

Jesus Leaves The Old Home Town

Mark 1: 9

"And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee."

It is the delight of my heart to talk to the future citizens of Ordianola and of other towns. The boys & girls here to night will be leaders wherever they may live when they have grown to manhood. But a few years will pass till you find your selves grown men.

I want to talk to you tonight about a young man who was once a boy just like you. A day came when this young man left his home town. Such a day may come to each one of you. "And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee"

In a way it is a terrible day when the boy comes to manhood and comes to that day when he says good-bye to parents and friends and goes out to begin his life's work. The oneness of his work is going to be destroyed largely by the kind of boy he has been at home. Jesus at the age of twelve ceased his discussion with the good men of the temple and went home with his father and mother and was subject unto them. He spent some 18 years more with them helping to make a livelihood for them and the same time serving the entire country side with the work of his hands.

The day came when He left. I can hear the townsfolk discussing his decision. I can see the little children gathering around Him to hear Him tell them another story. I see his mother's face wet with tears as she kisses him good-bye and Joseph is hurrying goes with him to the head of the road and bids him good-bye. And the old town is different that night because this splendid young man has gone. They miss him and his cherry smile and eyes.

Town miss you when you leave one day?

I knew a young man who left town and the people did not see how they could go on without him but he was called out to bless the world. But I knew another who for murder was sent to the Pen and after ten years was pardoned, came back into a neighboring community as a desperado - one night while trying to kill another man his head was blown from his shoulders. People breathed a sigh of relief that now he is really gone.

'And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee' A young man leaving home. No plodders down the dusty road greeting his acquaintances along the way - meeting every now and then some one to whom he had rendered a service while yet a carpenter. A young man leaving home to conquer the world. And why did He go? Not to gather wealth nor fame for Himself but for man's service. Some poet has sung:

"Faint voices lifted shrill with pain
And multitudes moaned as rain,
From all the lands and villages thereof
Men crying for the gift of love with outstretched hands.

Voices that called with ceaseless crying
The broken, the blind, and the dying ^{and those who}
and those groan beneath oppression
and He bowed upon their lips the single word "Come!"
So, erect in every youthful grace and radiant
with spirit forces all impounded
In a divine compassion - saw the slant
of those remembering hills - He came

THE CHRIST

What did Jesus come from? He came from a town of but negligible must have been some what dying on Him when asked "where Oregon from?" In those days you were judged by the town you were from. "Judas of Kerath, Saul of Tarsus, Jesus of Nazareth" But Jesus went right on doing good

Some people allow their environment to shape their lives. This could have happened to Jesus. Some allow those influences good or bad to shape their lives saying "I was born in unfavorable circumstances and I can not overcome it." Some times people are horrified by the policies of their church. I can remember in my boyhood days how prejudiced denominations were at each other. Now Jesus was of a bad town, of a home that favored Jewish race as inheritors of all the blessings of God and He attended the Jewish synagogue that did not extend its service beyond the Jewish people. But Jesus was not hindered by any of these narrow influences. He broke loose from every shackle and became the Saviour of all people.

Despite all the bad features of Nazareth Jesus so conducted Himself as out of its citizens that its name has become glorified and the city itself a world's shrine.

If we say that it does not lie within the possibility of every person of our enlightened civilization to ~~change~~ overcome his environment we leave out of account the will with which God has endowed us and His grace by which we are saved.

Now as you boys grow up to manhood and leave home for your life's work or as you begin your work here, what will the world think of your home life, your town life, and your church life, and your secret life?

