

(1). "The Soldier with a ~~One~~ Track Mind".

Introd:- (1). What is most objectionable quality of a mosquito? NO, not his sharp proboscis...prototype of all hy-dermic needles (mere human imitations)...NOR irritation produced by his (ardon me, HER) attack. Most miserable quality is her ONE-TRACK MIND! Refuses to be side-tracked until sidesmacked! Persistent to point of obstinacy!

(2). To say of human being "One-track mind" is usually an insult. Not always justified as such. Sometimes we make accusation bec. person will not see things our way..(Right way!) Some become obsessed with one supreme desire..devote life to it. c/f Money..some worship trinity of Gold, silver and copper. Their straight, inflexible path crosses every "S" in their speech, and turns it into dollar sign. One-track! Others are sports-mad..pleasure-mad..sex-mad. Running full steam along side-tracks..made them main-track

(3). God save us from one-tracks and side-tracks. But another danger is "All-tracks". The hail-fellow-well-met runs this way. Runs with the hare..and with the hounds. Piece of flabby amiability..."~~Ami-~~ability". Able to be friends..with everybody! No ruling passion..no conviction..going nowhere in 17 directions! c/f Pharisees..Mark 11: 29-33. God save us from being "All-Track minds"..like

"all things to all men" WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT OF US? Well-developed, many track minds..like Solomon I Kings 4:32-33..Like our Lord..who based variables on farming and fishing and baking and horticulture and prospecting and merchandising and investing and weddings and births and house-building...on and on. BUT IN TRULY FOUNDED LIFE THERE MUST BE ONE MAIN TRACK and all these others feeding into it..contributing to it.

I. Let me take you to little-known signif. illus of this.

(a). Four characters involved, a king, a prince, a general and an unknown soldier. Let me first of all read record. II Sam. 18:1, 4/5, 9-14. Now may God speak to all of us!

(b). The first character in story is King David. At this time a rejected King. A minority of people still loyal to him in spite of general rejection. Followed him..shared his exile..his contempt..his despoising. Willing to suffer shame for love of the King. Forsook ev. worldly advantage..possession..lived as strangers, wanderers, pilgrims, not knowing what ahead..when called upon to die for King..having no certain dwelling place..hardy soldiers. AND THERE IS A CLOSE PARALLEL TO THIS..~~xxxxxx~~ I Cor 4:10-13. Today we have a rejected King..Our Lord Jesus..and we live in this world as a minority..called to be His good soldiers.

(c). The second person in the story is the Prince...Absolom. Brought into being by the King. Good name that his life belied Ab-Shalom... "Father of Peace"... and he stirred up bitter war... sought life of one who brought into existence... usurped him... And here I think of another like him... Good name of Lucifer... "Light"... "shining... morning star"... And became author of all darkness... des-air... sin... Satan. Sought to dethrone his Maker and today is Prince of this world... John 14:30... Actually killed the Prince of Life... Today hailed by multitude... obeyed... enjoyed. And only opposed by minority... and these he hates and hunts. The King and the Rebel! In deadly conflict then... and today. Mind of Rebel set to destroy King and all He has. *"High Treason" Bishopman*

II. The rest of the story concerns two of King's soldiers.

(a). Both filled with honest zeal. Good fighters. Knew their business. Mind had a soldier-track in it. One was General Joab... named... well-known. Other was common soldier... unnamed in record... anonymous in life and death. No record of who was. Look first at General Joab... for he represents many of God's soldiers today. On the battle-field for the King. A leader fully qualified to lead. Bold, brave, successful, strong, keen BUT HE FINALLY REBELLED AGAINST KING HE HAD SERVED SO LONG! Staggering truth! I/ Kings 2:28-29, 34. In his life there was one fatal flaw. Learn it! You know story. Absolom caught up in oak tree. Per. by long hair. Here is lesson by the way. He was proud of his beauty. When had yearly hair-cut... even weighed it to see how much grew! Some MAN! So, as pride was Satan's downfall... so of Absolom. Pride catches many a man leaves him "hung up"... helpless... leaves him dangling... NO WALK! *2 Tim 2:14*

(b). Then was Joab's opportunity... for glory, fame. Killed him. IN DIRECT DISOBEDIENCE TO KING'S EXPLICIT COMMAND! Why do that? Well, he RATIONALIZED away King's command. Sub. own human wisdom. "practical... sensible". "I think I know better". And it was beginning of the end for Joab. The first seed of rebellion and rejection. A LITTLE disobedience. c/f young men, women... marry unsaved. c/f "Here am I, send my sister". "Bring ye all the tithes"... Don't love God dime in dollar. TIME WE LEARNED GOD MEANS EXACTLY WHAT HE SAYS. OBEY GOD.

(c). Well, here is 4th man in story... Anonymous... Unknown soldier He seems so insignif... but stupid... despised of the despised. Hated by enemy... and scorned by own general... not worth having patience with (vs. 14). Not worth naming in the records.

BUT... This man... many tracks to mind... a soldier... a good husband, father... citizen... This man found in place in God's record bec. he did two things... one positive... one negative. HAD A MAIN TRACK 1. He knew the King's command... and implicitly obeyed it. *(2 talks)* vs. 12b THE MAIN TRACK! Center of life... will. Our Lord said of Himself "I COME TO DO THY WILL, O GOD". DO WE? Like this glorious unknown soldier? c/f Blank sheet... sign name...?

Ask self vital ques. Do I, to utmost knowledge..OBEY the commands of my King? Obe~~y~~^y the BOOK? The SPIRIT?
 2. Second rail to main track certainly of equal importance for first depends upon it. Parallel rails to make one main track....THIS UNKNOWN HERO..REFUSED PROFFERED REWARD FOR TAKING A SIDE*TRACK! Without that rugged self-denial he would never have obeyed God's command. Read again:- vs. 10-12a. Offered goodly sum of cash..AND A GIRDLE... BELT OF OFFICE..symbol of position. promotion..raising from ranks of ordinary soldiers to that of a commissioned officer..Among Heb..such a richly wrought girdle was mark of honour..oft. bestowed as reward of military merit. AND THIS MAN SAID "NO". "Not even if put 1,000 shekels actually in my hand..I would drop it". HE DIED TO SELF. And thus able to LIVE UNTO GOD..HEARING..OBEYING HIS WORD.

Conclus:- 1. I leave the application in your hands. It is unmistakable. Already our hearts surely asking.."AM I on the main track..where God wants me? Am I set to do His will?" All work of Satan will be to sidetrack..make something else more imr. than doing will of God with a sel that has died. Satan will bid high. Illus:- Hounds and coyote and rabbit. Bid for you..shekels..honour..fame promotion.. 2. And in it all we may seem to lose out in our obeying of God's commands. May mean insignif..loss.. sacrifice..death. This soldier lost, didn't he? Or did he? His earthly king prob. never heard of him..what he refused to do..what he did. BUT IN HEAVEN THE GREAT KING KNEW..WROTE THE RECORD HERE. What office will he have in God's Kingdom? How compare then with Josab? And our KING still knows..and His reward is in His hand!

Jon Elliot:- "He is no fool, who gives what he cannot keep,
 To gain what he cannot lose. "

Klles:- *John Theodore Roosevelt* - home from Africa

Missionary on home boat

Meadows RR -

galt. Ont - Forward Bep - June/66 "you're not home yet"

RR - YP Dec/68

EUB - Centre Pt. N - Calgary - Oct 31/65

Valleyview - June 6/65

→ OVER

MA - Grande Prairie - May 23/65

5th Ave Tab - Vancouver - Mar. 21/65

(Obituary Submission)

Transfer - Nov 22/64 (new bond)

Edmonton FBC - Sep/13/64

Bassano - Aug 13/67

River Camp - Banmore - July 26/64

Camerton Keswick - July 12/64 - group from Baspran Bep - Toronto present

Mulland, Ont - RMA - July 5/64

Rimley Naz. Ch. - Feb. 6/66 - (purified process)

Provoost - July - 7/66

Burlak CMA - Edmonton - May 21/67

London - MB Ch. - Oct 15/67 - (Dome for meku)

~~Frontier~~ + Meeting Creek - Oct 28/67

Terrence - High River X'n Men's Group - Mar 18/69 - (Nelson - B. Deamond etc)

Leslieville - Jan. 19/69

Battleboro, B.C. - (Calgary Bch) - Feb. 9/69

Namor Gosh. Ch. - Nov 14/69

New Lake B. Camp - July 24/71

Mayland Mts Bch. Calgary - Sept 14/77

Mark 11:29-33...And Jesus answered and said unto them, I will also ask of you one question, and answer me...The baptism of John, was it from heaven or of men?...And they reasoned within themselves..If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then did ye not believe him? But if we shall say, Of men; they feared the people: for all men counted John, that he was a prophet indeed. And they answered and said unto Jesus, We cannot tell.

I Kings 4:32-33. And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five. And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowls, and of creeping things, and of fishes.

I Cor 4:10-13..We are fools for Christ's sake..we are weak..we are despised..we both hunger and thirst, and are naked and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; and labour, working with our hands: being reviled we bless: being persecuted we suffer it: being defamed, we entreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.

John 14:30/ The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

I Kings 2:28-29, 34. Then tidings came to Joab: for Joab had turned after Adonijah, although he turned not after Absalom. And Joab fled unto the tabernacle of the Lord, and caught hold on the horns of the altar, and it was told King Solomon...So Benaiah, fell upon him and slew him.