

THE JIURNEY TO BIGGER THINGS
DEUT. I:6-7

For the fourth time I have been appointed your pastor. I say it truth fully that I had rather be here to day than any where they might have sent me. I speak this for my family also. No revolutionary measures are going to be advocated by your pastor. We do want to strengthen all the organiza- tions in the church and preach the old time Gospel of Jesus Christ which will not let us sit still in self satisfaction doing no more than we did last year. We do want to grow.

I think that at this very time and service I should give to you some idea as to my contemplated movements during the year. I will have about 104 sermons to build that I have never built before, aside from prayer meeting talks and so on. I am going to take more time for those than ever before. After all when all is boiled down the people want their pastor to study and give them something more than just surface sermons-sermons that will provoke thought.

I have always given much time to pastoral calling. Really I guess that I have given too much. I have tried to give four visits per year to all the members sick or well. That in these days is impossible. Visiting you when you are well is merely a social call. I enjoy it but many times it takes up your time unnecessarily. I can not keep visiting cards there are so many people away from home. What is the use of all that? If you are well you surely ought to come to church. If you do that then we see each other three times per week. I have not much patience with the person's religion who has to be visited by the pastor every month. This does not mean that I am cutting out calling on you altogether when you are well. But I am going to give less time to you and more to the sick, old, and shutins.

The text to day shows a people in a condition where faith has to be demonstrated. Now you may ask, What is the greatest sin of today? Some one might answer, The divorce evil. That in part might answer the question. Another would answer, Political corruption and partly answer the question. Another might answer, Social corruption and that too would in part answer the question. But perhaps the right answer would be and is, "UNBELIEF."

Peter in Mt. 28:18 "You have dwelt long enough in this mountain, turn ye and take up your journey and go---." What was their condition here? Good water, plenty of food. The sun shining brightly every thing going well. Out yonder the dark wilderness and the Amorites. Leave this place of self satisfaction, turn and go toward this darkness and these enemies for just beyond all that is Canaan. Are you possessed with unbelief so that ye fear to make the leap or have you faith in God so that you will go?

Turn from your self satisfaction where every thing is handed to you on the breezes of the morning and take up your journey-out yonder to the un marked woods, blaze a trail, face your hardships and get in motion. Now to make us launch out God some times becomes,

1. A disturbing element in peoples' lives. Like the eagle He tears up the nest and takes us out on His wings so to speak to teach how to fly.
2. A progressive impulse--leave the present situation or things that hold

us back from our full duty. A preacher was appointed to a place across the conference and did not want to leave his holdings.

3. A voice saying have no other Gods before me. Little child taken.

We as a church must pick up from a program commensurate with a one room church to this magnificent departmental structure. Surely none of you will feel like just going on paying the same amount for the support of this church that you did for the little one. Every member should pay something and for my part I feel that it is the religious duty of the stewards to make a list of those who pay nothing and see them personally and enlist them for the church. If you have been paying one dollar per month make it 25 or 50 % increase and tell your steward about it. If you have been coming to S.S. only come this year to church services also. And vice versa. If you will take these suggestions you will please God and be spiritually blessed.

"You have dwelt in this mountain long enough, turn you, take up your journey and go----"

Sing "Jesus like a Shepherd lead us."

