

50-100- Dec 7, 80 P.M. -
(9)

"OLIVET'S ESSENTIALS"

Luke 24:49-53

The Ascension must always remain a mystery, for it attempts to put into words what is beyond words and beyond description.

It was an ending. One stage was past and another had begun. There was certainty that they had (a friend) not only on earth, but in Heaven. To die is not to go out into the dark but is to go out unto Him. Luke ends his Gospel where it began -- in the house of God.

Have you ever watched a huge searchlight? Brings things into focus.

Prayer will do that for you -- have you ever prayed "Lord Jesus, show me what there is in my life that is displeasing to Thee, that Thou wouldst change." His searchlight is whiter, intenser.

You will begin to see things as they actually are. That sight may lead to discouragement, many a hidden thing, which you are glad enough to have hidden, will be plainly seen.

How is it possible for me to live the life the Master has planned for me, with such sinfulness, selfishness, and weakness -- how is it possible?

One answer -- we must have more power! Super natural power, something outside of us, above us, to come in and win the victory.

Here is a young man whose inner life is passion swept by fierce temptation. He is like a ship without a rudder. He must have power.

Here is a young woman, attractive, as she moves in society she is face to face with questionable matters. She must have power.

Here is a business man pressed by sharp competition in the world -- he must resist the sly temptations. Will they not take power.

To keep the body under control, the mouth clean morally, the eye turned from unclean things, the ear closed to corrupt things, that takes power.

To let that glass of strong drink go untouched, to leave the drugs untouched, takes power.

To speak plainly about particular sins before the faces of those who are living, that takes power.

To keep sweet the home, where if anywhere things can get in a mess. How many chairs are kicked and doors are slammed to vent some anger. After all the home comes close to being the real test. It takes power.

I have something to tell you now that is very wonderful. Jesus has thought of all that. He has thought of your life and made arrangements to fully cover all your need of power.

He stands this very hour in our midst and says - "You - you shall have power."

Do you remember the wonderful Olivet scene? In the twilight of a Sabbath evening a group of 12 men stand yonder on the brow among the olives. There is a yellow glow over the tree tops. Jesus is the leader of this group. Young men are listening to His words. He is going away. They know that.

But in his absence, the work he has begun is to be entrusted to their hands.

With ears they listen for the good-bye word. His last message.

"Go ye" was the first familiar word.

"But tarry ye" was the second word.

What, wait still longer! They had not heard the decisive words - "Until ye be endued with power."

Peter might have said, what, tarry when the whole world is dying? Do we not know enough now?

Look at these men Jesus is talking too.

Peter, the man of rock; John and James, the sons of thunder; Andrew - reputation for bringing others to Jesus; Nathanael in whom is no guile.

These men needed that command. This power is something leaders must have.

They had no prominent part to play, but accepted the Master's promise of power. They were filled with power.

Paul's list of marks in a Christian's life in Gal. 5:22 - love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, faithfulness, self-control.

The opposites of this list, bitterness, envy, hate, low spiritedness, sulkiness, chafing, fretting, worrying, short-suffering, short-temper, hot-temper, unsteadiness, unreliability, lack of control of yourself.

May I ask, have you any personal acquaintance with some of these qualities?

Is there still some need in your life for the other desirable traits?

Remember it is only in the Holy Spirit controlled life that good fruit is found.

The molding of precious lives in the home cannot be done without this power.

The Holy Spirit gives power. Jesus died on the cross to make freedom from sin possible. The Spirit brings that power to your hands.

That tells you why some Christians are a failure -- He must keep in his vision Calvary and Olivet!

Calvary sin conquered through the blood of Jesus. Olivet sin conquered through the power of Jesus. This is a matter - experience.

Hebrew men had to appear before God three times.

- 1. Passover - Sacrifice is made - Christ.
- 2. Pentecost - Feast of first fruits - Spirit.
- 3. Tabernacles - Feast of home harvest at end.

Don't miss Olivet's message -- tarry ye, power is yours.

I want to give you a summary of five essentials to a strong Christian life.

I. LOVE FOR THE OLD BOOK OF GOD

Not reading it as a duty, taking a chapter a day because you feel duty.

But reading it because you love too.

As the writer of Psalm 119. Listen to Him. "I delight", "I will delight", "My delight" -- nine times he says that. "I love; oh! How I love, I do love, I love exceedingly" - again nine times. "My soul ^{thirsteth} to get alone with the book. "Sweeter than honey", "As much as all riches", "Better than thousands of gold", "Above gold, yea, above fine gold". And all that packed one Psalm.

Do you love the book like that? Would you like to?

II. RIGHT HABITS OF PRAYER

"God is only a prayer away" Mar!

The second essential in this life of power is prayer. Making prayer a chief part of life and service.

You need to be having answers to prayer as a constant experience.

Your feet may be busy, your hands active, your mind full of matter of business, but your heart must be in total communication with Him.

Has prayer become a daily way of life for you? Would you have it so?

Practical suggestions

1. Form a habit of prayer - five min A.M. ^{discipline} The time - home office etc -
2. Read before you pray - Bible or devotional book, home life -
3. Let great prayers help you to pray - Prayer books, Prayers in Bible,
4. Pray Aloud sometimes as an aid to concentration - don't let mind wander.
5. Pray with others sometimes as aid to fellowship in prayer - "If 2 agree"
6. Fix the results of your praying by writing down what comes to you - some are impat.

III. UNSELFISH LIVING IS THE THRID ESSENTIAL

Life is like a web. You are weaving -- acts, habits, words, thoughts, motives, purposes, hour after hour, what is your life weaving out?

Develop Vibrant Faith -

Is it attractive because of the power of his presence?

Would you like the secret of his presence in your life.

IV. A PASSION FOR WINNING OTHERS IS FOURTH ESSENTIAL

I could use a weaker word. But passion is a burning steady flame.

Not driving or dragging.

Do you know the peculiar delight there is in winning a person to Christ?

No? You have missed half of your life.

Would you like such a pssion?

This essential depends upon the last one we mention --

V. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE THE UNHINDERED, CONTROLLING PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE HEART.

This gives absolute monopoly of all your powers. Have you received this promise of power?

Are you conscious of the fullness of His love and power?

Does your heart say, no?

It is to you that I bring the Master's Olivet message -- "Tarry Ye".

God has done his part and he waits upon you.

Tarry until you are willing to put out of your life what displeases Him, no matter what that may mean to you.

Tarry until your eyesight is corrected, until your will is surrendered.

Tarry until the words of Olivet "Go and Tarry" become a part of your life.

I close with the story of a little village in France after the war. A detachment of soldiers had been left as occupational troops to keep order in the town.

Time was heavy upon their hands. One day they decided to help the villagers restore their bombed homes and city.

They started on the church. It was a big job, for the church had received a direct hit. They worked joyously and cheerfully, cleaning up debris, putting back the windows, and rebuilding the pews.

Amid the debris they found a marble statue of Christ. It was badly broken, but they managed to cement it together and set it up in its niche in the wall.

But they searched and could not find the hands for the statue of Christ. So when they had finished arranging the statue in its place, a moment of inspiration came to one of them. He made a placard and hung it on the statue, these simple words were printed on it, "He has no hands but yours."

God needs your hands, he needs them now, are you ready to "Tarry" and let him fill them with power. V. 50 - His hands blessed them -- His hands are extended to you!