

BH

For you have not passed this way

MYSTERIES BEYOND THE CURTAIN

JOSHUA 3:1-6

T:1:4

Jan 20, 52 - 2:00 PM

The question "Why" falls from the lips of the prattling infant and continues in the human mind on down to old age.

Why do we have:

Snakes

Mosquitoes

Ants

Storms

Why do useless weeds grow without cultivation?

The future is laden with great possibilities, sorrows, and what may transpire is hidden from our view. We naturally go out each day into experiences, maybe, that the past has not solved. Joshua gave expression to this fact when he said, "Yehave not passed this way heretofore." No wonder that the question "Why" is our constant companion.

In those days crossing the Jordan was quite an experience. And for us it may mean any thing that we face or that we are passing through where there is the element of uncertainty.

On their journey the Ark of the Covenant was to go before them. Just as they had the Ark of the Covenant in their journey even so are we to have Jesus leading us. If He is in the lead then we should not fear to enter paths not experienced before.

I WILL NOT SEEK TO KNOW THE FUTURE YEARS
NOR CLOUD TO DAY WITH DARK TOMORROW'S FEARS
I WILL ASK A LIGHT FROM HEAVEN TO SHOW
HOW STEP BY STEP MY PILGRIMAGE SHOULD GO.

There are many notable roads in our lives...among them the road to market, the road to church, the road to college, and the road to your home...but the most important is the road to CHRIST the great highway to heaven.

We have

PATHMAKERS

The part of the road that lies ahead of us has been traveled

by others. What they have felt and experienced may not be our experiences. The ship coming in cannot predict with certainty the voage of the one just going out.

A man says, " I have always kept a little whiskey on the shelves in my home and I have come through without becoming a drunkard. So my boy can do the same"... He does not know. How do roads begin? One set of tracks, then more and still more until a road is made...all of us eventually make a road and others see it and travel down its lanes.

Our road may run through many sorrows and shadows before it reaches the sunrise that will gladden our hearts.....
But wait it may be in a direction that does not lead to the sunrise...you can know if you are in the right direction by listening for the Spirit says, "This is the way travel ye in it." We will find many things we do not look for and many we look for we will not find. We do know that the condition we are in, as we leave the present, the future will find us in that condition

I KNOW NOT WHAT SHALL BEFALL ME
GOD HANGS A MIST OVER MY EYES
AND ON EACH STEP OF MY ONWARD PATH
HE MAKES NEW SCENES TO RISE
AND EVERY JOY HE SENDS ME COMES
AS A SWEET AND GLAD SURPRISE.

I SEE NOT A STEP BEFORE ME AS I TREAD ON ANOTHER DAY
BUT THE PAST IS STILL IN GOD'S KEEPING
THE FUTURE HIS MERCY SHALL CLEAR
AND WHAT LOOKS DARK IN THE DISTANCE
MAY BRIGHTEN AS I DRAW NEAR.

THE BACKWARD LOOK

"Ye shall no more return that way." We may change the direction of life, change its tendencies, find pardon BUT WE CAN NEVER RETRACE STEPS TAKEN.

WE are thankful for the treasure chests of our yesterday.

The flower of yesterday gives the fruit of tomorrow
The dewy silk and tender shoots of the corn stalk of
yesterday gives the full ear tomorrow.
Saintly personalities of yesterday spring us for future victories.

Looking back on our yesterdays we thank God for many of the acts of discipline we experienced. It may be that the limb that your parents used saved you from the penitentiary.

The backward look is not enough..we must look forward and remember that, if faithful to our Christ, we have SURE guide. This part of the journey before us is not known to us but is known to God... so be thankful. So far as I am concerned I do not want to know the time of my departure.

So I go on not knowing, I would not if I might
I had rather walk in the dark with God
..... Than to walk alone in the light
I had rather walk with Him by faith
Than walk alone by sight.

Whether looking backward or forward we should look away from things too immediate to wider and broader horizons. We ever stand in need of those prearations that make us fit subjects to enter those wider fields of Christian experience. JOSHUA SAID, SANCTIFY YOURSELVES FOR TO.. MORROW THE LORD WILL DO WONDROUS THINGS AMONG YOU. Consecrate and look for great experiences.

Longfellow said in one of his stories, " Look not mournfully into the past, it comes not back again, wisely improve the present it is thine, go forth to meet the shadowy future without a fear and with a manly heart

THE INWARD LOOK

We may look backward and forward but if we do not look within we have missed the mark. It is with in your very heart that things happen.

The challenge of the future is upon your personal experience, the reality of your Christian faith, and the greater vision that sees afar the greater glories that are to come.

We need to have a greater love in our herts and pour it out on a bruised and bleeding world.

While Whittier lay dying the attendants saw that he was trying to say something..bending down to catch his words they heard him whisper, "Give my love to the world."

Dear Father - No with us now in our
several paths and give us strength for
our duties this day for Jesus sake