

"WHAT MUST I DO?" + Believe
ARISE

This text sounds forth a personal note...it proclaims an individual element in the human being...it lays before us the fact of individual responsibility. The world will never be saved till individuals are saved....This will not happen till individual responsibility is recognized.

As we enjoy the honored privilege of being appointed to Columbus for the fifth year and as I began to look for a text this question kept crowding in on me..."What must I do?" *Scene*

You realize that we are enjoying a privilege that no other minister and family in the world enjoy... and that is to be appointed pastor of First Church Columbus for a fifth year.

In the language of the street "You asked for it and you got it." And so we can say over at the parsonage, "We also asked for it and here it is." Whether or not this church did wisely in making such a request remains to be seen...and whether or not we were wise in wanting to return will be revealed as the year goes rolling along. What must I do? Let us look at the question 1st from the standpoint of the preacher....

1. The preacher must be optimistic. This is a time to be serious. It is no time for shallow things. But we ministers must be optimistic. It must be an optimistic seriousness...I hope that you know what I mean...a star in the night sky...a rose with the thorn...a diamond in the rough...the healed body after the painful operation...you have seen the painting, "HOPE" (Describe). We must sound an optimistic note because so many people are worrying themselves sick...the war..taxes..rationing As some one said the other day.."Worrying about Mrs. Roosevelt going to England...for fear she will get back..."

2. What must I do? I must be a better Shepherd. Our Bishop in lecturing a young preacher who was entering the conference reminded him that there will be a greater need for good shepherds this year than ever before. Now from a ministers standpoint what does it mean to be a good shepherd?

a. It does not mean flattering our people. I will not allow any man to go further than I in commending people for the real good they do. But to be always bragging on people when nothing has been done disgusts the people themselves.

b. It does not mean back slapping. Some ministers have been led to think that they are good shepherds if they mechanically go in to every store each Monday morning and slap people on the back. One man said, "If that preacher ever comes around here again and slaps me that hard making me swallow my gum I am tempted to make him swallow his teeth.

(Some are known as bone breakers...squeezing your hand)

Maybe my policy has been all wrong but I have had a feeling that when a person goes to his place of business he has gone there to work. When I go in just to have it to say that I have made a call and thereby take up his time it hurts me and I guess hurts him too. I go when I have business or a new Methodist moves in and I can not find him at home.

c. To be a good shepherd does mean seeking the lost, visiting the Shut-ins, the sick, the hospitals, and the needy. *Keeping your home open for Conference - Purging dead Sermons*

d. It means the general oversight of the church in leading it in to useful relations in the community. If I so lead my church that it is unpopular in the town I have been a poor shepherd...but if I have popularized my church then I can feel that I have been an undershepherd of Jesus.

It means oversight of the student work. This means to lead them to lead a normal church life in which they will learn to worship, learn wholesome recreation, stewardship, and Missions. When they learn these things they just about have it all

Now the peoples side.....

1. You can attend church
2. You can enlist others to attend
3. You can help the pastor to be a better shepherd. Every member should be a committee of one to notify the pastor about sick and new people. I would advise any young preacher to take a course in mind reading. (My experience with Mrs. C)
4. You can support the church financially and do it systematically, and come to love it.

Now for all of us.....

1. We should study how we may help the church and and not so much what we want the church to do for us. One of my hardest jobs is to visit some one a time or so and then when I try to serve the whole church and am delayed in seeing him again for some time then when I see him he complains about my neg

lecting him. He talks as though I have been doing nothing else while absent from him. My disposition is such that going back to see that person is worse than taking a dose of quinine. We all like to work where it is congenial.. That type of person who is always trying to make you feel badly is self centered. I do not propose to feed selfcenteredness.

2/ Pastor and people can have an understanding. Most all the trouble of this world comes about by misunderstanding.

3. We can all talk the church up and not down. Hitler is talking and fighting the church down...and those that never have a good word to say for the church are promoting his philosophy.

Do you want to work for better understanding?

Dont you want to talk up Christ's church?

Don't you want your selfcenteredness to be taken out?

I want to be a better shepherd...Let's pledge together to be better in the biggest thing in the world...the CHURCH.



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