"Behold I Thought" 2 Kings 5:1-17

Intro: A.- Illus- Highbrows doubt the miraculous in Xnity, but there are many living miracles. An agnostic speaker, addressing a gathering of workingmen, laughed at the miraculous element in the Scriptures. "Has anyone here ever come across a miracle?" he sneered. At last a burly workingman arose + said, "Mates, you knew me when I was a drunkard + a blackguard. You know the change wrought in me. Am I a miracle? A great shout of "YES" nonplussed the speaker, who replied, "Well my friend, I suppose you mean you turned over a new leaf?" ..... "NO," came the swift reply. "CHRIST TURNED IT OVER FOR ME!"

B.- This Message:
1- The work of GOD in a man's life
2- The use by God of a TESTIMONY of a common girl
3- The MIRACLE of a changed life
4- The WRONG + RIGHT way to God

I.- THE MAN .... NAAMAN:

A.- Person:
1- Captain of military hosts
2- Great man
3- Honorable
4- Valorous or Courageous
5- Tactician

B.- Disease:
1- BUT, a leper
2- Type of sin
3- Supernatural cure --- ONLY!

II.- THE WITNESS --- MAID

A.- Person:

1- Captive Israelite maid
2- Servant girl to Naaman's wife
3- Circumstances were hard against her

B.- Message:

1- Told what she knew
- can't be silent + let life speak
- must put into words to be known
- message of deliverance
- where to go
- who could help
- cure would be sure
- specific in factual content

2- Spoke at an opportune moment
- chose her time to speak
- chose best opportunity
- Did choose + Did speak

3- Lack of witness
- Due to not believing people w/o X are LOST
- Due to lack of faith in power of God to save
- Due to lack of concern
- MUST be one of these 3
- CAN't just be lack of technique, for to try + fumble is better than not to have tried

III.- THE MISTAKES —— MANY:

A.- The Wrong Approach By King Of Syria:

1- King sent letter — Influence
— Power politics force play

2 - King sent money — Wrong currency
— Blood is required
— Isa. 55:1-3
— Acts 3:6

3- King sent to King — Should go to representative of King of Kings

4 - King sent to wrong Person — Jn. 14:6
— Acts 4:12

5- King of Israel knew better
— "Am I God":
— Knew his limitations
— Rent clothes — ceremony of humility
— Better off than Herod — Acts 12:20-24

B: The Wrong Response By Naaman:

1- Simple Message
- From God
- Thru man of God
- Contrary to worldly wisdom
- Promised a MIRACLE FROM GOD
- ILLUS One Sunday afternoon a couple went for a short walk when they were overtaken by a storm. They took shelter in a neighboring church where they found a special service for S.S. Students in progress. The pastor was catechizing the children and asked: "WHAT IS A MIRACLE?" A little girl put up her hand + replied, "SOMETHING WE CAN'T DO, BUT JESUS CAN." The minister seemed surprised at this original answer, + pressed for a "more dignified response." Several chimed out the set answer he wanted, "A parable in action," + he seemed well satisfied..... That leaves me cold, however, for I think the little girl's definition was apt: "SOMETHING WE CAN'T DO, BUT JESUS CAN" —— That's a miracle

2- Should have
- Received news
- Done as commanded - Recognize authority - LK. 7:8
- Been cleansed
- Gone away rejoicing - Acts 8:39

3- Interposed "BEHOLD I THOUGHT"
- wanted a flashy experience
- wanted deliverance on HIS terms
- wanted pride of nation — NOT SO!
- wanted pride of heart
- went away - in a rage
  - w/o cleansing
  - Hopeless .... Only 1 way
    .... No other hope

IV. THE CLEANSING OF NAAMAN:

A. Thought Provoking Questions:

1- IF - Some great thing
  - Then obedience

2- IF - Some simple thing
  - Then HOW MUCH MORE is obedience expected

3- So simple it is missed by those with a proud heart.

B. Naaman's Reaction:

1- Message heard
2- God gives us a test
3- Argument didn't win
4- It enlightened Naaman
5- Naaman BELIEVED
6- ∴ Naaman did as he was told
7- ∴ Naaman was cleansed - AS PROMISED

C.- Naaman's Testimony:

1- Must follow if genuine — Mt. 10:32-33
2- Told his acquaintances
3- Told the man of God
   - no equivocation
   - no "I hope"
4- Gave God the glory - 15:b
5- It was genuine because his heart was full of gratitude
6- Proof is seen in his SEPARATION stand 5:17

V.- WARNINGS FROM NAAMAN:

A.- Wrong Price — Money
B.- Wrong Person — Man
C.- Wrong Attitude — "I Thought"
   — rage
D.- Wrong Expectation — I want to do something great before God
   — Then it wouldn't be of God, but MAN
   — Then it wouldn't be of Grace, but WORKS
   — Then it wouldn't be for All, but a FEW

Concl:
- Come as a leper in need of cleansing
- Come in obedience to God's Word - Acts 16: 30-31
- Come to let God do the work
- Come expecting cleansing for eternity
- THAT'S TOO EASY.... God made it that way for YOU and the rest of a LOST WORLD
- Come Simply; as a child
- Come NOW — 2 Cor. 6:2

"THE MODERN HEALING MOVEMENT" 2 Kings 5:15-16, 20-25

INTRO: A.-Preparatory Evaluation:

1-1 John 4:1--"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

2-Extremists & their "PBT" Doctrines

--R. C. Ch. with Apostolic Succession & Papal infallibility

--Mormon Ch. in Prophecies of Joseph Smith & their doctrine of Priesthood

--Spiritism in Discernment thru demons

--Pentecostals on Security, Tongues & Healing

Measure of WARNING for the saints

3-BIBLICAL BALANCE needed on the basis of the Word of God in all areas

B.-Message Development:

1-Practitioners in modern healing movement

2-Problems attending the healing movement

3-Comparison With the BIBLE

I.-PRACTITIONERS IN MODERN HEALING:

A.-Revivalist Healers

1-Successors to frontier "Medicine Shows" in last 60 year

2-Not dealing in terms of MEN, but PRACTICES as far as possible

3-Widespread geographically in USA

--Most prevalent in Southern California & South

--Play on the many open-hearted people who are IGNORANT OF THE WORD OF GOD"

4-Performances seem on a "Can you top this" approach, actually COMMANDING God to heal

5-FOUR CLASSES OF TESTIMONIALS OF HEALING:

(1)--GENUINE RELIEF from psychological disturbances thru suggestion, as also in Christian Science, Unity, Romanism, Witchcraft & Demonism

(2)--Testimonials from those who--at the time--believe BELIEVE THEY ARE HEALED, and later find they've been duped & repudiate the testimonial

ILLUS--Jack Coe was arrested in Florida for practicing medicine without a license after pronouncing cured a 3 year old boy who had Polio & ordering his braces removed from his legs. This the mother had done because she believed Coe had healed her son & testified to it, & later sued him in court for the suffering & permanent damage suffered by the little boy.

(3)--DELIBERATELY MANUFACTURED FRAUDS

--1 man who was part of the "show crew" who was "healed" at least once in each town they worked

--Case of 2 hitchhikers being given $50.00 each to come to the meeting & "be healed"

--Case of Aimee Semple Mc Pherson "CURING" a

woman of a GOITER by pressing the air out of a leaking balloon under her dress

(4)--INVENTED STORIES & FABRICATIONS OF HEALINGS:

--Oral Roberts says he was dying of T.B.

--Gordon Lindsay tells of 1 woman who died & spent 9 days in HEAVEN AND HELL, & then he restored her to life to tell about it

--Orval L. Jaggars says he died & was restored to life

--Betty Baxter Heidt claims to have been healed of curvature of the spine by the appearance & massage of Jesus Christ in person

--On his American Soul Clinic broadcast & telecast, formerly carried by ABC from Los Angeles, Fred Jordon used to say: "I take no salary. Nobody here is paid. Send your contributions to me." ABC dropped Jordon after the FCC complained that he was proselytizing Mexican Catholics. He also drew the censure of the Los Angeles police when he attempted to heal an unwed mother of drug addiction. The police insisted she be hospitalized instead. Jordon then informed his TV audience that the girl had been rehabilitated thru his ministry, but would not appear before the TV cameras and so testify because she feared for her life at the hands of vengeful drug peddlers. ACTUALLY she was in police custody, taking a cure. (Mc Calls, Feb. '57, P.80)

--Oral Roberts "quoted" 3 great medical doctors congratuating him for his work in Phoenix. Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse investigated these 3 men. None of them were M.D.'s. One was a QUACK, & the other 2 didn't exist & the clinics & organizations Roberts said they represented were also non-existent. YET Roberts still claims this endorsement from THREE GREAT MEDICAL DOCTORS

--Mc Calls Magazine said: "Without exception American faith healers have so far refused to submit a single case to medical examination." (P.82)

B.--Established Churches:

1-Pentecostal churches--Arminian theology
--Salvation & security by WORKS
--Emphasis is on the emotional
--Appeal is to the gullible, the uneducated, & the ignorant
--Lack of TRAINED ministers
--Zealous in a morrass of ignorance

2-Presbyterian, Episcopalian, etc
--Dry, dull & formal approach to religion
--Rejecting the reality of salvation in Christ
--Yet, looking for something to inject a SHOW OF REALITY into their "dead" churches
--These know better, but are desperate

II.-SIX PROBLEMS ATTENDANT WITH MODERN HEALING MOVEMENT:

A.-Problem Of Place:

1-Public meetings & gigantic spectacles
2-James 5:14 says to call the elders to the sick person, not take sick person to a public meeting.

3-No case of "HEALING CENTERS" in the N. T.

B.-Problem Of Persons:

1-Glorification of men, not Christ
2-Prestige of "healers" is paramount in their promotions
3-Oral Roberts' "Funny book", comparing the LITTLE healings of Jesus Christ with the TREMENDOUS healings of Oral Roberts
4-ILLUS--Roberts' magazine
5-Time Magazine quote--"Faith healers are often less concerned with the spiritual & physical well-being of people than with the demonstration of their personal power or the attainment of prestige & financial gain. This is religious quackery."
6-Incidentally, you will notice the prominence of WOMEN in these meetings.

C.-Problem Of Message:

1-Healing, they say, is vitally linked with salvation today
2-Healing is generally presented as more important than salv.
3-Healing is looked for as a PROOF of salvation
4-Seldom a clear gospel presentation
5-W. B. Grant in "Spiritual Gifts" states: "One supernatural miracle of healing, now as in Bible days, will stir up more demons and save more souls than a dozen sermons without miracles." (P. 59)
6-At best there is an improper emphasis in message, and at worst a definite perversion of the gospel

Problem Of
D.-Attitude Toward The Sick & Their Treatment:

1-Stand long hours in line
2-Rough handling--banging of heads with hands
--spitting in faces
--shouting
--Houston Press on A.A.Allen--" A spellbinding showman in a sweat-soaked shirt fell to his knees in Houston & roared thru a hand microphone: 'Devil, you're a liar!! I rebuke you, foul spirits, in the name of Jesus, and COMMAND you to free this woman of her cancer!'

Then Rev. A.A.Allen, self-styled faith healer, crashed his hand down on the forehad of the hysterical, middle-aged housewife before him on the 'healing ramp.'

He slapped her again & again on the head, and forced her hand to hit her stomach.

'Sister, I'm gonna count three,' he cried, ' and on the count of three, something wonderful's going to happen. I can feel the Lord telling me what to do....one....two....THREE!'

'Hallelujah!' screamed the woman.

She collapsed into the waiting arms of Rev. Allen, moaning, 'Thank you, Jesus...Oh, thank you...Praise God..... YOU'VE HEALED ME.'

Rev. Allen grabbed the woman's dress, & trumpeted: 'See....everybody see....her clothing's already loosening... that devil cancer is already disintegrating....Oh, Praise God!'"
3-Total lack of compassion for people in desperate need.

4-Unwilling to take the really bad cases---set aside til LATER to receive "personal attention", but are never gotten to

5-Prey on the UNSEEN illnesses

6-Treatment of "blind in 1 eye" or "deaf in 1 ear" cases

7-Houston Press---"I saw an old man who claimed to be paralyzed get out of a wheelchair at Allen's insistence & the crowd's screaming shouts.

A few moments later he was back in the (wheel) chair.

Most of Allen's 'miracles' are performed on persons with internal disease such as cancer, heart trouble, or arthritus. So you don't know what happens when he orders the 'devil spirits' to leave their bodies"

E.-Problem Of Faith:

1-Failures are always blamed on the sick person

2-Failures hurt the faith & shake the confidence of truly born again believers, for they are told that if salvation is truly theirs, then so is healing

3-Doesn't STRENGTHEN faith; it UNDERMINES IT

4-Failures cause the unsaved to blaspheme

5-What one of us has not attempted to witness to some person only to be told of some "PREACHER" who wronged them or one of their family, so that they want nothing to do with christianity.....sad situation

6-Deterrent to faith, rather than a substantiation to it

F.-Problem of Finances:

1-Racket of "pre-meetings" to be eligible for healing lines

2-Offerings taken repeatedly

3-Magnified expenses to be met BEFORE any healings

4-Houston Press---"But the biggest miracle by far is the method Allen uses to drain money from his followers. They pay dearly.....AND OFTEN.

After preaching a couple of hours and working the crowd up, Allen, the father of four children children, announces he feels the 'presence of the Lord inside this temple.'

'How many believe God is going to work miracles tonight?' he rasps. Two-thousand hands jab the air in approval.

'Well, I know He is,' Allen says, 'and I want every man here to pull out a $20 bill and bring it to this platform. If hou haven't got a $20, then bring a $10.

'And I know everybody has at least $5 they can give to Jesus,' he intones sternly.

'You know, friends, one little cancer can wipe out every cent you've ever saved. Arthritis can gobble up all your money.' The Lord wants to cure you of these sicknesses and devil spirits. All He asks is that you believe in Him. The Lord has asked me to help Him. I can lay my hand on you, and if you believe, we can drive these devil spirits out and tromp them into the ground."

When Allen gives the signal his devotees dutifully run down the aisles to deposit cash in the collection buckets. The nights I was there, I noticed members of Allen's

staff leading the procession waving bills. The crowed, carried away by it all, followed.

Then the buckets are passed thru the crowd to get those who didn't come forward with cash."

5-Sales of Magazines
Books
Booklets
Amulets
Prayer cloths & scarfs

6-MUCH time spent on pleas for MONEY

7-Houston Press---"But even more tragic is the manner in which Rev. Allen makes the sick keep coming back night after night after night, clinging to the hope that they can get before Allen and hear his shouts & feel his slaps.

Allen's services last an average of 4 hours each, but he usually spends only about 30 minutes on the "healing", the rest taken up by preaching, advertising his products and money pitches. Several nights II was there, he did not even get to the "healing." Night after night you see the same tragic faces & cripled bodies waiting with child-like faith to touch this man."

8-PARALLEL----2 Kings 5:15-17, 20-25....even that was "small potatoes" compared to today's lying servants

III.-MODERN HEALING MOVEMENT COMPARED WITH THE BIBLE, JESUS, AND THE APOSTLES:

A.-Healing Techniques According To The Bible:

1-Healed the badly needy willing
2-Healed ALL who came
3-Healings were always immediate, not processes, unless the process was short & detailed in Scr.
4-There was--no fake healings
--no emotionalism
--no confusion
--no hypnosis
--no psychological playing on emotions

B.-Meeting Techniques According to The Bible:

1-No healing campaigns
--Lk. 19:10
--Mk. 10:45--"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to give His life a ransom for many."

2-No FEES levied
No OFFERINGS taken
No MONEY given
No EMOTIONS stirred
No CONFUSION engendered

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3-No one sent away unhealed
--because of lack of time
--because of lack of strength because of tiredness
--because of lack of enough of the Holy Spirit to cure

4-Always EVANGELISM was stressed

5-Read----Acts 5:12-16

C.-Healing Movement's Excesses:

1-Overemphasis on the Spirit----Jn. 16:12-15

2-Overemphasis on the healing---Not the issue
---Rom. 6:23

3-Overemphasis on the emotions
--Acts 16:31
--Acts 19:18-20-"And many that believed came and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it 50,000 pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God & prevailed
--THAT is the proper outcome

4-Overemphasis on exalting the flesh
--of the healer
--of the healed one

CONCLUSION:

A.-Biblical Principle:

1-Titus 1:13--"This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith."

2-Titus 2:15--"These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee."

B.-Balance Needed According To The Word Of God:

1-Modern healing movement is NOT according to that standard

2-Rather it is Demonic

4-Great sin if placing the body above the soul; healing above salvation; health above heaven; men above God's Son
is
WRONG & to be ABHORED

5-May God give us grace to "walk in the light as He is in the light".....and not to walk in the flesh !

3-Dr. Bolton Davidheister, BIOLA's Science Division Chairman has remarked, that "the healing cults are gaining ground----mostly in the cemetaries."

5/29/66--Westbrae

"ABOUT OUR MASTER'S BUSINESS" 2 Kings 6:24---7:15

or

"A DAY OF GOOD TIDINGS" Acts 1:6-8

or

"EXCUSES ABOUT WITNESSING"

INTRO: **A.-What About Witnessing?:**

1-G. Christian Weiss points out that "the nearest thing to the heart of God was the **death** of His Son on the cross. The next nearest thing to the heart of God is THAT PEOPLE MIGHT KNOW of the death of His Son on the cross."

2-Many Christians find that one of the most exciting aspects of the Christian life is the happy privilege of SHARING THEIR NEW LIFE in Christ with others

B.-What Characterizes A Witness:

1-A witness must know something about the subject:
--No one is ever called into court to witness concerning an incident he doesn't know anything about
--Therefore one needs to invest time in the Word of God
--So we might increasingly KNOW MORE OF HIM

2-A witness must have a life that backs up what he says:
--No one puts much confidence in statements of a witness whose personal character is known to be questionable -CREDIBILITY
--To be a good witness for Christ, the Christian must have a daily life of OBEDIENCE

3-A witness must be willing to speak:
--Many today "**TAKE THE FIFTH** AMENDMENT" on the witness stand of our courts
--But the Lord delights to bless the lives of His children who joyfully and readily **TELL OTHERS** OF THEIR FAITH in Christ & of their love for Him
--Not enough to "LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"
--A witness must be vocal if he is to be a "good witness"

C.-Our Message On Witnessing:

1-Outline:
I.-EXAMPLE IN WITNESSING:
II.-EXCUSES NOT TO WITNESS:
III.-EXPERIENCE IN WITNESSING:

2-Proposition:--The gospel changes lives
Because--The gospel must be shared to accomplish its results of being a life-changer
*-EVERY CHRISTIAN needs to be sharing.....witnessing of the Savior we know.

I.-EXAMPLE IN WITNESSING: (2 Kings 6:24---7:15)

A.-The Desperate Situation: (2 Kings 6:24-33)

1-Politically--King Ben-hadad has laid seige to Samaria
--King Jehoram is at his wits end in his city

2-Famine--A GREAT FAMINE
--Inflationary prices ** $50.00 for the head of an ass, when normally no one would have eaten T-Bones from such an animal
** Dove's dung being sold so as to recover grains of wheat not already digested

3-People's reactions
--Woman cries "Help, my lord, O king"(6:26)----DESPERATION
--King replies---6:27----------IMPOTENCE
--Even cannibalism has been resorted to (6:28-29)

4-King Jehoram's actions:
--Rends his clothing at this
--People see sackcloth under his kingly garments (6:30
** Usually the symbol of REPENTANCE
** Hidden under royal garb
** LACK OF CONSISTENCY
--Blame falls on Elisha (6:31)
** No no remembrance of Elisha's past favors to the King
** ONLY BLAME NOW
** Perhaps because Elisha had counselled repentance & sackcloth, and Jehoram thought it HADN'T WORKED
** Perhaps because Elisha had counselled resistance to Ben-hadad that had brought seige & famine
--EASY TO BLAME all his problems on the man of God, and not see his own guilt & fault

5-Elisha is untroubled as Jehoram's emmisary is coming to kill him. (6:31-33)

B.-The Divine Sufficiency (2 Kings 7:1-2):

1-WORD FROM JEHOVAH--7:1
--Authoritative message
--Short-term prophecy; REMARKABLE PREDICTION
--Obvious proof he was a prophet of God
--Deut. 18:20-22
--Elisha was not speculating, but prophesying
--TOMORROW the inflationary prices will be a thing of the past
--Quite a promise of DIVINE SUFFICIENCY

2-WORD FROM MAN
--7:2
--The "lord on whose arm the king leaned"==close counsellor
--"Answered"=="MOCKED"
--Doubter speaks his unbelief
--Raises a big question
--History of Israel should have taught this man not to doubt God's ability to provide food (Manna & Quail)
--Reminds me of Mk. 16:16b--"...but he that believeth not shall be damned."

3-Judgment pronounced by Elisha--7:2d

C.-The Desperate Lepers: (2 Kings 7:3-8)

1-Social & spiritual outcasts--7:3
- --Serious condition
- --**Pitiable** appearance

2-Their decision--"WHY SIT WE HERE UNTIL WE DIE?"
- --Examined their alternatives
  - ** Enter famine-plagued city of Samaria (1)
  - ** Sit where they were (2)
  - ** Fall upon the mercy of the Syrian enemy (3)
- --One of the few "COMMITTEE MEETINGS" that ever produced
- --Decided that the worst that could happen was "we shall but die"
- --Prepared to **do** or **die**
- --Men of decided hearts
- --Desperation prodded them into action

3-Trouble with our day is that the SITUATION IS DESPERATE .....but the **saints are not**!!!

4-Camp of Syrians--Deserted!!
- --No sentries-----no men at all
- --**W H Y** ??
- --7:6--"For the Lord..."
- --Cowper--"God works in a mysterious way His wonders to perform"
- --**DIVINE intervention** to bring Elisha's prophecy to pass
- --7:7
- --EVERYTHING left behind

5-Lepers bounty--7:8
- --**FOOD** first
- --**FORTUNE** of spoil comes thereafter
- --For them the famine (6:24) was over

D.-The Distinct Responsibility: (2 Kings 7:9-10)

1-7:9

2-"We do not well"
- --Sense of responsibility to **others** comes upon them
- --Such bounty needs to be SHARED
- --"This is a day of **good tidings**, and we hold our peace"
- --PARALLEL: ** Unlimited good in the gospel
  - ** The gospel is "**GOOD NEWS**"
  - ** 1 Cor. 15:34--"Awake to righteousness and sin no; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame."
- --HOLDING OF THEIR PEACE is sin !!!

3-"If we tarry"--Morning light may be too late
- --Syrians may return
- --Samaritans may starve
- --**LIMITED TIME** to share their "good news"

4-"Some mischief will come upon us"
- --ASV=="Punishment will overtake us"
- --Margin=="Our iniquity will find us out"

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--In the face of Israel's DESPERATE **HUNGER**, something must be done.....now!!
--Perhaps they also feared being stoned (as Achan was) for covetousness
--Realized that judgment will come upon those who refuse to share when they have "GOOD NEWS"

4-THREE KEY WORDS:

@--"NOW"---This the time

Jr--"GO"--------Requires some immediate action

@--"TELL" ** Sharing of a message of Good News because Israel was starving, and their message would alleviate their perdicament.

** Rom. 10:14--"How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?? And How shall they hear without a preacher??"

5.-Example in witnessing----7:10

II.-EXCUSES NOT TO WITNESS:

A.-Excuse # 1---"I Don't Know Enough":

1-Understandable if you're RECENTLY saved

--If saved in the past month or so
--BUT **NOT** if you're 6 months old....or more...
--Certainly not if you're a year old in the faith.

2-God commands--2 Tim. 2:15--"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing theWord of truth."
--To neglect to learn is SIN
--How else can you grow ? ? ?
--Necessary for you to READ: to LEARN & to GROW
3-Real problem--**Not** generally "I don't know enough"
--But actually laziness or indifference
4-Imagine giving such **excuses**--To Christ
--At the Bema
--NOT ACCEPTABLE then
--NOT JUSTIFIABLE now
5-Even **before** you've learned much of the Bible and God's "PLAN OF SALVATION"---
*-**You can** give your **PERSONAL TESTIMONY** of your experience of salvation in Christ

B.-Excuse # 2--"**I Don't Have The Gift Of Evangelism**":
1-True that God gave "some, evangelists"
--GIFT to the Body of Christ
--Philip is mentioned as having this gift
--Moody, Finney, Edwards, Sunday, Graham, etc.
--**NOT ALL** have "the gift"
2-That lack **doesn't exclude** other christians!!
--2 Tim. 4:2, 5 Preach the Word... Do the work of an evangelist
--Timothy was a PASTOR, not an evangelist
--Nonetheless he was expected to do evangelistic ministry
--Paul admonished him to be faithful as a gospel-sharer
3-Christ's last directive--Mt. 28:19
--Mk. 16:15-16
--Lk. 24:46-48 John 20:
--Acts 1:6-8
--Christ didn't specify that all of the Apostles were to be evangelists
--But Christ did **command all** to do the work of evangelism
4-Same thought--2 Cor. 5:20--"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."
--The "**WE**"refers to **all** who believe in Christ as Savior
--**All christians** are "AMBASSADORS"
--We are to urge men in Christ's stead to be reconciled to God
5-Christ's own **example**--Lk. 19:10 "The Son of man is come to seek & to save that which is lost."
--We are also to be concerned for the lost
--Important question is not: "DO I HAVE THE GIFT OF EVANGELISM"?
--But, "Since I have a **command** & a privilege & a responsibility from

God, AM I OBEYING?"

C.-Excuse # 3--"I Don't Feel Led":
1-That sounds "PIOUS", doesn't it ??
2-But an awful lot of wilfulness & self-centeredness is getting palmed off under the guise of "The Lord led me" or "I don't feel led"
3-How can we be led??--Spirit of God
--Takes the Word of God
--Applies it to the life of the child of God
--So he knows to do the will of God
4-ILLUS--Think of a soldier serving his country in a foreign land. If his commanding officer ordered him to the front lines to fight, he would not dare to say:
"Sir, I would like to obey you, but I don't feel led to do so."
No "leading" would be necessary!
The fact that a command is given by one in a position of authority over us is all that's necessary.
5-SIMILARLY--The Christian does not need to "feel led" to obey Christ's COMMAND to evangelize the world and his neighbors
--He does need guidance as to HOW to present the gospel
*--But he doesn't need "a leading" to obey the clear command
--Command is CLEAR
--Response of the child of God
** Either of obedience
** Or of disobedience

D.-Excuse # 4--"I Don't Want To Evangelize":
*1-Seldom is this one stated openly
2-But it is often the case
3-God has spoken--Christians are expected to obey
--MESSAGE is given
--POWER is available
--BOLDNESS is provided
--LOST people are all around us
4-Christians can, should & must witness if they are to please and glorify their heavenly Father
5-Jn. 15:8--"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit, so shall ye be my disciples."
6-Richard Seymour--"Many christians who have not faithfully given out the gospel need to admit their WILFUL DISOBEDIENCE to Christ's command. Such honesty with God is the starting place for fruitful service." (Article: "Four Excuses Not To Witness"; Soul Winners Digest)

III.-EXPERIENCE IN WITNESSING:

A.-The Contact For The Gospel:
1-Seldom your first words to a person

--Develop a talking relationship
--Then turn the conversation to the gospel

2-Examples--Beauty of the day--"God made it"
--Polution of the air--"Man has fouled up God's creation"
--Overabundance of change from a clerk--"I'd have kept your money before Christ cleansed my heart from sin and showed me that covetousness is sin"
--Rock Music (Fashions, etc)--"I can understand the desire of Young People to have that which is "their own", & apart from the adult world. I wanted that too before I came to appreciate **BETTER** THINGS in the family of God"
--Drugs, Alcohol--"That's an understandable reaction of a heart without Christ. Before I was saved, I also tried a number of ANESTHESIAS to deaden the pain of an empty heart"
--Police (Social Action)--"Yes, we do see a lot of rebellion against authority today. Some seem to think its just a modern phenomenon, & they are of the impression that **BETTER CONDITIONS** will make **BETTER MEN**. However, God's Word clearly indicates that what is really the case is that **CHANGED PEOPLE** are the only hope of **CHANGED CONDITIONS**, and the only hope of really changing people is to get to the heart of the problem----the human heart....

B.-The Content Of The Gospel:

1-Man is a SINNER and therefore needs salvation
--Rom. 3:23
--Isa. 53:6
--Enmity with God--Rom. 8:6-8

2-God LOVES man, even in his sin--Man couldn't bridge the gap back to God
--But God could & did
--John 3:16
--Rom. 5:8
--Tremendous truth

3-God PROVIDED SALVATION in the Person & Work of His Son
--Rom. 5:8
--1 Pet. 2:24
--1 Pet. 3:18
--Isa. 53:4-6

4-Salvation comes BY PERSONAL TRUST in Christ as Substitute & Savior--John 1:12
--John 3:36
--Rom. 10:9, 19, 13

CONCLUSION:

A.-The Facts:
1-Called to be **witnesses** when we are saved
2-Frequently we fail in our witness

B.-The Failure:
1-Costs us fruit & blessings
2-Costs others their SALVATION opportunity

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3-Costs God the "many sons" Christ is wanting to bring unto Glory.

C.-The Fulfillment:

1-ILLUS--On December 6, 1878 a man died who might be called the **PAUL OF THE 19th CENTURY**. His name was John Vassar. He was not an ordained minister. Once, in the army, he was offered a chaplaincy at $125.00 per month. When someone suggested that the money was the cause of his seeking ordination, he refused to go on with the exercises, and continued as a colporteur with 1/5th the salary.

Vassar's heart was full of Christ. The dollar had no glitter for him. He was **sent of God** to pull men out of the fire. From that midnight when, under conviction, he rushed to his wife's bed and cried,

"HOW CAN YOU **SLEEP** WHEN YOUR HUSBAND IS GOING RIGHT DOWN TO **HELL**!",

until the last "hallelujah" from his lips before he died, he acted on the principle that "THE KING's BUSINESS REQUIRETH HASTE."

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Whether canvassing from house to house the stree of aristocratic Boston, or praying in a Nevada Mining Camp, or conducting a revival in army of Grant before Petersburg, his motto was,

"THE ZEAL OF THINE HATH EATEN ME UP."

He touched men with an electric shock. With every one he met, he had a duel of wills. His one question was:

"MY FRIEND, WILL YOU KINDLY PERMIT ME TO ASK YOU, HAVE YOU BEEN **BORN AGAIN**?"

So humble, kind & wise was the spirit that prompted the question, that seldom was he rebuffed. **Thousands** will be eternally glad that Vassar asked them that question.

Shown into the presence of **General Stewart**, whose scouts had captured him, he immediately pressed the question of personal salvation upon him. To save having a prayer meeting all the way back to Richmond, the General sent him instead back to the Union lines.

Visiting a **young lady** who ran upstairs, he asked that the door be open. He knelt at the foot of those stairs and sent a prayer past her up to heaven.

At a fashionable boardinghouse in Boston, a **proud lady** of unbelieving heart met him. When he had gone, she said to her husband, "THERE HAS BEEN A MAN HERE TALKING TO ME ABOUT JESUS CHRIST."

"Why didn't you shut him up?" he asked gruffly.

She replied that he was not one of the kind you can easily shut up.

"If I'd been here, I would have told him to **go about his business**." was her husband's answer.

over

To that the wife answered, "IF YOU HAD SEEN HIM, YOU WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT HE WAS ABOUT HIS BUSINESS."

Such incidents jostle the sense of propriety of tame, prudential half-hearted, average, worldly church members. Vassar, like Luther, Wesley, Whitfield, and Moody was not content to sit like a gilded bottle on the shelf of a drugstore, while the sick world died.

Vassar came down and emptied himself into needy hearts with healing power. A red-hot enthusiasm for Christ, plunged instantly into the midst of lukewarm piety, will inevitably produce a reaction.

HE THAT WOULD MOVE MEN must himself be moved, and come to others with a sense of urgency which tells them that it is not

"BUSINESS AS USUAL",

but that he, at least,

must be ABOUT THE MASTER'S BUSINESS.

2-How will it be with you??--------

--In a day when good news is sorely needed.

--In a time when the SITUATION IS DESPERATE with the souls of so many

--Will you MAKE EXCUSES ??

--Or will you

** NOW
** GO
** TELL ??

3-God will be holding each of us accountable!.

Westbrae--10/29/72 #409--"My Faith Looks Up To Thee"
Dryld Park Blvd Bible Ch. 5/1/77 #395--"Make Me A Channel Of Blessing"
Fellowship Bible Ch.-Burlingame, Ca. 9/3/81 #397--"Rescue The Perishing"
Merriam Christian Chapel, IND. - 11/11/81

"THE LESSON OF HISTORY" (84)
"A CASE STUDY IN REVIVAL"

2 Kings 22:1--23:30
1 Kings 13:1-3
22:1-14 Reading (1)

INTRO:

A.-The Name:

1-The Bible--either it is predictive prophecy
--or it is pious fraud
--There is NO middle ground

2-~~FOUR~~ SIX men in Scripture whose names & deeds were predicted in advance
--Cyrus, King of the Medo-Persian Empire whose name is mentioned 2 centuries before his birth (Isa. 44:28)
--John the Baptist
--Jesus the Savior
--Josiah, the King who was mentioned by NAME & by DEEDS (1 Kings 13:1-3) — 350 years before his birth

Ishmael
Isaac

B.-The Man:

1-Josiah, King of Judah
2-Lineage--Grandson of Manasseh
--Son of Amon
--Both were WICKED MEN
3-Capsulization of his life
--2 Kings 22:2
(1)--Divine Standard--"He did that which was right in the sight of the LORD..."
(2)--Human Example--"...and walked in the way of David his father..."
(3)--Personal Consistency--"...and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left."
4-Who would have expected so FAIR A BIRD from so FOUL A NEST ?

C.-The Lesson Of History:

1-Repair of the Temple
2-Rediscovery of the Word
3-Renewal of the Work of God
4-PROPOSITION--To show the place of the Word in spiritual progress in any age, and to determine a PERSONAL RENEWAL before the Lord.

I.-REPAIR OF THE TEMPLE:

A.-Begun Promptly: (2 Kgs. 22:1-3; 2 Chr. 34:1-7)
1-Josiah came to the throne at age of 8
Personal → 2-At 16 he began to seek God while still young (2 Ch.34:3)
Public → 3-At 20 he waged war against idols & idolatry(2 Ch.34:3)
Positive → 4-Constructive work of REPAIR begun at age 26 (2 Chr. 34:8)
--Repair
--Cleansing
--Come back to the primacy of the House of God
--1 Tim. 3:15--"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
5-Promotes worship of the true God & repair of Temple

at the hands of the Egyptian Pharoah Necho

6-Killed at age 39 when many are just starting their life's usefulness (2Kgs. 23:29)

7-Don't put off till "LATER" doing the good that needs doing-------THAT MAY BE TOO LATE !

B.-Willing Helpers: (2 Kings 22:4-7; 2 Chr. 34:9-13)

1-Task is too big for 1 man alone

2-Others were willing helpers
- --Hilkiah the High Priest
- --Levites --2 Chr. 34:12-13
- --Keepers of the door
- --Artificers, artisans, & craftsmen
- --MANY are needed who share & shoulder the tasks

3-FAITHFUL men who could be trusted
- --with the task (2 Chr. 34:12)
- --with the finances (2 Kgs. 22:7) — Not even made to account for funds
- --Parallel--"And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band ofmen whose hearts God had touched." 1 Sam. 10:26
- --Let us place trusted men in leadership and then TRUST THEM — Proven in advance

C.-God Provides The Needs: (2 Chron. 34:9):

1-TWIN PROBLEMS
- --Proper gathering of money
- --Proper expenditure
- --Facing our nation & our churches
- --Not a new pair of problems at all

2-God's work is done thru FREEWILL offerings

3-This is always God's pattern
- --Ex. 35:4-5; 36:6
- --1 Cor. 16:1-2

Read

4-Thank God for His faithful ones
- --They get the blessing now
- --They'll get the reward in His presence
- --They have a right to "a say"

5-Others--ought to say less
- --ought to discover the "way of gladness"
- --2 Cor. 9:7--"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver."

5-Thus, there is often something of a preparation for the Word of God which then directly influences the spiritual progress in an individual & in a nation

II.-REDISCOVERY OF THE WORD!

A.-The Bible Lost: (2 Kings 22:8-10):

1-Israel was a repository of the Word--Rom. 3:1-2

2-Israel had her worship cluttered up with ritual apart from the Word-- MAN-MADE !

3-Israel had strayed into idolatry as a result

4-Many churches today--go right on with their program
- --go right on with their ritual
- --go right on with their activities
- --But the Bible is LOST to them

--AND---the Bible is never even missed
--ILLUS--Gradually happened
--Frog placed in cold water will allow itself to boil to death without extricating itself, because it happens gradually

5-Amos 8:11-12--"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of the hearing of the words of the LORD: and they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it."

6-Today--No Bibles in pews
--No Bibles in S.S.
--No Bibles in pulpit & sermon
--No Bibles in the people

7-DUST on the Bible means DROUGHT in the soul

8-Foundation of revival is finding anew of the WORD of God

B.-The Bible Found:

1-Convition--2 Kings 22:11
--Heard the Word
--Rent his clothes
--Personal revival due to the hearing of the Word
--CONTRAST with the attitude of Jehoiakim, Josiah's son, 25 years later at the Word coming to him
--Jer. 36:22-24 Read

2-Concern--2 Kings 22:12-13
--Knew that the truths of God had been neglected & violated
--Saw that God's wrath was sure
--Wanted to know whether any hope remained for him & for his people
--Rom. 3:20--"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."
* --If we hope to see a genuine work of God in hearts, it must be thru the preaching & teaching of the Word of God.

3-Modern Era--Gutenberg's Bible printed in 1445 greatly accelerated the Protestant Reformation & opened up the pathway to power for the gospel
--English R.C. priest--"We must root out printing, or printing will root out us."
--Bibles ceased to be a luxury & a curiosity & everyone could afford a copy
--FISHER--"The greatest service which he (Wycliffe) did the English people was his translation of the Bible, and his open defence of their right to read the Scriptures in their own tongue." (Hist. of the Ref., P. 275)

C.-The Bible Understood (2 Kings 22:13-20):
1-Hesitation to act without further light & understanding
--Need for prophets & teachers
--ILLUS--Acts 8:30-35
2-Consultation with Huldah the Prophetess
--She lived in Jerusalem
--Jeremiah lived in Anathoth
--Zephaniah apparently was not available
3-Message of judgment for sin is confirmed--22:15-17
4-Message of comfort personally for Josiah
NB --22:18-20
--Because of his heart for God
--Because of his humbling himself
*--Even in the midst of much evil, God remembers and rewards the righteous
--Josiah will not see the judgment which is sure to come
5-Message of the gospel is similar
--GOOD news to the believer
--BAD news to the rejector
--Mk. 16:16--"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned"
--2 Cor. 2:16--"To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life."
--Zephaniah's contemporary words:
** Speak of the Day of the Lord
** Immediate reference is to Nebuchadnezzar's invasion from Babylon
** Prefigurement of the Tribulation
** Message of invitation still open to all who will hear on an individual basis
* Zeph. 2:3--"Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger"
6-Thus, we seek the PLACE OF THE WORD in spiritual progress in any--and every--age. Let's look ahead to...

III.-RENEWING THE WORK OF GOD (23:1-27):

A.-Revival Of The Nation (23:1-3):
1-Gathering of ALL of the nation to hear the Word
--23:1-2
--All elders
--All men
--All of Jerusalem
--All priests
--All prophets
--All the people
2-Influence of godly Josiah
--23:3a — "And the King STOOD...
--ONE MAN can influence MANY for good & God if he will stand
*--Revival can follow such a STAND
--Specific covenant proposed

--2 Chron. 34:31-32 (read)
--This was full of expected action
--Lives were to be DIFFERENT
--Shades of Joshua 24
--Time to quit playing & get down to business
--Judgment is COMING for sure
--Not willing to be a "quitter" in the midst of a gloomy situation

Not just talk, but PERFORMANCE (5)

3-Reaction of ALL THE PEOPLE
--2 Kings 22:3 b — "And all the people STOOD..."!
--With all their heart & all their soul
--They stood to the covenant as they joined Josiah in STANDING

4-Spiritual revival of the nation was due to the personal revival of ONE MAN

5-Revivals have to be renewed constantly
--Later judgment came upon Israel
--Not because God was capricious
--But because Israel failed to keep their walk "fresh"
--Can't live on yesterdays blessings
--Your walk with God must be, like His mercies---NEW EVERY MORNING — IS IT?

B.-Removal Of Paganism (23:4-20):

1-Josiah went further in thoroughness than any other reforming king before or after his day
--Idols were cast out
--Horses & chariots to the sun god were destroyed
--Priests were cast out & slain
--Altars & high places were cast down---Some had stood for 360 years
--Immorality was put away

2-Though other kings had tolerated these spiritual cancers Josiah did not

3-Josiah feared only God--Not sin
--Nor sinners
--And Josiah served God with his WHOLE HEART

Really QUITE A MAN!

4-Nothing and no one stood in his way of real "clean-up"

5-Note this--Spiritual idolatry & moral corruption go hand in hand
--So must their demise
--Can't claim Christ as "light of your life" on the one hand & go gleefully on in the "pleasures of sin" for a season
--A BREAK is essential — CLEAN-UP
--SEPARATION of life is a "must" if we're to have real revival — 1 Thess. 1:9-10
* TO GOD
* FROM IDOLS

C.-Return To Fellowship (23:21-25):

1-Walk of fellowship & devotion renewed
2-Done God's appointed way
3-Passover re-instituted
--with real heart
--with real devotion
--with real blessing

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--Because following "as it is written in the book of this covenant" (23:21)

6

4-Proper proceedures according to 2 Chron. 35
--Josiah challenged the priests
--Priests were cleansed
--People were prepared
--Much giving sacrificially was done in the service

5-2 Chron. 35:16--"So all the service of the LORD was prepared the same day, to keep the passover, & to offer burnt-offerings upon the altar of the LORD, according to the commandment of King Josiah."
--To KEEP the Passover
--Fulfillment of law
--Enjoyment of fellowship

6-Divine verdict----2 Chron. 35:17-19 — "there was no passover like to that kept in Israel"

7-So....we see the place of the Word in spiritual progress leads to a personal and corporate renewal of a godly walk before the Lord.

CONCLUSION:

A--The Lesson Of The Man:

1-Time to BEGIN to serve God is in early youth
--Because we may never live to be old — Josiah didn't
--Because there are fewer hindrances
--Because we have a longer time to serve God
--Because God has a work for us which will occupy our whole life, not just its dregs. + LEFTOVERS

2-Leads to purer & better life in adulthood

3-Service of God is so good & so worthwhile that the whole life should be spent in it

4-See it in Josiah--2 Chron. 34:3
--2 Kings 22:2 — KEY VERSE!
** Divine Standard
** Human Example
** Personal Consistency

5-Divine evaluation of such a life
--2 Kings 22:19
** Tender heart
** Humble will
--2 Kings 23:22-25----NOTEWORTHY SERVICE — A special passover, A special servant of God!

The B--Lesson Of The Word:

1-Bible is lost by--Neglect
--Careless reading
--Reading to find fault
--Disobedience to its precepts
--SIN in the life

2-Bible is found by--Continuous reading
--Prayerful study
--Immediate obedience
--Loving devotion to God & God's Word

Decisions of one's own WILL

3-The Bible was **forbidden** to the common people, & scarcely known even to the priests and preachers of the Church. **Luther rediscovered it.** The **printing-press** gave him a larger audience than any voice could reach, and all Europe was thrown into a ferment by the Bible translated into the vernacular. (7)

Wherever that **open Bible** goes, there goes the impulse of a new and divine life. The **secret power** of the Reformation lies in the appeal of Luther **from** the **traditions** of the Church **to** the **Word** of God.

4-Application--**Note the difference** between the nations with the Bible & those without it
--A nation, having lost the Bible, may become **so corrupt** that there is no hope of reform
--Even so, individuals may hold to the Bible in heart & life, and be blessed and saved.
--**BUT, BEWARE** of holding the truth **in your hand** and **not** holding it **in your heart** so that your **life is RENEWED**

NB

C.-Decision Time:

1-Let us LEARN "The Lesson Of History" From this case study in REVIVAL

2-To believe & be saved as youths--or as young as we are BEGIN NOW!!

3-To **unreservedly yield** our lives
1--**Repairing** what's **broken down**
2--Rediscovering God's Word
3--**Removing** what's wrong in our lives that shows the remnants of a life controlled by SIN and SELF.
4--Renewal of vows before the Lord!

4 KEY CONCEPTS

4-May we join with Charles Wesley's song in our souls:

"Behold the servant of the Lord!
I wait thy guiding hand to feel:
To hear and keep thy every word,
To prove and do thy perfect will."

5 PROPOSITION RESTATED — We've seen the place of the Word of God in spiritual progress in any age!
Let us determine a PERSONAL RENEWAL before the Lord!

6 → Here are THREE PRAYERS FOR REVIVAL which I urge you to pray daily.
1. "REVIVE THY WORK." (Habakkuk 3:2) We need to pray for the work of the Lord world-wide.
2. "REVIVE US." (Psalm 85:6) We need to pray for revival in our local church or fellowship.
3. "REVIVE ME." (Psalm 138:7) You need a stirring in your own heart. And so do I. Therefore, let's be humble enough to pray, "Revive me, Lord. Set my own heart on fire."

Westbrae

10/12/73-Oak

5/1/77 - Druid. Park Blvd. Bible Ch, Augusta, GA. - SS
4/12/87 - OKBC