

LK 10:25-97

"LORD OF  
"THE CLOSED SOCIETY".

Introd:- (1). Picture with me..dark night..muffled figure slipping from shadow to shadow..to heavy, closed door.. Knock..again...finally panel slides back from peep-hole.. eye appears..Man at door asked admission. WILL HE GET IN? That will depend on whether or not bone fide member of that CLOSED SOCIETY..the select few who have shut selves in.

(2). ~~Here in my hand..example~~ of closed society. Good one. "Creation Research Society". (quote from back page). Hundreds of top scientists. Bd. of Directors 10 PhDs. Few here qualify to get in. Purposely closed group that it might present top scientific witness for Jesus Christ..Bible

(3) Many other closed societies..for cooperative efforts. Knights of Columbus..Masons..Oddfellows...and all the animal varieties..Moose, Elks, Lions etc. You are in or out! A Dr. wanted make Lion out of me..but felt I didn't fit being married to a DEAR!..and family of one KID. (*Back of alleged not been*) Others for professional interchange of ideas and maintenance of ethical standards...DOCTORS..LAWYERS..MINISTERS..CBMC.. GIDEONS. Qualif. necessary for each (Ministers..Laymen). Closed societies..for better and some for worse!

I. Now at once it is clear we need some closed societies.

(a). The communistic philosophy does not..will not..cannot meet inmost needs of human ego..personality..psyche. NATIONS close their borders..control influx..for preserv. of health, standards of living, form of gov't. Some out. CHURCHES build doctrinal doors..to maintain purity of belief..worship. Otherwise how easily ungodly take over.

*unmus* c.f seminaries..whole denominations. c/f Berean Board. FAMILIES maintain home..lock doors. No hoodlum allowed in To preserve quiet, peace, love, relationships. OURSELVES maintain this. Inner man where emotions surge..ambitions nurtured..beliefs settled. We share or not..

(b). All these NEEDED. You and I must have a closed place somewhere..for our strength and renewal..Church..Home.. private closet.."When thou hast shut the door." IMPERATIVE This is the "Quiet Time"..the "Secret Place of the Most High". This world drains spiritual life, vigour away. Our Lord Jesus perceived that "virtue had gone out of him" when a woman touched His garment. So He withdrew..prayed ..often all night. That was His "closed society"..Alone with God. Ev. one of us..in our sphere..must find this. Vance Havner.."Jesus said "Come ye apart and rest awhile". If you don't, you will just come apart." True. Illus:- Card in pocket.."Beware of the ~~Business~~ of a ~~Busy~~ Life". "LORD, I HAVE SHUT THE DOOR".

LORD I HAVE SHUT THE DOOR.

Lord, I have shut the door, Speak now the word  
Which in the din and throng could not be heard;  
Hushed now my inner heart, whisper Thy will,  
While I have come apart, while all is still

Lord, I have shut the door, Here do I bow;  
Speak, for my soul attent turns to Thee now.  
Rebuke Thou what is vain, counsel my soul,  
Thy holy will reveal, my will control.

Lord, I have shut the door, strengthen my heart;  
Yonder awaits the task - I share a part.  
Only through grace bestowed may I be true;  
Here, while alone with Thee, my strength renew.

II. And yet..there is another side to all this matter.

(a). The Closed Society can become snare..grievous fault. I think you recog, it at once..THE SECLUSION COMPLEX. THE HERMITAL WITHDRAWAL..perhaps fully exemplified in the cloistered nun or the austere monk in monastery walls. We become like that? Good to ask "Why do I build fences?"

(b). Let me suggest three conditions that produce closed..First:- Already mentioned..DEFENSE. Often necessary. But even this can turn to an undesirable thing. We can DEFEND ourselves too much..bec. of fear. Illus:-

People excuse many compromises by declar.."Well, you know, I have to live..a fellow has to live." Do you? Why?

Luke 10:31. "And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side." Why? "Don't want to get involved"...Went home..good supper..soft bed..locked door. Conscience knock?

Second:- SELFISHNESS. Akin to what just said..but broader Self-centered..At ease..slippers on, easy chair, TV tuned Closed society of me, wife, children. "I have made me a cosy life and nest. Name on church roll. Business prospered And here I am till Gabriel's trumpet blows. And hope it doesn't tonight. Too comfortable..Lk. 11:7 "Trouble me not! the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed." Shut door..family in..soft bed. HOW MANY X'NS LIVE YEAR AFTER YEAR LIKE THAT? Tragedy of our day.

Third:- CALLOUSNESS. Apathy instead of sympathy (no passion inst. of with passion). Lk.11:46. "Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! (After He had fin. with the preacher )..for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers." How hard..indiff. can we get! You and I can SHUT OURSELVES UP.."Build a sweet little nest, 'way out in the west, and let the rest of the world go...to hell."

Conclus:- 1. God forbid! LOOK AT THE CONTRAST!

Jesus Christ the Lord.. Lord of a closed society of 12 men Lord of whole nights of closed fellowship with His Father. Lord of lonely Gethsemane, where He withdrew Himself a stone's cast. Yet how utterly open He was!

- Scoffed at as "Friend of publicans and sinners."

- Virtue flowing out of Him to others.

- Up all night with troubled Nicodemus. (until morning breeze stirred)

- John 4:6 "Jesus..being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well." And won the Samaritan woman to Himself

Finally hung on cross..side opened..life flowed out for all world.

Ear opened to will of God.."Mine ear hast thou opened (slave)

84 times in 4 Gospels..Jesus used imperative "GO"  
Few times "Come".. "Unto me..rest"..BUT Mk.1:17 Come..Go.

2. SO...Shall I then shut myself up in my ivory tower..  
Be a king in my counting house, counting out my money..  
Queen in my parlour eating bread and honey...?  
WHAT DO WE NEED? Early church commanded..Acts 1:8. <sup>BY</sup> LORD  
What do? Closed society of Jerusale<sup>m</sup>! And world dying!  
What God do? Acts 8:1, 4 "And at that time there was a  
great persecution against the church which WAS at Jerusalem  
..Therefore they were all scattered abroad..and..went  
everywhere preaching the word." The nest was broken up!  
The closed society split apart..in all directions. <sup>at last</sup>  
HOW WILL GOD CRACK OPEN OUR CLOSED LIVES?? How scatter us  
?? <sup>Compulsion</sup>

FORCE of persecution? Break up the churches? PERHAPS!  
3. But there is another way..and God always moves this  
way FIRST...The only other force is COMPELLING, OBEDIENT  
LOVE.

HE LOVED. He loves me. He loved the children, with whom  
this organization concerned. As I contemplate..und. that  
love...a reciprocal love is born in me. Isaiah cried:  
"I saw the Lord...Here am I, send me"...out of my closed  
society where I found strength..Now send me OUT to needy  
souls.

Send me...Send my children...Send my money. <sup>Talents</sup> Send my  
prayers...Send my influence...Send my heart. <sup>LORD</sup>  
Illus:- Joe Wetherly.."I'm going to hail".

Mk. 1:17. "And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me,  
and I will make you to become fishers of men."

(CLIPPING) -

Church not built as soul-saving station  
but paint - planning station - c/k Early church.  
- yes - a few paved in church - Ives.  
c/k I Cor. 14: 24 "If"  
But most stay outside. Definitely  
8/8

Brentwood Bap - Aug 5/73

Edmonton FBC - Feb. 2/69

Happy Hour Bible Club Banquet - Nov 3/67 (Calgary)



AUG 4 / 73

Jesus People on march

# Evangelists in blue jeans

NEW YORK — They call themselves evangelists in blue jeans.

"Praise God," they declare as they greet one another with right hand raised in salute.

They carry Bibles, hum tunes from Jesus Christ Superstar and Godspell and browse in bookstores featuring Christian-oriented reading material.

Members of this American subculture include idealistic youth and former drifters, drug users and antiwar activists trying to return to the mainstream of life.

They tend to be ultraconservative in their religious views, leaning toward fundamentalism and often practicing glossolalia — the speaking of tongues.

These are some of the characteristics of the Jesus People, the young men and women who are out to convert the world to their brand of Christianity.

Some of their elders regard the movement as a fad that will go the way of the hippie craze of a few years ago, but whatever it is, the Jesus movement has drawn thousands of earnest young people who think they have found their answer, whether they go it alone or gather

weekly prayer meetings under Pentecostal Church auspices.

A major problem confronting the movement is the existence of the Children of God, an extremist group that turns youngsters against their parents and alienates them from society as a whole. The organization figured prominently in recent news when Ted Patrick, a former California community relations expert, helped parents kidnap their own children from Children of God communes.

This offshoot of charismatic youth religiosity does not represent the main thrust of the Jesus movement, however. For the most part, the movement is unorganized, functioning more as a spontaneous outpouring of religious zeal by individuals or groups.

The National Jewish Monthly, fearing possible anti-Semitic overtones in the massive efforts to Christianize American youth, made a special study of the Jesus People. The publication found that this unique youth revolution represents a return to the messianic concepts of life and salvation while rejecting the traditional approaches of established religious institutions.

It is, by and large, a street movement involving white middle-class adolescents and young adults who seek to convert those of their own age and economic group.

Jesus People do their "work" wherever they go — to movies, in airport lounges, in coffee shops, in arcades, in night spots, at rock concerts, on beaches and on campuses — wherever young people congregate.

Their message is basically fundamentalist — the Bible is the "word of God" to be taken literally. They hit hard on abstention from drugs and extramarital sex and they stand foursquare behind total commitment to the Gospel in one's daily life.

These and many similar activities have been described as "mainlining Jesus," and "taking the new trip." There are those who have expressed concern over the possible exploitation of youth by anti-intellectual and reactionary political forces.

The most zealous Jesus People are convinced that it is their mission to convert the rest of the world to Christianity, their brand of Christianity.