

"Jesus Is Passing By" 3/15/59

Scripture Lesson: - St. Luke 18: 31-43. Bailey
D.M.

Text: - St. Luke 18:37. "And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by".

Introduction: - The highways leading to Jerusalem were always crowded with people. People of all kinds were on the road. The weary travellers, the beggars, the lame, the halt, and the blind were on every side. As Jesus went on his way Jerusalem, a blind beggar, named Bartimaeus, was by the side of the highway.

He cried out, "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me." Jesus stood still and commanded that he be brought near him. This was done and Jesus asked him, "What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee?" Immediately, the blind man replied, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Jesus replied, "Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee".

This was done on the highway; this was done in the sight of all kinds of men, and women, too. Jesus was passing by, and that was the reason that he was approached by the blind man.

I.

Jesus of Nazareth is passing by today. He is the only one of whom we may have all the good things of life. He is still the central figure of history. He is still the inspiration for right living. He is the strength of all real character building. He is our hope for time and eternity. He passeth by. He is passing by today. A man, is not an intelligent man if he does not consult him. We know what kind of a man he was by the words he spoke. "No man ever spoke, like this man". We know what kind of a man he was, by what he did. A certain man pictures him passing through the country and ahead of him are all kinds of people, people suggesting, people lame, people out of their right mind, people bed ridden, people with all kinds of diseases, and behind him are people leaping and praising God.

There was a certain railroad engineer, who had run

his passenger train for the last time. His wife was glad he could be home. She had made plans to travel some and just play around home. The children and grandchildren would be home often to see them. But one thing troubled her. Her husband was not a Christian. But he was a loving husband and father. One evening, after the evening meal had been enjoyed, she suggested up beside him, and said, George, it would be an awful thing if we were separated, after journeying through life together. For us to be separated for eternity. Oh, life is too precious, your life is too precious. Then she drew his head closer and said, "George, it is an awful thing not to know Jesus"
is our hope of salvation
Yes, he is our hope for time and eternity.

II.

Secondly, he could only feel that he wanted the Savior. The pleasures of the world do not satisfy him. Sin has mocked him. Trouble has all but crushed him. He has an ache in his heart. Everyone who is away from Jesus of Nazareth, who does not have him abiding in his heart now, if he were to tell the truth, would be obliged to say, "I wish I knew Jesus. He feels that Jesus can take away the ache in his heart and give him instead joy, peace and satisfaction.

III.

Thirdly. The only thing a blind man could see was darkness. If he took a step, it was into darkness. He could not see, he could only feel, when he stepped into darkness. The poet Whittier has said, "The steps of faith fall on a seeming void, but find the rock beneath".

That is the experience of everyone who has become a Christian. You may not understand, you may not be able to explain the Scriptures, but you can step out by faith, and know you are saved.

IV.

If you are letting His pass by, you are to be

pitied. There are three things you can do with Jesus, the Christ.

1. You can be indifferent to Him. Indifferent to the Christ who was your mother's Savior. Indifferent to Him, the Friend of your father, of your friends.

2. You can reject him. what would it mean to reject Him: Tell the story of the rich young ruler.

3. You can accept Him. To accept him means everything. It is the very best you can do. To accept him is the taking on yourself all the hopes, all of the joys, all of the expectation of the next world. It means praying, It means paying, it means plodding, it means persevering.

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