

(1). "And Moses Was Content."

~~Going to take a text..unusual for me.~~

Introd:- (1). Let me begin today with the words written about a Backslider. One of most vivid examples in Scrip. His name? If ever ask Jewish people the name of greatest man who ever lived..what think most of them reply?

Not Jesus. Illus:- Dr. Hansing discovered a way to inject anesthetic into certain spot on spinal column.. that relieves at once pain of childbirth. Dealing with Negro lady in great pain..calling on Jesus to help her. Dr H. tried calm her, while Jewish assistant, preparing to insert needle in delicate spot.."We are all on same team. And Jesus will help you." Jewish Dr. muttered.."This is first time I've been on same team as Jesus."

Jew wd. prob. not name Abraham as greatest..but MOSES. Wrote 1st five books..containing all Law and ceremonies... Read through in synagogues once each year..Rosh Hashana. Mighty Lawgiver of God..the great man of Jewish thought!

(2). But about him..I want read words that once utterly condemned him as backslider..the most dreadful, devastating measure of a man ever written..and amazingly WRITTEN BY HIMSELF ABOUT HIMSELF..under direction of Spirit of God. How you like to write abso. ^{true} autobiography at God's dictat THIS IS WHAT WAS WRITTEN:- "AND MOSES WAS CONTENT."

(c). Was that an anticlimax? Expecting something diff... some great, glaring sin? Does this sound innocuous..even like a compliment? Doesn't God tell men to be content? Ah, but we have not seen the context yet..the circumstance under which Moses WAS content..and that makes all diff. When we do..and und. what those circum. were..this text will stagger us with its fearful implications. And per. carry convicting power of H.S. re our contentments.

Backslider (one with contentment) is great you

I. Begin to read the story of this man..at Exod.2:21.

(a). And to pick up story..ask familiar ques..Who..where? ..why..what doing..when? 1. WHO? The chosen one of God given the task of delivering Israel from Egypt. And he knew it! Acts 7:23-25. "When he was full 40 years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: FOR HE SUPPOSED his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not." But at once we see Moses und. CALLED OF GOD..TO SPECIFIC TASK OF DELIVERING PEOPLE.**** 2. WHERE? This man..such a man..called man..(3:1) "The backside of the desert." Which was backslide of Moses.

Jeremiah once said this: (Jer.9:2) "Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them!" He wanted to retire from the ministry..and run a motel on a desert highway. MOSES FOUND HIS MOTEL..away from where the action was.

3. WHY? Story plain..Exod. 2:13-15.."And when he went out the 2nd day (after killing the Egyptian and hiding his body in the sand) behold, two ~~men~~ of the Hebrews strove together and he said to him that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow? And he ~~said~~, Who made thee a prince and a judge over US? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses FEARED, and said, Surely this thing is known. Now when ~~Pharaoh~~ heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian, and sat down." Moses ran to save own skin..to find security for self.. and left God's task for THAT. And this today is a favourite "why" of the backslider.

4. WHAT DOING? Story goes on..Exod. 2:16-21, 3:1a. (Read). Somewhat amusing..as far as Jethro is concerned. Daughters came ~~home~~ early from well. Asked. "A man helped us". "WHERE IS HE? WHY HAVE YOU LEFT HIM? MEN DON'T GROW ON BUSHES. GET HIM!" You see, he had 7 daughters..and here they had let a man get away! Father greatly concerned! "Call him". And sure enough..Jethro married one of his girls to this man Moses..AND THE TRAINED, EDUCATED FUTURE RULER OF EGYPT..PRINCE OF THE COURT..tended flock of sheep. Anything wrong with being a shepherd? NO. Honest occup. David was. BUT BE WRONG FOR HIM TO STAY A SHEPHERD WHEN GOD HAD CALLED TO BE A KING! Unless a man is his BEST for God..he is in backslidden condition. "And Moses was content". ARE WE?

5. WHEN? May the answer to this question shock and disturb all of us! Here is reason for Moses' contentment being a backslidden state..Exod. ~~3:7~~ 2:23-25. "The children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up to God by reason of the bondage. And God heard their GROANING..3:7 "And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people..and have heard their cry..I know their sorrows." AND MOSES WAS CONTENT. Isn't it now unmistakably plain? And have you heard any groaning today..of lost men..of discouraged X'ns? Do we face apostasy that is damning souls of men.. and do we sit CONTENTED? This was mighty complaint of the sycamore prophet..Amos.6:3-6. Do we need this rebuke? (read).

II. Now we do well to try learn how God broke contentment.

(a). And, believe, me, this has very modern flavour.
HOW CAN OUR SLEEPY, CONTENTED X'NTY..OUR DROWSY DEACONS..
OUR CHEERFUL CHARLIE CHURCHES..BEDRIDDEN BELIEVERS..be
stirred for God? There are indeed ways before us that we
ought to have trodden and that we have not yet trodden..
How can the laymen and playmen of the church be roused
to live as mighty influences for God in modern world?
(b). I have an answer. IT TAKES A MIRACLE! Maybe you
don't like that. But I tell you from long experience..it
DOES. Try stirring young people in B. Sch..by teaching,
exhorting, disciplining, encouraging, arguing, exemplify-
ing..and see some respond and some still dead and dull.
ONLY A MIRACLE MOVING OF GOD CAN DO IT. See what God did

to Moses..to shake his contentment all to pieces...
Exod. 3:1-6. (read). Like the fire that fell at Pentecost
to empower the waiting disciples..so that burning bush
denoted the presence and power of the Spirit of God.
We need to cry to God today for a new, seeping, mighty
baptism of the Holy Ghost..to shake us out of our evil
contentments! (And by that I DO NOT mean necessarily a
speaking in tongues. If God gives a man that facility or
gift, and it does him some spiritual good, well and good.
But the teaching that a man MUST speak in tongues in
order to have the Holy Ghost is not in my reading of the
Book.) BUT WE DO NEED THE MIRACLE TOUCH OF THE SPIRIT OF
GOD...and with that the disturbing and burden it brings.

(c). Is day of miracles past? Believe in miracles?
I know..men today try to explain away the supernatural.
Illus:- Preacher on TV panel..4 atheists.."Red Sea miracle
?" "Yes. "Only 4" of water"..Hallelujah..Praise the
Lord"..Why say that?" "Miracle..drowned Pharaoh and all
host in 4" of water." ~~Yes,~~ Let's dare ask God for miracle
that will fill with zeal.."Zealou".."fire"..Burn for God.
God FOUND MOSES...and Moses was AFRAID. Strange?

New both

III. I think that right here we often flounder & hesitate.

(a). Why did not Israel go into Prom. Land under Moses?
AFRAID. Too much opposition. So Moses feared..and offered
God five diff. excuses. Just name..you read later.
INSIGNIFICANCE..IGNORANCE..INSUFFICIENCY..INARTICULATION..
INADEQUACY....If I ask God stir me from contentments by
His Spirit..how will I tread this unknown way aright? Fear
How face Satanic powers? What do if sin? How win others?
(b). Now what God did for Moses..certainly he can do for
us. Time forbids our reading of all the life of this man
..but evident God made him a man of PRAYER..PRAISE..PROMIS

Secondly:- He gave Moses three precious possessions.
His Presence..3:12.. "Certainly I will be with thee". Claim
His Name..3:14 "Thus shalt thou say unto the children of
 Israel, I AM hath sent me ^{me} to you." And we have the NAME!
His Mouth...eloquence...words..4:12 "I will be with thy
 mouth." Can we trust our God for this today? Witness!
 Thirdly:- He gave Moses three great privileges..that are
 always the sign of a man whose contentment has been rocked
 and smashed by the Holy Ghost..
Exod. 4:2-4 (read). Power to petrify the serpent. At
 first Moses fled..but later he faced the serpent. God says
 to us "Resist the devil, and HE will FLEE from you"..He
 is vulnerable to faith! Let's have a running devil!
Exod. 4:6-7. Power to get rid of defilement..uncleanliness
 "If we confess our sin, he is faithful and just to forgive
 our sin, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
Exod. 4:9 Power to draw water from river of God's Word..
 pour it out on dry and thirsty souls about us, and see
 new life spring up.

Conclus: 1. What a glorious prospect, ~~for 1970..this~~
~~way we have not yet gone!~~ WHO TREADS SUCH A PATH?
 WHO HERE DARE BE CONTENT WITH LESS THAN THIS WHEN A LOST
 WORLD IS ALL ABOUT US?..AND AS APOSTASY STALKS ABROAD?
 May I go back to the history of Paul..and one of his
 great confessions. In Romans 1:1 he begins his signature
 like this: "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ." For "servant"
 he chose the Greek word "Doulos".. "a slave."
 Not "THE slave"...There were and are others.
 And a slave in Paul's day did not have the rights of a
 dog. There was no SPCA for dogs..nor SPCS ~~for~~ slaves.
 He was utterly the property of his master..for life or
 death. And Paul trod the path of life..the SLAVE OF
 JESUS CHRIST..and found his only contentment in doing
 the Master's will.
 2. Am I less than that? Less than what I could be for God
 Am I content with it? Men, will you pray with me..
 "Lord, LIGHT A FIRE"..in my soul. Make me wholly Thine,
 I pray. Fill me with Thy Spirit. Let me tread this un-
 known year as Thy slave.
 I quote ~~again~~ Amy Carmichael of India..."Let me not
 sink to be a clod, Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God."

"I'll walk with God"

Duff-Burnett MD May 31/70

Red Deer - Innocent YP

May 22/70

Ottawa - Mr. Bible Ch. Coll.

Prince George BC - Evang. Free - May 8/70

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Evang. Ch. Laymen Retired - Banff - Jan 18/70 + Carleton Place - June 7/70

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Amorwood - Nov 29/70

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Killarney Bap - May 16/71

Strath - Oct 17/71

For Creek - Mar 12/72

Ross Haven B. Camp - July 16/72

Edmonton - Bap Bap CMA Jan 9/73

Meadow Lk. Park - CMA - Mar. 11/73

Proctor - Mar. 12/73

Luxeland Bible Camp - (Kandensky - Kemboer) July/73

Granbrook CMA - Sept 9/73

Grassy Lake M.B. Ch - Apr 30/73 - (Lehlo. + Gooddale ref.)