

A Sermon Never Forgotten

Throughout the years I have heard many wonderful sermons which I have forgotten, but one sermon have I seen, and it has remained in my heart until this day. It happened on a Sunday morning when I was on my way to one of the two small congregations in Munich, Germany, on a cold, rainy day in November.

After I got out of bed, I looked through the window which was covered with ice ferns. New deep snow had fallen during the night covering the streets of the city. I tried to decide whether I should go to worship or stay home and read my Bible.

I realized the congregation would miss me, for I was the only song leader they had. On the other hand I would have to walk a half block to catch the bus to the building. Finally I decided to go but only because I must lead the singing.

While I was riding the bus, I noticed two people trying hard to make their path through the snow. I recognized the people and knew where they were going. They were Brother and Sister Trollman, a faithful couple who attended every service. Brother Trollman was a man in his eighties who had lost his eyesight. His only guidance was his seventy-eight year old wife, who was lame in one foot. They lived in a little two room apartment, and received a little support from the government. Because they could not afford to ride the bus to the services, which were about three miles away, they walked the distance every Lord's Day.

Here I was sitting in a warm bus, unwilling to go to worship, forced by my duty as a song leader, and there, outside in the cold weather, were two old people driven to worship by their love for the Lord.

I was not able to do anything but blush, ashamed of myself and the weak faith and love I had proved to my Lord. I felt like an evildoer in court being judged by his own conscience. This old couple without their knowledge and without one word had taught me a greater lesson than could ever be said in words. (An American G.I. "The Power Of An Example," The Lehman Avenue Weekly Communicator, Feb. 4, 1987)

Numerically Speaking

Paul Rogers of Centerville, Tennessee, has done some calculating of just how far the Apostle Paul walked in his efforts to spread the gospel. According to Acts, he took three missionary journeys. The second of these alone amounted to three thousand miles, two thousand of which would have been on foot. The average daily distance a traveler of that time would cover was twenty miles, with a Roman inn being located every twenty to twenty-five miles along the roads. These inns were unbelievably filthy, immoral and bug infested. Paul traveled through snowy mountain passes and spring floods. He walked through areas famous for harboring robbers and criminals. He braved wild beasts that imperiled every traveler. The travel recorded in Acts 16 would have covered 740 miles. That of chapter 15 would have been 500 miles. And to think he wasn't walking for his own health, but for the spiritual well-being of others. (Editor's note... questions to provoke all of us: How many contemporary Christians find it burdensome to travel 20 minutes in heated and air-conditioned cars to come to Sunday evening and Wednesday night services? What would the Apostle Paul say to them? -- prb)

Use It or Lose It

“Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him” (Mark 4:24-25).

The expression, “Use it or lose it” is often heard in regard to physical exercise. Muscles must be used in order to insure their greater use in the future. To fail to use one's muscles will lead to the loss of strength one presently has. The same is true concerning spiritual things. Regarding hearing and understanding God's word, the Lord warns, more or less, “Use it or lose it.” Matthew's account says, “For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him” (Matt. 13:12).

On An Old Grave Stone

“Pause stranger, when you pass me by,
As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, so you will be;
So prepare for death and follow me.”

A tourist put this at the bottom of the inscription:

“To follow you I am not content
Until I know which way you went.”

Still at Work at 86

In reply to congratulations on his 86th birthday, Sir William Mulock stated: “I am still at work, with my hand to the plow, and my face to the future. The shadows of evening lengthen about me, but morning is in my heart. I have had varied fields of labor and full contact with men and things, and have warmed both of my hands before the fire of life. The best of life is always farther on. Its real lure is hidden from our eyes somewhere beyond the hills of time.” “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day” (2Cor. 4:16).

A Moments Wisdom

Too many measure success by what others haven't done.
A pint of example is worth more than a barrel full of advice.
Love does not dominate; it cultivates.
Falsehood is never so successful as when she baits her hook with truth.
Genuine Christians do not want to go to heaven alone.
If you don't enjoy what you have now, how can you be happier with more?
Keep the faith, but not to yourself.
People cannot change the truth, but the truth can change people.

Because of his inordinate desire to do all of the talking, many a man has missed hearing a lot of needful information.

It is right to love the sinner, no matter how vile; but it is never right to tolerate his sins.

Toleration of evil is false kindness.

Preach, not because you have to say something, but because you have something to say.

When a Christian is in the wrong place, his right place is empty.

A Christian should never let adversity get him down, except on his knees.

If you aren't sure whether a thing is right or wrong, it is usually wrong.

Jesus is not looking for believers; He is looking for disciples.

No one ever drowned in sweat.

You have failed many times? How fortunate! By now you know some of the things not to do.

The man who loses his head is usually the last to miss it.

Some people know all of their rights, but none of their obligations.

A forgiving spirit opens the way to better things.

Joy is spiritual prosperity.

God's resources are always equal to His requirements.

If you have half a mind to turn on the television, that's all you need for most of the programs.

Nothing sets a person so much out of the Devil's reach as humility.

Adam and Eve had the most perfect marriage in history: Eve never talked about her old boyfriends, and Adam never bragged about his mother's cooking.