

"A CHOSEN FEW"

Nehemiah 2:12

Old Testament story which is full of advice for Christian Workers.

Account of a mighty revolution in a single city. The concern began in (one) great soul for ruins and despair of the city.

(Text) is description of every great work in history. Mighty movements begin with (individual) souls rather than multitudes.

(If) a crowd had followed him as he went to view the desolation of Jerusalem, he would have been disheartened. They would have found fault.

But he went with a (few) and this is an illustration as to (how) the work was carried forward.

(What) has been done in the past may be accomplished in the future - there is a call to service as the world has never known. A selfish Gospel is not the Gospel for the present age.

To be saved one's self and satisfied with that is unworthy the name of Christ.

(Reconstruction) of the city highly (suggestive):

(First) - began with the concern of (one man).

No place for indifference or selfishness in the church, out of such concern as filled Nehemiah - great movements have been born.

Revival of (1800) began with one man upon his knees.

(Penn.) ^{one} aged man concerned for his state. He was known as the "Praying Elder".

Name was Peter Jackson. Had a little hut in his woods and back and forth to this hut he trudged daily and sometimes spent the night there upon his knees pouring out his soul in an agony of prayer. As a result a wave of revival started and continues until this day. Everywhere there is the need of service.

Chicago 1908 - a baby died. Home was in poverty. Poor father could not bury, no money to give decent burial. So distracted took the body in his arms and intended to cast it into the furnace but was stopped by someone - said that would be a sin. Explaining his frantic position ("no one seems to answer the cry of a broken heart.")

There are so many wrongs to be righted - so many hearts are breaking - so many homes desolate. Sad: many of us doubtless are indifferent to this call.

Second, this work started with a few. We need not to wait for the multitudes to start with us if we expect to accomplish much for God.

The call is clear and loud for workers.

Is it nothing to you as a Christian that on every side there is an open door of opportunity for the uplift of humanity - bearing other's burdens - dressing others wounds - healing breaking hearts.

New York - great fire wrapped in flames a great building. No escape, imprisoned people came to the windows and called for help to be given them. Some unnerved threw themselves out from the windows.

Heroes developed at that time - Lt. Bonner, son of a former Fire Chief, ascended

the almost red hot fire escape (five) times. Four times he came down with a woman or child in his arms. Fifth time making it to the street with an unconscious woman when his strength gave out.

One of the ascents he dragged a little girl from a window surrounded by flames, she pleaded with him to let her escape and go in after her little brother, whom she had carried to the window. He had fallen unconscious and was roasting, she said. Bonner jumped through the window and seemed to those below he was going into a furnace. He found the little boy and carried him out. It is inconceivable that a paid employee of the city show such concern at a time when the call was great.

How can we as a church sit with folded hands in church when cries are coming to us with equal force.

Third, it was a journey in the night - V. 12. This is the time of the church - clouds of darkness on the horizon. Serious problems to settle. Questions of social purity, mad rush for wealth, intemperance. In our city, there are those who suffer fettered by invisible chains, cruel persecution in speech and deed, secret wrongs, injustices, poverty, disease. Each of these call for help from whom we cannot turn away as followers of Jesus Christ.

Fourth, note the enthusiasm of the leader - V. 17. "Come, let us rebuild."

Few men with him - "Yes, let us rebuild." "And all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof, for the people had a mind to work."

Battle of (Look-Out Mountain) - when Federal Troops cleared the heights. General Grant sent to General Wood and asked "Did you order the charge?" He said, "No". Grant put the same question to Hooker, and then Sheridan. Both said "No".

Fact - the men were filled with such enthusiasm that nothing could have stopped them. They leaped into the battle defying danger and death.

When the victory was won they were filled with glad wonder at it.

When the church is filled with glad enthusiasm for conquest of the world it will go forward.

Success of this great work had two secrets. One, the people had a mind to work - when this is true naught can stand against the moving Army.

Two, each built over against his own house and this is ideal. Useless for us to talk about helping others when those who live with us need the help which is denied them.

1880 - Lough Fook - (Chinese Christian) - compassion for Chinese coolies in South American mines, sold himself into slavery for a term of five years. Carry Gospel to countrymen. He preached and could say with Paul of Onesimus "whom I have begotten in my bonds."

Before his death he won to the Saviour nearly 200 Disciples, whom he left behind in membership with a Christian Church.

Jesus took upon him the form of a slave. Our service must be under the direction

of the same Spirit.

I. SERVICE NEEDED

We are our brother's keeper.

God will one day call us to (account) for needs of world.

Need this service for ourselves - impossible to (be as we ought) to be if we are doing little for Christ.

✓ Tursi Palace - a precious violin of Paganini is sealed. Kocian, the Bohemian violinist visiting Genoa asked to be allowed to play the instrument. Mayor granted his request and invited musicians, others. He played of Bach's - several other numbers. Violin was replaced in the glass box where it had rested for over (65 years).

Pity magnificent violin, which thrilled at touch Master's hand, should live in glass case.

Many children of God are like that, music might come from their lives - will not share their talents.

II. THE KIND OF SERVICE

Tested service we must render.

Some of most important machinery at the exposition in St. Louis was an apparatus for testing the strength, speed, and qualities of railway locomotives.

Resting on solid concrete rest a set of wheels of standard locomotive.

Reached by ordinary tracks and switches. The locomotive moves out under its own steam on false rails until the wheels are over the test wheels. The rails are removed and the steam is turned on and the locomotive begins to revolve upon the supporting wheels. Record of speed, resistance, strength appeared on a roll of paper.

The engineer sits in the cab - fireman shovelling coal into the furnace - columns of black smoke rise - steam hisses and whistles - men with greasy jumpers watch the valves. Oil cups, indicators, measure of time - distance - load - fuel consumption.

After the test the great engine will pull freight. It has been tested.

✓ Travelers in Japan came upon an old artist. \$100 for one of his carvings. Before he surrendered it, he examined it, and discovered a tiny imperfection, which he pointed out.

That will make no difference said the traveler. No one but you will ever know and the price is alright. Artist said "not a matter of price". "No imperfect work ever goes from me at any price. I cannot sell you this."

Traveler, offered a higher price, still the artist could not give his name to imperfect work.

Workers - we cannot turn out half-hearted shabby work which bears the Master's name.

As we think of the kind of service - tested and true. Finally inspired by love.

I think God must have a rebuke for the modern pulpit. These are days when men let money talk. People are led to believe that their money is the most inspiring thing about their preaching. Money talks so loud today that you barely hear the Gospel of love.

Years ago a wreck on Baltimore and Ohio Railroad - engineer was scalded to death. While dying - he called a passing brakeman and said, "Get the red lamp and go back and flag No. 49."

It was love for his fellow sufferers in the wreck and for those of No. 49 who might be wrecked.

Same wreck, dining car conductor both legs broken, dragged himself along by the side of the track and tore off a portion of his coat and plugged up the escape valve of the wrecked engine to prevent others from being scalded.

A new crusade is needed in these days - led by consecrated workers in the church. There is a call to service such as we have never known before.

Christ has mapped out the way - what answer will we give, he says our mission is as wide as the world.

Well done, good and faithful servant - enter into the joy of Thy Lord.

Gary Holder - M. Evang. 151 St. Dallas - Many Teachers Confine Their Ministry to Sun A. M.

"Many are great personalities but I love to beg, coax & twist arms to get workers to visit"

He Summary - you can't make someone care - That Concern is strictly between God & That Person!