

3. Worldly shade - causes others to turn aside and takes their minds off of plowing. Gen. 49:4

Here's a person plowing along and spots some pleasure over to one side, so he leaves the plow and goes after pleasure for a season.

While he relaxes in worldly shade, his plow is idle. Many times men and women miss the upward way because they are "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God."

1 Sam. 8:3

For temporal matters, men turn aside---Tomorrow I will serve God and do his work, to be settled a little later.

(Judas) - his talks with the Priest. 30 pieces of money he left the plow - hanging on a hill side.

Look back and then turn aside - abandoned the plow.

(Demas) - 2 Tim. 4:10

Not Prepared or fit for the Kingdom

Here is a person - yes, I will follow- For a warm season - but they have not been saved.

✓ If you turn away from Christ - look what you give up. You give up the Bible - at the grave you do not have the Shepherds Psalm. "The Lord is My Shepherd" Nor the 11th of John - "Let not your heart be troubled"

✓ The Testimony of Christians - who tell what Jesus means to them.

Have No Answer - To the Problem of Sin - God back and you are left broken and baffled in sin. You have no Savior if you reject Christ.

Rev. 2:4-5

The Problem of Sorrow - Every where you hear the undertones of sorrow-

Intro: There is a story of a man who saw a deserted plow in a field. The place was a little farm in the Mt. The plow stood abandoned in the middle of a furrow. A year later, the man passed that way, and there stood the plow in the same spot, but a little worse for the weather and listed to one side. In another year the man passed again. The plow was still there, only this time it had fallen over and was rusty. What had happened to the plowman? The man never found out. We don't know; but that abandoned plow speaks to us. Why do people quit? Prov. 27:8 "as a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place!"

You have undertaken many things, begun and finished. Yet, you made New Year resolutions. Can you say that you have honestly kept them?

Look at the number of children who start taking lessons on the piano---How many here started out---Now interesting to know---How many became pianists!

Unfinished---a house unfinished somebody quit, the work was (too hard) the (money was short)---yet it doesn't look right. Unfinished without paint---

How many (jobs around the house are left unfinished?) Yes, yes wife, I'm going to nail that screen on next Sat.--- Sat. comes, oph's - weather is just right for fishing---and even until this hour, the mosquitoes are still getting in that window because the job is unfinished.

Think of those who have (completed the task---not quitters)---in the Bible---

Class in 83.4 Shih - Ray - King -
What a noble list of martyrs and heroes of the Faith in Hebrews-11---
(we had this on that - soon God off -)

They climbed the steep ascent of heaven, through peril toil and pain---They put their hands to the plow and they did not look back, but kept on. They did not allow even persecution to weaken their grip. They did not abandon the plow. Matt. 12:25.

(But what about those who cool off and quit?) What about those who start and fade away? There are some people who join the church, and a year or so goes by and for no apparent

reason, just drop out. They made a good start with the plow, but they quit and the plow stands abandoned!

Why do folks cool off Spiritually? Why do we have quitters?

Is it because they have to stand criticism and can not take it?

Is it that they become tired of well doing?

Is it, they want to look back on what they have left?

In John 6:66-68, Some turned back and why is it that people turn back--- Do they lack Grace, lack true Faith? Does it not reveal what is in their hearts?

1. Some object to His teaching -- Some are interested and say, "This is a hard saying, who can hear it?" The Gospel is very humbling to poor human nature. Pride revolts at the Gospel of Christ. Yet the Gospel is not designed to please man, but rather to save him.

"If you would have me for your Savior, I must come first, before Father, Mother, or dearest loved ones, or property. I must come First" That is not easy. That is self crucifixion. Rel. can not be made easy.

Young Rich Ruler - came to Jesus - to put his hands to the plow--- The terms of discipleship seemed too much, turned---A sad separation.

Not willing plow through and be subject to the teaching of Jesus.

2. A few stumps in the way -- This causes many to look back.

Look at one or two.

A. Fear of men - "The fear of man bringeth a snare". Pilate betrayed Jesus because of the fear of men. He saw this rough stump in the way---

This fear plays havoc---social and political world. Sometimes (supreme interest) are set aside because of the fear of men.

One man waits for another to act and then acts accordingly.

(Charles Finney) Chief Justice of the highest court of N.Y. State---came to hear--not custom to go to church. "No man liveth to himself" -- Now, I ask appealing to your judgment and your conscience, For your own sake, the sake of somebody else, make your public surrender to Christ" And down the aisle came the chief justice. "If you will allow me, I should like even now to turn and speak a word---If I have any influence over anybody, I beg him to do as I have done, to yield life, and all, utterly and now to Christ" Many lawyers came, saying, because of you, we will surrender.

Push the fear of all men aside and come to Jesus.

B. Doubt - The plow may be headed for the big stump of doubt. What if the Bible is not trustworthy? What if there be no life after death?

(Nathanael) "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth? -- Come and see" and he saw.

(John Baptist) "Art thou He that should come, or do we look for another?" -It was revealed to him.

The man who stays in doubt is usually in sin. The Bible says, "If any man willeth to do the will of God, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God".

Dr. Truitt tells of young man came - Sir, (I do not believe a word you said tonight). He had left home--- -----If these things I have preached are true would you like to know the truth of it all? - "If any man willeth----" Now lets pray----I would not know how to begin----I have not tried in years. - ---- Tell him like you would tell a man somethings you should hasten to tell him. Words, begin to come, confessing his sins---his Father was a preacher- -I remember Lord the last sermon I heard my Father preach - on the Publican "God, be merciful to me a sinner". That is my prayer---Be merciful to me, a sinner. I give up to Thee." I have found the Light.

(Don't be a quitter), plow this stump up---plow straight ahead II. Chro. 15:1-2 "spirit of God was upon Azariah as he went to send into Aza. "The Lord is with you, while ye be with Him, & if ye send him, he will be found of you - But if you forsake him, he will forsake you."

The Problem of Death - with out light and hope, you come to death - the grave, etc.

Remember Jesus said, Because I live all who trust me shall live forever"

(Lots Wife) Luke 17:32

The need for stickers - The Christian life demands an all out endeavor, there is no room for those who look back.

1 Tim. 6:12-14 -

Joshua 1:7

What about our missionaries? - Suppose they had quit? A real plowman must be wholehearted, undistracted by lower cares. Paul was not a quitter.

Lottie Moon - put her hands to the plow.

Morrison at Mc Lovel, China put his hands to the plow and for 7 years preached without a convert. Dr. Williams said in a town Mc Lovel where he was buried they had a service and 300 were converted! One service! "My word shall not return into me void."

Wm. Garry Did not look back

How can she do it? I find, how ones asked, watched Miss Mother till 2 girls good by 4 hand ship 8,000 miles - Africa. Girls that in America - How could Mother do it? Yes. Paused - Not she loved them less, loved Mother more. Turned round she loved them - she could write back "When you put your back to the plow for the Lord, there is no looking back. You must trust when the chance & trust to his wisdom." (A son's life - 76.1) -

Jesus explained that these (three men were not worthy) a plowman who does not give attention to his work goes crooked. A straight furrow should be the ambition of us all.

Looking back - the call is urgent to turn - but with an undivided mind, let us look unto the author and finisher of our faith.

Look - as the Brazen Serpent.