

The policeman wanted to know where they had been for the last ten minutes. They told him, how they left because they didn't want to get involved and spend time in court. The policeman literally blistered them with a tongue lashing. You live in a country that boasts of justice and then because it will be a little trouble to you, you run away and keep quiet.

You remember the four lepers who went into the Syrian camp that was deserted and began to eat their fill..Later they decided to tell the city of starving people the good news.

Equal guilt must be shared by the Christian Church in the Midpart of this century because we do not tell our story of good news. Rather we hold our peace. For nearly 2,000 yrs. we have known the good news of salvation, yet enjoying it ourselves, we have failed to propagate it. But inability to transmit news is not our problem. When Pres. Kennedy died, the news of his death was known around the world in less than 30 min.

The fact that Christians are committing the sin of silence is apparent everywhere. When it takes the efforts of some 30 Christians to win one person each yr.

If the experience with Jesus Christ is not of sufficient importance to recommend it to someone else, then the whole structure of the kingdom is in question.

In 1904 one man kept preaching an infamous sermon, a sermon that produced 17 converts. By 1917 these 17 had become 40,000. By 1933 their fold had swollen to into the millions, insomuch that in 1955 there were nine hundred million, Plus Communist.

Why do we take our wonderful Christianity so lightly?

There is no law that prevents anyone from committing this sin of silence. You can watch a mans house burn down and stand there with your arms folded and never turn in the alarm. You can know of a person who lives close yto you and know that their life is going to wreck and ruin and do like Pilate, just wash your hands of the matter and have notheing to do with it. You can be in a crowd where someone ridicules Christianity or says vicious things about one of your closest friends and just keep silent.

The Sin of Lethargy: Jesus spoke of this sin many times. The rich man in the story with Lazarus, was not punished because he had had Lazarus whipped or chased away from his

Matt 25:42-46

"GOD KEEPS THE SCORE"

A football player who was named "All American" wrote an article that was copied across the country. The player was a dedicated christian. He was loved by all his teammates for his clean living and his sense of fair play. The theme of his article was that the score on the score board was not the most important thing. He was concerned not just with the applause of the grandstand but with the applause of God.

He had changed one word in the song that he loved- and instead of singing "The eyes of Texas are upon you" He sang "THE EYES OF GOD ARE UPON YOU"

What a contrast there is between his ideology and that of the pharisees who lived in Jesus' time. Jesus accused them of saying long prayers in public places and of wearing phylacteries to be seen of men. To the common people of the day they were the most respected persons on earth.

Therefore it must have been a terrible shock to the disciples of Jesus when he said to them, "EXCEPT YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS SHALL EXCEED THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, YE SHALL IN NO WISE ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" Jesus also called these people hypocrites. He accused them of keeping the outside of the platter clean but of never washing the inside of the cup. Maybe there are no pharisees in our church but I fear there are those who are not pleasing God.

There are so many things that we may do or leave undone that will not effect our standing in the community or make us lose respect of our fellow men but will not please God. This should be the primary importance in our thinking that God keeps the score of all our activities.

THE SIN OF SILENCE:

Ill of man in Miami Fla. He and a friend witnessed as auto accident, but drove off not wanting to get involved he said lets get out of here, we'll be summoned to court and it will take up a whole day of our time. Latered they stoppe and looked at each other. One said to the other are you thinking what I'm thinking? Yes lets go back., that fellow who got hit will need our testimony. Sure enough when they got back the man couldn't talk whose car had been struck. The other man had just about convinced the policeman it was his fault- pushed their way through the crowd and told they saw the accident.

gate. No he just left him there and didn't bother him nor did anything to help him.

In the story of the Good Samaritan the Levite and Priest lost no prestige as they passed by on the other side. In the line of duty, as far as they were concerned, this was no obligation of theirs.

Just a short while ago in N.Y. a small crowd stood and just watched as a man dragged and stabbed a woman down the stairs of their building. They did not lift a finger to help. They said they did not want to get involved in the matter. They could just stand there and watch the man kill the woman as far as they were concerned.

Oh how we need to be freed of this sin of silence and lethargy we need to be awoken to the desperate needs of this world. It is so shameful that Jesus is so neglected.

*this week day being marked by dear one
man best on day until he let that day go. Men in
three parked cars watched but none helped.*

When Jesus came to Golgotha they hanged Him on a tree,
They drove great nails through hands and feet, and made
a Calvary;

They crowned Him with a crown of thorns, red were His
wounds and deep.

For those were crude and cruel days, and human flesh was cheap

When Jesus came to Va. Beach, they simply passed Him by,
They never hurt a hair of Him, they only let Him die;

For men had grown more tender, and they would not give Him
pain,

They only just passed down the street, and left Him in the
rain.

Still Jesus cried, "Forgive them, for they know not what they
do,

And still it rained the winter rain that chilled Him through
and through;

The crowds went home and left the streets without a soul to
see,

And Jesus crouched against a wall and cried for Calvary."

Remember, God keeps the Score.

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