wagoner

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From Okla.: "I am here again with a little offering. I enjoy the Mission Trail very much. Both of Kate Dotson's daughters and husbands were here to visit us the 10th, Ruth and Bill Parson, Zelma and Orba Youngblood. We enjoyed them very much. Of course we had a cry about Kate, but as I told them, she is much better off than we are... Yours as a friend in Jesus, "

--Maude Girdner

From Mo.: "Greeting in Jesus dear name, the one who rules the universe from where all our blessings come. Hope you folks are all well enjoying God's blessings. The Lord is good and merciful to me. I have been sick and am still sick, need prayer. Lyman, my son is about the same. We are having a lovely rain. The Lord does bless us in many ways. I am sending an offering for your work there. Wish I was able to send more. Pray for us."

--Sister Berniece Rumfelt

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From W. Va.: "I am glad I can report victory in my soul over all the works of the enemy. I am still pressing on the upward way. The way seems brighter as I near the end of the race. Pray that I will endure faithfully to the end. I know the saints are praying for me. The Lord surely strengthens my body and permits me to do things that I couldn't have done without Him. May the Lord bless you and supply every need for soul and body. Christian love and prayers, "

--Sis. Olive Keene

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From Mo.: "We are having some cool weather these past 2 or 3 days, and it is one of God's many blessings to us and I still love to serve him and this is one of my joys, sending my gift to you to help in some small way the work you are doing. I have been out to my son's and when I came home last night here was my Mission Trail paper. I sat down and read it and the saints testimonials always are a blessing to me, as I see some have the same health problems and other burdens as I have. Our God says he will be a very present help in time of trouble and he will never leave us or forsake us and that lifts up my spirit. I want to serve him always in the beauty of holiness. That's my heart's desire to be ready when he calls me home. "

--Sis. J. Edw. Leach

From Minn.: "This finds me well and happy in the Lord who has done so much for me and all of God's people. I still stand on the word of God who is so near and dear to me. I would love to attend the camp meetings but my age prevents me from traveling so far. I get around good here, but do not care to travel. The Lord has been good to me, supplies my needs, and good health, so I pray and thank Him daily for the love He has shown me and cared for me all my life. He is a great help in time of need."

--Bro. Andrew Senti

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From Ark.: "Our Bible lessons have been so good. "The Bible is a storehouse of whose contents no one can afford to be ignorant." I enjoy it more each time. Human knowledge must be understood to be loved, but divine or spiritual knowledge must be loved to be understood."

--Sis. Lou Bray

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From Calif.: "...so glad for 4 days I spent at camp meeting, heard some good sermons. Continue praying for me. I'm having time with fight of faith... My faith is in God and He'll see us through. Live or die I'm the Lord's, peace, perfect peace. I'll not be afraid when I trust the Lord..."

--Sis. Opal Williams

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From S. Car.: "Today finds me fighting the good fight of faith in Christ Jesus... We were glad to be in Monark Camp again... We enjoy every word that is preached in its pureness. Oh how my soul delights itself in fatness in the word of God and with my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus... Well, the few saints here seem to be much encouraged... We have a few sick folks. Bro. Sweat, Bro. O'Neal and Sis. Scott are poorly in body. Pray for them that their faith in Christ fail not..."

--Sis. Edna Crummie

From New Mex.: "Hope you are doing well in God's service, also well in body. I am still praising God for all his goodness and mercy in every thing. We are doing pretty good, truly thank the Lord and prayers of every one. Thanks so much for the Mission Trail. It is encouraging..."

--Sister Ruth Doolittle

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From Texas: "Greeting in Jesus dear name. He is so wonderful to us, died on the cross that we might live. Oh, that precious love that flows in our hearts from one to another. These few lines leave me saved and sanctified doing all I can to help poor troubled souls to see the truth, the strait and narrow way. I still enjoy the Mission Trail, it doesn't come often enough... I usually read it all before I lay it down, and have been thinking for several days I should send an offering, but just haven't got down and sent it and it surely can't do any good as long as I keep it and just thing about it. So may the Lord bless and keep you all in the center of his will."

--Sis. Nellie Lovell

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From Ga.: "I so often think on this-- we are here for a short time. This world is not our continual home. We are just passing through so let's keep the faith... I am striving to enter in the strait gate. Pray much for us as we are praying for you all and the work there. The work here is lively, the Lord being with us. Love and prayers,"

--Sis. P. R. Bowers

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From Calif.: "Greetings in the name of Him who is "all and in all" to us. What would we do if there was "no God" as some say? We love Him with all our hearts and He cares for us "so tenderly." Thank God, wife is much, much better. God heard the prayers of His little ones and came to the rescue."

--Bro. and Sis. H. P. Huskey

at press time

we understand:

ALL-DAY SERVICES AT DAYTON

On the second Sunday of September (14), October (12), and November (9), 1975, all-day services will be held, Lord willing, at the Church of God chapel, 622 Tyron Ave., Dayton, Ohio. A hearty welcome is extended to everyone to come and meet with the people of God. All within driving distance are urged to attend. --Bro. Wm. McCoy, 619 Tyron, Dayton, Ohio 45404. Ph. 513-236-5903.

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From Okla.: "I do enjoy paper, but I am old and slow, but thank dear Lord, he is so good to me. I fell and hurt my back but thank the Lord it is better. On the 18th I will be 94 years old, live alone and have been for 56 years, so thankful I have a place to read Bible. I do love the Lord and all saints. Do pray for me."

--Grandma Matthesen

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What a pleasant surprise we had when Bro. and Sis. Ralph Wilkins from Kalamazoo, Michigan dropped in for a brief visit while passing through this part of the country. It is good to see the saints. Even tho the visit was short it was an inspiration. Come again!

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From Calif.: "I have a very special unspoken request I would like all the saints to pray about. It is very important to me that the saints be holding me up in prayer for the next 3 weeks. I cannot explain now but God knows all about it. But when victory comes I can explain everything. So please remember me. The saints prayers mean so much to me."

--Sis. Candice Rich

Many souls who have had opportunity to search for and find the Lord this summer in the camp meetings have chosen to go without Him. Others have taken advantage of God's call and are happily serving Him. How sad for those for whom--"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20.

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The saints of Garfield, Arkansas are rejoicing because the Lord has sent Bro. Jim McMillian and Sis. Marilyn with their two children to live in Pea Ridge and be in the congregation. The Lord is greatly using Bro. Jim in ministering the Word to them. Frances and I were happy to be in a service there August 24.

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We extend our love and prayers to Sis. Emma Dilley whose brother died with heart attack August 7.

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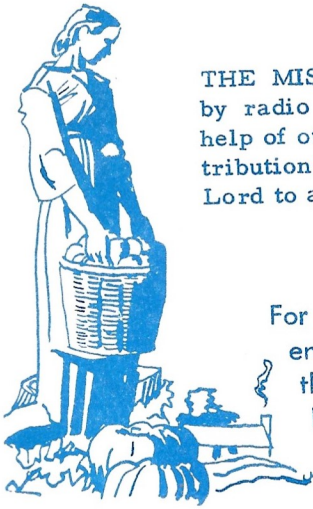
It is with deep sorrow we report the death of Sharon Ellis on Monday, Aug. 25th. She and Kedron, with their two young sons lived in Salem, Oregon.

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Our sympathy is extended to Ernest Perkins and all the children upon the death of his wife and their mother, Sis. Perkins. The funeral was conducted by Bro. Richard Madden in Church of God chapel, Sapulpa, Okla. Aug. 23.

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Thanks to all who have stood by us through the summer. With the coming of autumn and cooler weather, radio reception should improve. Pray the broadcast may be a blessing to many.



THE MISSION TRAIL, originating in Guthrie, Okla., is broadcast by radio and published in printed form by Willie Murphey with the help of others. Its principal support comes from the free will contributions of its listeners and readers. Those who are led by the Lord to assist may do so by sending their offering to:

THE MISSION TRAIL, Guthrie, Oklahoma 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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