

The Sadness of going away
Matth 19:22.

There is a note of cheer and gladness in the expression, "He is coming home next week," "we are looking for him any time." "Mother, yonder he comes now."

But there has always been a note of sadness about such expressions as these, "He left some weeks ago." "He went away last month." "Mother yonder he goes." I was talking to a fine little woman one day and said "How is your husband?" and with a trembling voice out of a heart of pain she said "He went off some weeks ago and I do not know where he is now." The woman at the flower going to see daughter whom the husband had left.

This young man went away. He went away from Christ and in doing this he was leaving his best friend. He put his body between his face and the face of Jesus and set his mind on his wealth and he was sorrowful in the act. The saddest thing in our land to day is just this, that people are putting their bodies between their faces and the face of Jesus. And when this happens

There is something occupying a larger place in their mind, than Jesus does. and this means they are going away from their greatest friend.

He went away from the One who had the words of eternal life - the words he had come to seek. He went away sorrowful because he had met a great passer-by. And with this he vanishes from the Gospel history. The sacred writers tell us no more about him. But the poet, stern imagination of the Italian poet - his wonderful "Divine Comedy" follows him in to the other world and there among the myriads of those blown about like autumn leaves, blindly following the flutter of a guidy flag, rejected by heaven, despised by hell, hateful alike to God and God's enemies the poet sees the shade of him who through spiritual cowardice made the great refusal. The Gospel writers do not go that far with him, neither will we. But let us consider three things.

1. The character of the man
2. The great saying he heard
3. The cause he pursued

His was an interesting and tragic character. He comes like a meteor out of the darkness - to the Gospel story and passing quickly goes back out of sight.

Now Jesus was leaving the Jordan valley

(3)

for the last time. He was on his way
to Jerusalem, to Calvary, and to death.
The young man over came his timidity
and started to run after Him. Now
remember Jesus had been excom-
municated, spies were after Him,
and a price set on His head. To
do honor to Him would at once
create suspicion as to the one
bestowing the honor. Not with-
standing this ^{the} young ruler of the
Synagogue came and bowed him-
self in the dust before Jesus in
the presence of all the people.
You know it takes a good
deal of courage in the twentieth
century for a person to tear loose
from his associates in sin and
hit the narrow trail leading to
his goal at the altar. This young
man did it. This shows a good
trait in his character. As to how
this he had studied the Rel. of his
father, and had saved his money
and kept the commandments from
his youth up. He had lived a
good external moral life just like
men to day who will not accept
Jesus and join the Church and
help spread the Gospel. They think
if they pay their taxes and have
debts they have done all that is
necessary. They forget that keeping
the commandments will not save
the world. Jesus wants us to pay in

Our money, and "Come to the church
and carry out the "Great Com-
mission" and if we are not wil-
ling to do that we lack something.
Right here is where many people
turn back. They are not willing
to go the whole way but want to
stop just where they would have
to begin giving time and money
to the kingdom.

What this young man had done
did not satisfy his religious long-
ings neither will it satisfy yours.
The full surrender is the only thing
that will satisfy.

Do not get the idea that this young
man could have bought his way in
with all his wealth. Our wealth is
given to us not to buy our way in
but is given because our living
has changed. When we take Christ
He becomes the center of life and
all our time and money is con-
secrated to His cause. Our big
business will be serving Jesus
and going on business will be
secondary matters.

II The saying, "Sell what you have
and come follow me" many have
thumbed over this. But it came
to others and they stood the test Peter,
James, John, Andrew, Luther, Paul, St.
Francis of Assisi. In other words
it is the lesson of stewardship or we
have it to day. All that I have is the
Lord's and I am steward. I will

give as the prosper me into
the channel by the expenses of carry-
ing the good news to all whom I
kind. The rest left will be kind
and will not be used in any
way to support evil in any of
its forms.

III Course pursued. He came up
to the gates of the Kingdom and wanted
in. He craved much but he really
loved his money better so he
was like a giant covered with
a net of gold. He went a way
somewhere for he had great
possessions. In the presence of
Jesus he saw or never before
the power of the world over
himself.

Jesus did not do this to send the
man away but to draw him in. not
to quench the smoking glass but to
fan it into flame. What it did
do was to show the young man that
he was not what he seemed to be
to others nor to himself. He showed
him that some thing was look-
ing.

"One thing thou lackest" Jesus
is here speaking to us all. The
thing we lack may be quite different
to that he lacked. He was aware
He did not want to consecrate all
his wealth. Our may be pride

vanity, temper, tongue or some
grosser sin. Some bad habit we
want to cling to.

Whatever it is we must part with
it, or loose from it. we have no
right to love any thing or well that
we can't give it up for Jesus sake.

"A man talking to me said, 'there is
one secret sin I just can't give up
I wish I could, every year it get a
stronger hold on me.'"

Jesus, I my cross have taken
all to leave and follow thee

Destitute, despised, forsaken,
then from hence my all shall be
perish every fold ambition
all I have sought and hoped
and know

yet how rich is my con-
dition God and heaven

are still my own.

