

(1). "A Bush in the Wilderness".

What expected of me today?

Introd.:— (1). Let me not fail to join you in thankfulness today, as meet here. Nor fail to glorify God. Nor fail to congratulate those..gave money, time, labour, careful hours of planning construc...financing. Those who prayed. All this it takes to build a church such as this.

(2) ~~BUT~~..I have not come here to tell you how happy you are. Superfluous. The glory and the joy are obvious. Just fin. critical days. Hard days. Bel. you experienced deep satisfac. in working together..praying together?

AND NOW WHAT? Will you be utterly shocked if I suggest that your best days may be over? Does that strike discordant note? Or have we not yet learned that hardest days are best days of life? Well said: "The north wind made the Vikings".

Crisis..trouble..difficulty..battle..can bring out best... My heart stands still when think of that epic struggle of Robert Scott..party of 5..to S. Pole by dog.sled..1912. Reached goal..to find ^{Amundsen} coming from other side, 1st. Then long return..disaster..2 men fell..3 went on..blizzard One man..Lawrence Oates..affectionately Titus Oates..deeply frost-bitten..feet..hands..hours to get gear on in morning. March 18th.."I am just going outside and may be some time". Walked away..Gone. Cairn:"Hereabouts died a very gallant gentleman". Struggle, adversity brings out best in man.

AND NOW WHAT? (S.S. teachers so happy..~~scarcely~~ know what do. Pastor excited..Deacons radiant..and paint hardly dry ^{on} ground ..and I bel. God has asked me tell you we all on dangerous. Preposterous? Bel. time sit down..learn some vital truths.)

I. Let me do something I don't oft. do. TAKE A TEXT!

(a). Want use it to prophesy..to tell future of what this church can be..and how. And this applic. to ev. individual

TEXT:— Exodus 3:3-5. Tremendous event..real history..ref.

(Br 20:27) —to by our Lord. In story there is more than a hint of His own incarnation..lowly bush of desert, so mean, poor, yet indwelt by Deity. c/f our Lord..Deity indwelling lowly for BUT chiefly given to prep. Moses for life-work. Crisis day

(1) Moses "turned aside to see"..from his sheep-keeping..money-earning. This we all need. Time with God..to see what God has for us. Vision must precede duty..This was a Pentecost for Moses..a rev. and giving of power by which alone succeed. A stopping to look & listen to God can change whole of life. May today be such a looking time for us. Turn aside..see what God has for us..fitting to face new days..new life.

II. Four things about this bush will teach us much.

(a). It rep. Israel, burning in fires of affliction in Egypt. To us it well rep. the Church..and its members.

And FIRST thing we need remember is that it was just a bush. A picture of Church in her humiliation..as world sees it. God not choose towering cedar..lofty palm to rep. us..but shaggy thorn..acacia (wild)..like those dotting ~~sand~~ desert wastes on that mtn side today. A bramble, bristling with thorns..no fruit..scarce giving any shade. DANGER TODAY THAT WE THINK WE ARE CEDARS OF LEBANON..but God knows us to be insign. thorn bushes. Micah 7:4. God save us all from pride today..Yet thank God hope for briers..Isa. 55:13. That is not nature but grace of God. X bore thorns away in His crown..that from those thorns we might gather roses of His grace..be fruit branch (b). SECOND matter is prophecy of tribulation. The bush was on fire! Happen here? Why not? In building this church for service of God..offended Satan. He will object! Ev. one of you set to live for Christ..object for devil to "consider" like Job. "set the heart upon". c/f Israel in time of Moses..Satan determined to destroy..Ev. stone in treasure cities Pithom, Rameses cost, we are told, a human life. So this Church called suffer. The lot of God's children..I Peter 4:12-13. If no suffering..something wrong..II Tim. 3:12. Was Head of Body crowned with thorns..and shall members be garlanded with roses..live at ease? Suffering is God's GIFT to church..Phil.1:29. All of us. I pray this for you! Humility and tribulation. Fear it not. Productive of best. c/f/ "Tribulum"..a flail..but used to beat out the CHAFF from wheat. Churches need. I need. You (Repeat this:-) 30 mill people always remember Nov 10/65..and time..5.24 p.m. NY City plunged into darkness. Elevators slid to standstill..Subway trains rolled..stopped..for hours..Traffic lights blinked off..left snarled chaos..Times square neon went out as tho. boy pulled plug. Stranger than any fiction! Mill. people trapped underground in subways. Later..sign..explained cause..then:- "Thank you: when it was the darkest..you were your brightest". What challenge to ev. X'n..eve. church.

III. Other two matters give us other side..that of good cheer.

(a). THIRD:- That humble, fire-enveloped bush preserved intact What was the great sight? The bush was "not consumed". Lived, flourished, vital, surviving the flame. How could it be? Just one answer. GOD WAS IN THE BUSH. Secret of a church's vitality is constant presence of Lord..in power. Gates of hell cannot prevail. HOLD CHRIST ALWAYS AT CENTER OF LIFE..CHURCH..INDIVIDUAL..in obedient love..never fail. (c/f Ichabod).

(b). FOURTH..finally. Parable of sanctification. "Draw not nigh hither..put off thy shoes..holy ground". That glowing flame not only type of suffering..but of indwelling Deity..c/f sword of fire at Eden..Pillar of fire with Israel. The key to a holy life is God-possession. If would be holy..God must be in the bush. There is only ONE Holy Life. If be holy..must let Holy One dwell within. Sanctity is not repression of evil..Any

(X)

LENIN SAID: "Religion is the opiate of the people...
There is no God...Even the very idea of
God is unutterable vileness."

STALIN SAID: "Give me fifty years and there won't be
one Christian left in Russia...There is
no God; but woe unto us Communists if
there is a God."

KRUSCHEV SAID: "I will close the churches with one blow"

BRESHNEV SAID: "By 1980 the Church will be dead in
Russia."

JESUS SAID: "I will build my church; and the gates of
hell shall not prevail against it."
(Matt.16:18).

heathen moralist can teach that. Sanctity is the life of God in a man..church..outshining of Divine life within the soul. Then every bough and twig in the weak bush can radiate the heavenly light. He will consume the dross out of us, and make our lives glow with light and love to all men. THIS CHURCH MUST BECOME A HOLY PLACE..DEDICATED TO GOD. THIS BODY OF MINE..YOURS..HOLY TEMPLE..GIVEN TO GOD.

Shine (Resurrection Life)

Introd:- (1). Do I have to say that we need, in this day of overwhelming, bitter and rank apostasy..a mighty fire of the Holy Ghost upon this Church..ourselves individually. WHEN? TODAY..of all days! This is the sight that men will turn aside to see. The best sermon is a holy life..burning shining, enduring for God.

(2). I pray for this place..this church..for you, and for myself..a life of humiliation, tribulation, preservation and sanctification.

It can begin today..NOW..if we WILL.

It means an act of deep dedication, not of bricks, beams..but ourselves. Humility..bowing low..utterly at His disposal..time, talents, possessions, means, money, family... SURRENDER.. II Chron. 7:14...

c/f Paul.."A servant of J.C." Not "the"..There are others. In his day slave not rights of a dog. No SPCA for slaves. UTTERLY HIS MASTER'S PROPERTY. Dare I? I WILL! Let the bush burn! With trials..but with presence of X. Let me not wait to be holy enough. Let me open life wholly to the Holy One..who alone can make me holy. COME!

*Edmonton Fund Bk Ch - Feb 6/66 (Dedication Day)
Ambassador Bk - Calgary - Dec 31/74 - (mortgage burning)
Mayland Heights " 12/21/75*