

When God has something he wants done, he looks for a man....

When he wanted a man to warn Nineveh he called Jonah---and he almost proved to be a straw man.

When God wanted to build a nation he called Abraham .. Gen. 12:1-3

When he needed one who would be honest in sacrifice and offering there was Abel

When he needed a consecrated man he found Enoch ..

When he needed a leader there was Moses

When he needed a man to overthrow the prophets of Baal there was Elijah.

When he needed a man to send the message to the Gentiles, there was Paul & Peter

When God needed some one to be the fore runner there was John The Baptist...

God needs men today--- no straw men----

When a mother told her small boy if he were not good he would not go to heaven, the lad replied he did not want to go to heaven. When the shocked mother ask why? he said "Cause there wont be anybody in heaven except, women and preachers." The work of the church is not to be left to just women and preachers..

The work of the church depends upon you men!

Of course if you are straw men, not much will be done. Christian men never faced a greater opportunity.

The church cries for men today

Give us men with eyes to see,

Visions as they ought to be,

Men who champion the right,

Men with courage wrong to smite;

Men with boldness to begin,

and courage to fight on and win;

Men who will not stoop to wrong,

To please the vain applauding throng;

Men who would perish with the just,

Then violate their sacred trust;

Who martialled hosts of hell defy,

Holding Christ's banner waving high.

Intro. Scarecrows are often built of straw.
These men have the outward appearance....
They can't do anything...

I. THE HISTORY OF STRAW MEN

If you saw a straw man driving a car down the street toward you. You would realize how dangerous a man of straw can be. Powerless to steer the car.

Have you ever seen a man of straw put at the head of a steering committee charged with seeing that some important job be done well?

He occupies the place behind the wheel, but he is powerless to do anything, except wreck the whole project through his incompetence.

Have you known any straw Xtians? Perhaps they are purty good people, they would not be willing to harm a soul. In fact the cheif impression they make is that they are harmless. But they loose their influence because they are to complacent about Evil.

They seem to stand for nothing--- or perhaps anything.

One of the straw men of the Bible was Lot. He was shrewd, he prospered, and he was willing to keep moving his tent towards Sodom in order to keep prospering.

At length he went to live in the gates of Sodom and his daughters married men of the city. Then the time came when it was revealed to Lot that the city was ro be destroyed. Lot spoke to his son - laws. He wanted to influence them to leave the city. But they refused to take him seriously. Seemed as one that mocked. What did Lot know about the Lord?

If Sodom was such a wicked place, why had Lot been living there all this time?

His moral influence was a man of Straw....

Powerless for God and for moral influence even though he had nominally been ofn the side of the

church.

had refused to take his religion seriously

Straw men are dangerous- lets be men of God.

Straw men advocate a weak program for the church..

They are not for expansion, they do not like to be disturbed, they do not like to give & cooperate with the program of the church...

Straw men would set up a program..

Each member would bring a scuttle full of coal with him to the services during cold weather.

" " a supply of candles to the evening worship & prayer meeting, & the church could cut off its electricity which cost so much each year.

" " would in turn play the organ. We could then get out music free.

" " Would be responsible for his own hymn book, and replace the ones carried off from the church...

Every Member will take his choice of the pastoral duties some would prefer to preach, another lead prayer meeting, some would take over visiting the sick, making the calls to the hospital, perform weddings, take care of the administrative duties, and some one else would be glad to conduct the funerals, in so doing, save a lot of money, no need for a preacher.

Every member write some of the letters, others do the memographing, getting out the papers, Every Member bring his own thermos jug & the water could be turned off.

Every member take his turn at repairing the building and painting

Every member will come to clean the church bring his own broom, cut off the janitor.

Oh yes, another important point, every member must arrange his business so that he can give at least 6 months of his life on the mission field. Not be called on for money for mission causes.

Whatever the case the church does not need money, so straw men do not bring in their weekly offering envelope. if they miss a sun. from church no need bring one in for that week.....

I stopped in a Dr. office about a month ago, a business man was in the waiting room, he was talking to the lady at the desk about his church. He said I have recently joined the church & it is really costing me money to belong to the church. Why he said did you know it cost me 10 dollars a month?....

soon the Dr. called for him to come in, I walked over to the lady at the desk and ask her if what I had over heard was true, she said yes., and she added, on my small salary, I give 10 dollars every week to my church.....⁰⁰⁰

Think of it, a man making 5, 10, perhaps more a year grawling about the church costing him 10 dollars each month... I said yes, and this preacher gives more then 10 per week, where is that mans conscience?

Straw Men, give in accordance to their interest---

II. WHEN GOD HAS A TASK HE LOOKS FOR A MAN.

He was looking for one who was equal to Elijah in strength, courage,...

Like Elijah running ahead of the Kings charriot with shouts of the KING, the King....

He needed one to shout the coming of Jesus the King of Kings.

It was a wilderness situation and demanded a voice like a trumpet to blast to awaken deaf ears.

God was looking for a man who could meet the hour.
Matt. 3:3

We have the same situation today, mush religion, but little room for Christ.

An amusing story Princess Anne County,-- Mr. Malbo looking for a man to work on the farm. Young fellow hired, told that when time to get up go to work would call. About 4 Mr. Malbon called the boys to get up...coming down to hot stove. this new man had suit case in his hand.. where are you going---somewhere to spend the night.....

III. WHAT KIND OF MEN DO WE NEED?

If our church is to advance then we need men like John....

1. A MAN OF PURPOSE

directness of purpose & devotion. John had a purpose, a plan, a design before him...

When the soldiers of Geribaldi, balked and said we fight no longer it is useless. He exclaimed "Let a thousands Geribaldies die, but let Italy go free." "What have you to offer us if we do go on?" "If you follow me. I have to offer you hard marches, hunger, cold, and bloody battles, I promise to leave some of you on the field dead, some I will send home cripples, But if you will follow me I will lead you one to victory, or die with you in the attempt." Fired with his purpose they shouted; "On with the Fight".

Sam Houston--- at ^A Sn Jacinto burned the bridges they had crossed with the slogan.. "Texas shall be free! Victory or death!"

What the magnetic pole is to the compass, a great purpose is to Christian Men...
It will make you service effective.

2. A MAN OF ZEAL

Some men have zeal everywhere except about their church work...

A man can shout until he is hoarse at a foot ball game-----

Talk himself balck and blue in the face for a political candidate for office....

...work his ears off on a hobby of his...

When it comes to religion he is like an

So. Tex - March 28, 1954 (Am.)

ice scilicet ---

In case you find a man who has some religion
some body is ready to call him a fanatic...

What of the zeal of the eary xtians?....
Turned the world up side down... Acts.. 17:6

They said Paul was beside himself.....

Look ing at the eary xtians and you see men a
fire with zeal for their Christ....

We will not gain the interest of others unless
we show interest ourselves. If we are feeble in
our interest about our church we will have
difficulty attracting the lost to Chrsit .. When
the church pews are empty

It is not strange that a xtian should be zealous,
the strange things is that there whould be a
lack of it.

With multitudes lost, I must work while it is
day....

John 9:4

Paul said "I am set for the defnese of the Gospel"

Christian zeal has formed xtian hospitals, orphangg
distributed Bible----
Put the Kingdom first...

3. AMMAN OF VISION

John could see great things in the future.

Where there is no vision the people perish. Prov
29:18

Our word opportunity comes from two latin words
which mean " over against the gateway"....
there must be vision to see the gateway..before
there will be aneffort to enter and pass through it

When visions cease, progress stops.
Material progress sweeps forward on the wings
of visions.. Fulton-steamboat; Watt-railroad;;
Morse-telegraph; Bell- telephone;

Kingdom of God waits on men of vision...>
On vision that will look beyond...

In Latin American countries they have a word,
manaana". I have always understood it meant
"Tomorrow", but I' m told now that's not the
proper meaning, Letourneau says , it means
"Not today".
Here again is the eaisest for the present and
not looking into the future....

4. A MAN OF GOD

Sent from God ----

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