

GO PREACH AND TEACH

Matt. 28:16-20

I want you to go back with me to day in your imagination about ~~nineteen~~ <sup>twenty</sup> two Yrs. Then place yourself on a little hill just outside old Jerusalem. In this time and location it is not hard for you to sense the sentiment prevailing among the people.

They are saying that a few years ago a child was born in very humble birth and that He has come to manhood with such power as to astonish all the people. Every body is talking about Him. But to make it the more strange and exciting He was killed a few days ago and now He is alive again and walking over this country. JUST HERE HE WALKS UP AND STANDS BEFORE US.

Oh how our eyes are fixed on Him! Oh how wonderful to see Him! Friends, try to see Him here to day, for He is just as truly here as He was there on the mountain side.

The Apostles stood there in wonder at His living again but their wonder increased as they saw Him begin to prepare Himself for His journey home. That skyward journey that pierced the starry heavens. As they stood and breathlessly watched He began to lift those divine, and powerful hands in the attitude of blessing. Oh I can hear them saying, "He is about to speak listen!" And from His dear lips come a farewell message to those whom He loved.

What about farewell messages anyway? They are of all the most earnest and important. Did you stand by your father when he had a last word to speak? Were you near your mother when she said, "Lean down and let me whisper for the last time in your ears?" Then you know something of the sincerity of these last words.

Perhaps nothing was ever more on the heart of our dear Lord than this last message to His Apostles. What was the message? Listen, "Go ye into ALL the world and preach the gospel to every creature, teaching them all things which I have commanded you and lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world..."

God loved all the world and Christ died for

all of it. The black people need Him and He included them. The brown people need Him and He included them. The white people have to have Him so He included you and me. Yes all of the race need Him and all are included so that we can sing with Oatman and Sewell,

" Gladly I read, ' Who-so-ever' may come to the fountain of life to day; but when I read it I always say, ' Jesus included me too.' "

Yes to the widows He came, to the orphans He came, to the fevered brow He came. Oh how I thank Him that He did come. *what would we need but a day of His*

New obedience to this Great Commission is the prerogative for life in the church. The church that disregards this message of Christ is dead already ~~dead~~. Its light has flickered and its altars are dark. If its altars are dark it is no more a beacon to the people of the local community. As some one has said, " The light which shines farthest into the darkness is brightest at its source." *and shall*

You know we people, preachers and all, some times get a little bit scarred that we will pay too much to the church and yet Jesus has said that if we will go preach and teach, and it takes money to do this, He will be with us always even unto the end of the creation. *of the church*

Now there are at least three ways for us to carry out what Christ has told us to do:

1. Some can go into our mission fields and into the various places of work. People have been doing such for these years. At present, however, we are not able to send more to the mission fields. Our problem now is keeping on the fields these who are already there.
2. Many others who are not equipped to go as workers into the fields can bend their knees in prayers for those who stand at the far out posts and thereby encourage them.
3. Then all of us can labor and make money. This money when worked for is part of our flesh and blood. We can give that and thereby in a way send our selves.

In reality we have a great battle line of

soldiers in our foreign work. They are lined up in eleven countries. They call to our great line of Christian soldiers back at home two million strong to help hold the line for Christ. Oh, friends, what an army! We are in an army that never sounds retreat.

Now by paying forty cents a member at home we can keep the line. Of course we are going to do that. Our Leader is divine and He has said, "Go" and we will answer yes. When Gen. Foch's soldiers told him they could hold the line no longer he said, "If you can't hold the line any longer, then go forward." They went. I feel that we too with a much greater leader can at least say to our missionaries, "Hold the line." and say it with our dollars.

Christ is saying to us, "Go, teach, and preach. And I to whom all power in earth and in heaven has been given am with you." With such a promise with all heaven to back it up surely we could give our last dollar and not be uneasy about the tomorrows.

Thank God, as this maintenance program is being put on in this time of crisis in the mission work of the church glorious reports are already coming in from the fields. Some places paying twice what they have been asked for.

I read the other day about a widow who ~~from~~ found fifteen cents in her son's pocket. He had placed it there for car fare. This fifteen cents holds high place among the rich gifts that have come in to help hold the missionary program in tact. The widow sent it as a treasured keep sake and said, "He put it in his pocket that morning for car fare, but before he could need it, his feet were pressing the Golden streets. Use it for missions."

Out in the Hatchie hills during the war, a speaker was talking on war savings stamps. When he had finished an old lady came up to him and said, "My boy went over" and untling a handkerchief that held all the egg money she had saved during the season, she poured it all in to the speaker's hand and said, "I

want to give 'sorter' as I loved my boy."

To day as we make our gifts may we not make them 'sorter' as we love Jesus?

### *Supplement*

We make the church the poorest institution in town. It is always hard up. And yet I do not see any of us denying ourselves many of the luxuries of life.

We usually have all the cold drinks our stomachs will hold up to, about all the cigars our nerves will stand, all the furnishings for our homes that we can buy on a credit. Trips, clothes, and jewelry a plenty.

Look at your nice residences, your store houses, your school house, your bank buildings, your court house, and then look at another building that relates more closely to the Eternal Kingdom than any of these others and you will see how very poor we are toward Christ. A Jew attended a Christian service two or three times and a collection was taken each time. He was asked to come again and replied, "I hate to go round there for your Christ always seems broke."

Oh well if we only paid a tenth as a Southern church we would pay \$180,000,000. per year and we thought it a big thing to ask \$35,000,000. in the Centenary to cover a period of five years. 1/16 of 1% will not look after the Kingdom.

