

In the War Cry often there is a page in which fathers, mothers write the names of lost children--disclose desolation of their heart. These children are lost indeed.

(Not only lost to Parents but lost to God.) War against goodness. We seldom think of the lost to God. Their feet should be found in the fathers house--their hands filled with Father's works--their hearts respond to Father's calls.

(Jesus felt pain of the Father's heart), for his tortured son. Jesus told about the lost prodigal son--lost sheep--lost coin.

Any parent who has felt the anguish of their lost child in sin, they then know something of God's sorrow for lost children.

IV. HOW ALL LOST CHILDREN MAY BE FOUND!

By thinking of (one more lost child) He in a true sense is lost to God. Look upon the cradle--incarnation--took our flesh--life of sorrow--bore our sins.

By this very act (Jesus emptied himself) Heaven was emptied. God loved his son. Son left glory. Why did God's son leave? God suffered his lost that yours might be remedied. It was your lost child God's exiled son came to find--came to seek and to save. This is the Gospel in the redemption of it.

(This is salvation for lost child:) To come from

Introduction: A LOST CHILD IS A MOVING SIGHT--Sympathising crowd will gather--questions will be ask--describe the child cloths.

To lose a child is always sorrow--not our story--Father comes with a child, lost to all that is wise and good.

Consider now some ways our children may be lost to us.

I. LOST THROUGH DEATH

"There is no flock, however watched and tended,
But some dead lamb is there;
There is no fireside, howso'er defended,
But has its vacant chair."

(You remember as thought it were yesterday)--even the hour you lost your child. The dying bed--It came so suddenly, and it seemed so needless. It emptied your hands and heart.

Other children were spared. Yet God healed your sorrow--you.

(Mr. J. M. Barrie tells of his mother.) One chapter in his book is titled "How My Mother Got Her Soft Face"--describes the news of an accident and her eldest son was gone. She submitted herself, in her strong faith, to the will of God. That is how my mother got her soft face and is why other mothers ran to her when they had lost a child. Brother Bryant this a.m.--son died week ago--Ready--Better land.

You enter (a larger room of knowledge) when you lose a child through death. Heaven seems a little closer.

II. LOST WHEN THEY LEAVE HOME

They (get older) and are plunged into the stream of life to begin to live their own lives.

For a long time they were (dependent on us.)

They (thought along) the same line as you.

They leave home and now (they seek new ideals) unfamiliar ways of pleasure, form new habits, look upon the parent through new eyes.

They are then lost to (our presence) our fellowship.

(Mary and Joseph) after passover--to Nazareth--child Jesus lost--though in crowd with kinfolks--He had slipped out of their group and grasp--"Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business." Mary knew it would never be the same. He had crossed the threshold of a new world.

Our children (go out to serve Christ) the heavenly Father business--sense of loneliness, but also comforted by the knowledge that they have entered the service of God.

III. LOST IN SIN

The boy in our story--lost to evil possession.

(Sad thought) our children lost in sin.

Book, "Call of the Wild"--story of dog, pressed into unaccustomed toil of a sledge--drawer--had been born in

civilization--trained, obedient, as sled party crossed the frozen north--hardship--labour--sternness of treatment, harsh words and the dog changed his like for human ways and his trust of man. One night heard cry of a wolf in Forest. It awoke the dormant wolf in him. He stole away in to the depths of the woods to answer the call of savagery. He was lost to the sled party and toil. He lapsed into the wolf and became as wild and as blood eager as any of them.

So our children are lost to us in sin. We nurse them.
We lead their feet in ways of purity. We teach them to pray--we petition God for them day after day.

When they reach manhood, woman hood they hear the call of the wild. We know, for we have heard it. We have known the throbbing impulses of the flesh that kills. There is a struggle--sense of duty--power of habit.

New and appealing things come--the battle is won. Then lost. The wolf heart.

When is my wondering boy tonight--
The boy of my tenderest care,
The boy that was once my joy and light,
The child of my love and prayer?

(Look in the alleys) and streets late at night and see the poor creatures--women who have lost almost all sense of shame--think of these poor works of humanity. Tramps--use strange names--crimes--left the ranks of the honest.

1. "From Darkness to light"-for some this great experience
They remember the day when all the folly, and wilfulness, and
shame of an evil life stood out in the light of God.

2. "From the power of Satan to God" They remember the
power of an evil habit, and wicked desire, and tyrant passion
was relaxed and they know themselves to be under the mercy
and grace of a personal God.

3. "From death unto life" They remember how they were
dead--dead to goodness, and to the call of things pure, and to
God's presence and his grace. They recall the day of the
New Birth, they entered into a new kingdom. They came forth
with new hopes, joys, desires.

4. "From Alevs and enemies to friends" Reconciled to
him. Expresses their thought too of their experience. From
inward rebellion against God's will, and ways, distaste to
everything holy, now they have made an everlasting covenant
to serve Him.

5. "From being lost and now found" As our children lost
what joy when found. These are beloved words of Jesus.

Woman at well was lost and found.

Matthew at his publicans stall was lost and found.

Zacchaeus --by the highway was lost.

Penitent thief--on cross was lost.

So. Nov. April 13, 58 A.M. ✓✓
So. Nov. Aug 5, 56 P.M.

Paul on road was lost.

What ever your expense, however God appealed to you, or quickened you--you were lost in sin and found of God's son.

(We know what it is to be lost)—sense of loneliness—distance from God—absence of true home of soul. Failure to fulfill true purpose of life.

(Man never spoke truer words) "I am lost"

We look to pleasure and fail to find rest.

A child lost in city—no account could be given of home address—police station—kindly hearts sought to comfort him—toy, etc.—His tears would cease and again recur—sobs revealed his lostness—This was still the pain of his heart. Some time later—the voice of his father was heard, asking in eager tender tones for his lost child. The boy sprang to his feet, cast away the poor toys with which he had been comforting his sad heart and ran out to be clasped in his father's arms.

So very lost child is found, will throw away those poor and trivial, and unsatisfying joys with which he has tried to deceive himself.

He will fill his heart --I am found.

In one family a child ask his father if he could accept Christ & be Baptized in the Church.

He was told he was too young, that he might fall back if he made his profession when he was only a little child.

The child's touching reply was "Jesus had promised to carry the lambs in his arms. I am only a little boy; it will be easier for Jesus to carry me".

It is true Jesus loves the little children & will hear them, & will accept them & love & will carry them in his arms.