Ringing Words
about
Seeking the Lost

By Thomas M. Shailer, D.D.

WE ARE not equally gifted, nor are we all able to tell the story of Jesus and His love with equal persuasiveness and power; but we all may repeat and retell our tales to what others have said, thus giving the original message a wider hearing.

This is the purpose I now have in bringing together in one place some words that others have said about what we as Christians owe to those within the circle of our influence who are strangers to the Saviour whom we know. We meet them every day, and perhaps talk to them about other things. Have we nothing to say to them about salvation, or are we indifferent about doing anything for them in this way?

The quotations here made are some that came under my eye from time to time, which arrested my attention, and I am glad to testify that all have helped me in one of them having been used of the Holy Spirit to work a revolution in my own personal attitude toward this duty. The authors from whose hearts these words came have all finished their testimony, with a very few exceptions, and entered into the joy of their Lord.
but their words should not be allowed to die, for their truth is needed more now than ever.

What Others Have Said

When God would save a man, He does it by way of a man—Jeremy Taylor.

Every Christian of every age and calling is appointed as an ambassador for Christ—Jesus H. Brookes.

My obligation to disciple men to Jesus Christ rests upon me, not because I am a clergyman, but because I myself am a disciple—Joshua Strong.

The nearer a soul is to me, the greater the responsibility for it.—Theodore L. Cuyler.

This is a lost world. We belong to the Evangelistic Service, and it is our business to help seek and save the lost.—Howard W. Pope.

If God gave the command to angels to evangelize the world, Heaven would be empty in five minutes—Anonymous.

If we have been forgiven, and know it, then we, and not angels, are commissioned to minister this same salvation unto men.—Papet Wilkes.

Our first concern is not to be successful in winning souls, but to be faithful to God’s truth.—Matthew B. Riddle.

Souls have to be won; and this requires a winning way—a kind of winning combination—in those who seek them.—James Stefler.

There is no other way to win a soul than by seeing in him one whom Christ your Saviour would have you win to Him.—L. W. Marshall.

We do not need to be preening in public in order to carry Christ to others. The workshop, the warehouse, the college, and at home will yield us hearers, if our hearts are set on winning men in Christ.—Alexander Macleane.

God often sends the impulsive to go and are some very wicked and apparently incorrigible man. That impulsive should not be defeated by unbelief in God’s power to change such a heart.—The Pilgrim Teacher.

While we aim at few, we shall win but few. Our success shall take their proportion from our faith in the universal law of the service of Christ.—William Arthur.

No convert is too recent, too un instructed, to bring others to Christ. Conv inced in his own heart that Jesus is his Saviour, he can, with Philip, at least echo our Lord’s own words to say, “Come and see.”—Record of Christian Work.

I know that it is only in so far as I keep a close fellowship with my risen Saviour, that I can in any way be fit for winning souls.—Alexander M. Mac hoy.

No man has ever been a winner of souls who did not know and believe in the Devil. Men are taken captive by him at his will. If we first know that, then we shall know that the victory on Calvary, and the efficacy of the blood of the Son of God, believed and pleaded in prayer, are the only things that will make him give way, and enable us to pluck the prey out of the hand of the mighty.—Papet Wilkes.

If we have no concern for the unsaved, and are making no effort in their behalf, we have sin in our own lives. I care not who you are—minister, missionary, Bible teacher, or Christian worker of any kind—no amount of religious activities of other kinds can exempt us from the charge of having in our heart some sort of sin that is keeping us from this duty. It may be fear, some kind of shame, or just plain neglect. But we know that he who “knoweth to do good, and doth it not, to him it is sin.”—Charles M. Atwood.

I do not believe in the Christianity of him who would keep salvation to himself, who would make no effort to save others—Thomas Chalmers.

Our task is not to bring all the world to Christ; our task is unquestionably to bring Christ to all the world. The theology of missions, like the theology of redemption, is Christocentric; that is to say, we take our stand at the cross, and not angels, are commissioned to bring others to Christ. The tide of the world’s desire is not toward Christ, but the tide of Christ’s desire is toward the world; as it is written: “Who will have all men to be saved.” And shall we not move most strongly by giving with the tide instead of going against it?—A. J. Gordon.

“You shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you,” said Jesus to His disciples after giving them the Great Commission to go out and bring men to Himself. The supreme condition of soul-winning power is in the same text.—J. A. Torrey.

Never shall I forget the gain to conscience of winning a soul to Christ—Henry C. S. Taylor.

It was a new development, so it were, with the inner and eternal movements of redemptive grace and power, a new Dorothy of divine resources.—E. C. G. Meade.

What Others Have Done

I have never seen a city so completely stirred from center to circumference as the city of Albany was stirred by the word “last’ a few years ago. A child had disappeared from his home. Hundreds of men were ready to join in the search. They scoured the hills and woods. Detachments followed every possible clue. Large sums of money were offered in reward. When at last the lad was rescued from the hands of those who had led him away, there was sincerely a heart that did not utter a note of praise.

The Book tells us that everyone who has failed to make a choice of Christ is lost. Lost to God, lost to holiness, lost to Heaven and we are convinced. Surely it must be because we have no realization of this awful distress.—Elwin F. Halliebach.

Professor Tholse was remarkably successful in turning wayward youths into right paths. He gives the following account of the growth of this passion for Christ:

“From the age of seventeen I have always asked myself, ‘What is the chief end of man’s life?’ Just then God brought me into contact with a very noble saint who lived in fellowship with Christ, and from that time I have had but one passion, and that is Christ, and Christ alone. Everyone out of Christ I took upon me as a forfeit which I must avenge and win.”—Quoted by Henry M. Tappan.
This passion burned in the breast of Rowland Hill. The people of Weston called him a madman. This was his defense:

"While I passed along yonder road I saw a gravel pit cave in, and bury three men alive. I hastened to the rescue, and shouted for help until they heard me in the town almost a mile away. No one came; so I myself then took up his abode amid the moral destitution of the French metropolis that I might point wretched souls to the Saviour of whom I have been a silent follower for years. May God forgive me for my lack of faithfulness."

Of this incident Dr. Trumbull says: "Then it was that I made a purpose and resolve for life. The purpose I formed was, as an imperative duty, not to fail in my Christian life in the particular way just confessed. I determined that as I loved Christ, and as Christ loved souls, I would press Christ on the individual souls of others, and that whenever I was in such intimacy with a soul as to be justified in choosing my subject of conversation, the theme of themes would have prominence between us, so that I might learn his need, and, if possible, meet it."—From "Taking Men Alive," by C. G. Trumbull.

He who has collected the above ringing words about seeking the lost is glad to reaffirm and re-emphasize them as emphasizing his own faith; and desires no greater joy on earth than the hope that they may help others also.

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