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Rev. Hargrave's Sermons



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APPALACHIA

Sir, we would see Jesus.

John 12:21

Personal Relationship.

I. "Jesus," 1. Teacher. 2. Saviour, 3. Master; 4. Friend.

II. We-Personal. Religion is a personal relationship. One has said that, Christianity is a religion of personal pronouns. "The Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

III. Would. Will involved. Earnest desire expressed. Earnestness essential, lukewarmness hurtful, to Jesus. Rev. 3:15,16.

IV. See. Not simply a casual look, but the heart looking thru the eyes. When our eyes are open to see him we claim him as Saviour, and follow on to know him as Saviour, Master, and Friend. There is no joy like that which comes as a result of personal dealing with those who have just expressed the desire "Sir," we would see Jesus," and later comes back to say like the men of Syohar: "Now we believe, not because of the saying, for we have (seen) heard him for ourselves and we know (by personal experience) that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world" and my Saviour.

V. In that day they went to His disciples, and they led them to Jesus. Today, the world comes to you and me inquiring of Jesus' life. Are we leading the world to accept the Christlife? To see Jesus, to have the personal contact with Him; enables one to catch His image and reflect it in life-yea, the whole of lifewill reveal the image of the blessed Master. Just as the earthly child reflects the image of his parents, so will the children of God reflect His image, but Jesus Christ is the express image of the Father. He that has seen me, hath seen the Father." Paul was right when he said: When we see Him we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is. But my Christian Friends, there is importance to be attached to the present significance of that expression. Moses cannot commune with God face to face and not reflect the image of God in his face; neither can we to-day, behold the image of the Master and not reveal that image to others with whom we come in contact.

The world is coming to you, my Christian friend, saying, We would see Jesus in you. Listen to Pastor Tucker on this longing inquiry.

"On a lovely Sunday morning in August we arrived at Oshoone. We were desirous of seeing Her Majesty, the Queen of England, but did not succeed. We only saw her house, her gardens, and her retainers. Then we went to Whippingham Church, having been told that the Queen would attend divine service. But again we were disappointed. WE only saw the seat the august lady was want to occupy. The ladies and gentlemen of the Court came to church and those we saw, we even heard the count-chaplain preach, but of the sovereign we saw nothing.

Well, this was a disappointment we could easily get over. But with me it led to a serious frame of mind or thought. I said to myself: "What if the flock committed to your care should come to church to see the King of Kings, and yet through some fault of yours not get to see Him! What if you, the great Kings dependent, detain men with yourself, by your words and affairs and all sorts of important matters which yet are trifles in comparison with Jesus! May it not be that we ministers often thus disappoint our congregations?" And this last thought reminds me of what the Rev. W. W. Landrum had to say on "Ministerial Responsibility." Says he: "Some may recall a striking incident committed to the New York press a few years ago by a deeply humbled minister. One of the leading members of his Church was greatly distressed in his last sickness on reviewing his mode of life, reflecting upon the large amount he had spent upon his family, and the small sum he had given the Lord. The pastor endeavored to comfort him in every way. He spoke of his having given cheerfully and as much as the others. He reminded him that the best of us are unprofitable servants, and must look to the mercy of God in Christ as our only hope. The troubled man found no peace or comfort, but grew more and more uneasy and distressed as his end drew near. At last, taking the hand of his pastor, he said: "Brother, I am going to the Judge, unprepared to meet Him, because you have been unfaithful to me. For years I have lived and taught my family to live largely for this world. We have denied ourselves nothing, but spent thousands on personal comforts and luxuries. When I gave hundreds to Christ and His Church, it should have been thousands. My business energy, time, and money have been mostly devoted to self pleasing and gratification; and how can I meet my Judge and give an account of my stewardship? I am beyond recover. Do what you can to save other professors who are in the same current of self-indulgence and extravagance, which is sweeping them to destruction."

The Greeks who uttered the words of the text had spoken to Philip. And Philip told Andrew what was said to him. And they both tell Jesus.

It was no idle curiosity on the part of the Greeks why they wished to see Jesus. And note my friends, that they came to those who were supposed to know Jesus and were able to lead them to Him. But men have sought Jesus as doubters of his power to save, and have come away from His presence confirmed believers in His sovereignty; and His claim to be the Son of God with power to forgive sins.

The Greeks were not the only ones who have sought Jesus through His followers. There are thousands of others to-day that are meeting you and me-and the many thousands of others who are His professed followers; who ask a similar question, or silently make inquiry by coming in touch with Christian institutions, Christian Churches and people- they meet us in the avenues

of trade, in the places of business; in our homes, on our struts-wherever men and women congregate. That unspoken query is on their lips: We would see Jesus. Are we bringing the inquirers face to face with Jesus? Of course the real person of Jesus is not here for us to point to and say: Here is the object of your search. But if we have opened the door of our hearts to his entrance, then we can say with the apostle that it is no longer that liveth, but Jesus Christ liveth in me the hope of glory. Christ Jesus is not only the individual's Saviour; He is also the Saviour of the world. And it's up to you and me to give the world a view of its only Saviour.

The following story, illustrates our inability and God's ability to save even to the uttermost;

"In September, 1878, a dreadful accident happened on the Thames, when an excursion steamer, named the Princess Alice, was cut down by the Bywell Castle, an outward bound merchant steamship. More than seven hundred persons that day found a watery grave. Among the brave efforts that were made on that occasion to save the drowning people, one of the noblest was in charge of a small boat at some distance from the scene of the collision. Rowing with all his might into the midst of the struggling passengers, he pulled several of them one after another into his little boat, which was now full and in danger of sinking, and prepared to row away. But when he saw the white, upturned faces of many others, and heard their piteous cries: "Oh, save me, sir! "Don't leave me, sir!" it is said that in agony he threw up his arms and cried: "Oh God, that I had a bigger boat! Oh, God! That I had a bigger boat!" His heart was large enough to save all who were perishing, but his boat was too small; his power was limited. It is not so with Christ. He is the Life-Boat of perishing humanity, and in Him there is room for the whole race, for "He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

Do you wonder at Greeks trying to see Jesus? Do you wonder at any one wishing to get into that personal relationship with such a savior? –Amen.

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"On a lovely Sunday morning in August we arrived at Osborne. We were desirous of seeing Her Majesty, The Queen of England, but did not succeed. We only saw her house, her gardens and her retainers. Then we went to Whippingham Church, having been told that the Queen would attend divine service; But again we were disappointed. We only saw the seat the august lady was wont to occupy. The ladies and gentlemen of the Court came to Church, and those we saw; we even heard

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Thousands on personal Comforts and luxuries, When I gave hundreds to Christ and His Church, it should have been thousands, My business energy, time, and money have been mostly devoted to self pleasing and gratification; and how can I meet my Judge and give an account of my stewardship? I am beyond recovery. Do what you can to save other professors who are in the same current of self-indulgence and extravagance, which is sweeping them to 'destruction'.

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