

ACT 5
4:1-13

(1). "God's Mighty Man of the 20th Century".

Intro:- (1). In the year 1912 a White Star Liner sailed from S. of England..A mighty ship..852' long..displaced 46,328 tons. Supposed to be unsinkable..but on Sunday evening, April 14..smashed into iceberg..sank in 3 hrs taking to watery grave 1,517 men and women and children. Men had named her "Titanic"..name from Titans, fabled giants of classic mythology. She was biggest afloat. She was boast of braggart mankind. His own creation..so great that not even God's waves, storms, winds overwhelmed her. When left harbour..some sang parody on Gospel song.."There is not a ship like the great Titanic". Boasting little man!

(2). Has any century seen the braggarts that this 20th has? This seems to be little man's big day! Many of us well remember the Austrian ~~rener-hanger~~..little mustache..who became the strutting Hitler of infamous memory..And puffy, bemedalled Mussolini, who threw his fighter planes against helpless spearmen of Ethiopia..mowed down like corn. Yet these died like dogs..Muss. strung up by heels in public square. Today we hear sword rattling of Khrushchev..vituperations of a Castro..bravado of Nasser of Egypt..Rantings of Nkrumah of Ghana..bitter distiches of Mao Tse Tung of China..etc... And some big political talkers in our own land! **LITTLE MAN'S BIG DAY!** Getting world ready for some bigger men.. Two in particular..Rev. 13:15-8...11,15-17. MR BIG..in political realm..and MR BIG in ecclesiastical realm. WATCH!

(3). And in these stirring, turbulent, stormy days..we live YOU..Me (YOU, unsaved man or woman..in deadly peril..**DEADLY**) YOU, Christian man, woman..with a few precious days left! WE..together..in age of Titans. AND HERE TO LIVE FOR GOD. How? What God want to do in man's big day? Is He looking for some Titans of His own? For mighty men of 20th cent?

I. Bel. we can learn well today from vivid..famil. OF story.

(a). History learns from history. Flesh and blood learns best from flesh and blood. For this reason God wrote O.T. Today..think again of one of God's Titans..one of giant prophets of old..and what he wrought. N.T. speaks of him more than of any other O.T. prophet. His name was **ELIJAH**.

(b). Appeared on scene suddenly..thunder on brow..tempest in voice. Disappeared just as suddenly, swept to heaven in whirlwind..escorted by chariot of fire. In between is the story of this prophet of fire..and his mighty ministry. And he lived in one of history's great crisis times. Heed.

II. Take time look first at character of this man God used.

(a). Do us good to see what sort of man God chooses..uses.

PHYSICALLY:- Not man of city..but of country..striking to eye. Little concerned with conventionalities. Wore a cloak...or mantle..but clothing rough..hairy..leather belt...II Kings.1:7-8 Known..recognized at once. This we need? NO..but there ought be something about us whereby men might be able disting. in any company the representatives of King of Kings. There ought be pervasive joy resting on all do or say. like sunlight on hills. We who know God ought have spiritual buoyancy..fine serenity.. ..strong, healthy pulse of holy living, in forceful persis and (b). MORALLY..Men saw him as man of courage..as strode into audience chamber..denounced king face to face..Single-handed challenged whole priesthood of State religion on Mount Carmel... I Kings. 18:19-21..You know glorious outcome..how fire fell..... Yes, he was human..ran away later on..under a juniper tree. But you and I ought take courage from his lack. WE TOO CAN STAND. God can give US..human as he was..the faith..zeal he had..! We do not need more men..we DO NEED BETTER MEN..WOMEN. God does

III. And take time to look also at Elijah's ministry.
(a). If Isaiah is the mighty prophet of words..Elijah is the mighty prophet of deeds. He wrote little. Only one record..of one terrific sentence..123 words..to Jehoram (king)..(II Chron. 21:12-15) Elijah's devout impenitency and tempestuousness did not accord with patient penmanship! Man of action rather than diction. Dynamic, not academic...HE WAS EVER UP AND DOING! And too many of X's today down and sleeping! God stir us up!
(b). Man of miracles. And that means man of power..God's power. Oh how we need this today! Think of this:- Acts 4:13. The boldness and power of Peter and John was not fruit of culture. Known as "unlearned"..Lacked academic gown..robe of scribe..Tongues untutored..And "ignorant".."idiot". Yet there they stood.. with firm spiritual serenity..clear thought..speech..an irresistibleness of life..and BOLD FOR GOD! "They marvelled"..It is something when a bel'r. can make world wonder! How? Back in vs 8.."Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost"..Peter plus the Infinite. AND THIS WAS ELIJAH TOO..Spirit-filled.."Sp. of liv..
(c). Man of reformation. He was a true PROTEST*ANT..against ev. evil of his day. Few left today..All going back to Rome.. Ecumenia siezed churches.."Luther a fool..Wesley an idiot". "Let Baal be worshipped rather than have drought come" "Don't disturb things". "Let disease run, rather than cruel surgeon use knife". Yet best thing happen in apostate churches wd. be for hearers to denounce the preacher..Get back to the BOOK!

IV. Finally..look at Elijah's significance..meaning for today.
(a). Two pungent, penetrating truths for us to learn.
FIRST:- When wickedness develops into extraordinary proportions, God meets it with extraordinary measures.There were MIRAOL in Elijah's crisis day. Gods which Jezebel worshipped were supposed give dew, rain. So true God suspended for 3 1/2 yrs!

Those who went beyond mechan. obedience..to whole-heart committal to God..succeeded. "We shall not flag or fail.. we shall never surrender". Committed when die cast! TODAY I BELIEVE DIE CAST AS NEV. BEFORE..WE ARE FACING THE FINAL SHOWDOWN WITH EV. IMAGINABLE EVIL POWER.

What wilk out heart response be? Half-interest..or whole-! What this church need today? Just obedience? Or that which is beyond obedience..the love that commits all to X?

(b). I suggest four things to which we ought to bind our-s as that book was bound to its stone..in utter abandonment.

1. Isa. 49:18 "All these (thy children) gather themselves together and come to thee..thou shalt surely clothe thee with them all...and BIND THEM ON THEE." Do we do this?

Are you BOUND to fellow-believers..to this church-people? As High Priest bound breastplate on bosom..with names of 12 tribes in it..so God binds His people to Himself..and so ought we to bind ourselves to God's people here. Are you COMMITTED to God's people..in church fellowship? Or a half-hearted church tramp?

2. Acts 12:8 to Peter in prison.."BIND on thy sandals." Why? Peter going somewhere! Out of jail to serve God! May God take us all out of our jails..our narrow goals & puny ambitions! The half-hearts live to serve self..and God occasionally. Let men BIND themselves to service.. Commit..to witness, pray, teach SS class, sing, missionary

3. Psal, 118:27 "Bind the sacrifice with cords to the altar Why? Because we can take it off again so easily. Or if living sac. of our body, it can jump off. BIND IT! with cords of commitment, dedication, determination and unconquerable fidelity. THAT is STEWARDSHIP. Tie it down Some dither about a faith promise. Why? Uncommitted?

4. Deut. 6:8. "Thou shalt BIND these words for a sign upon thine hand..and between thine eyes." Job 31:36 about the written word.."Surely I would take it upon my shoulder, and BIND it as a crown to me." Prov. 3:1,3 "My son, forget not my law..BIND them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart." Isa. 8:16 "Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples." Do we do this? BIND THE WORD OF GOD TO EV. PART OF LIFE. It deals with every part..to condemn or to commend. Take it? Or half-obey? Or wholly committed to its teachings..commands?

(not the X'n)
Conclus:- 1. Does all this need a stated conclusion? Or is it in heart already? The die is cast. What shall we do? TODAY GOD NEEDS MEN, WOMEN WHOLLY GIVEN TO HIM..WITH NO RESERVATIONS. (clipping). God help usall! God help us bind ourselves over to God..as His very slaves.. Bound to each other..bound to service..bound to stewardsh

And above all bound irrevocably to His Book...and to Him who loves us...and gave His all for us...BEYOND OBEDIENCE. Will you?

This also gives us the key to our preparation for Pentecost. If we are looking for honor, acceptance, and the applause of men, or if our morale tends to sag when nobody praises us, we are not fit for Pentecost.

*Abuses, Law, Band acts, Cer - even pre-meditated
- some description - bodies*

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