

THE LORD HATH NEED

Sermon Preached By the Rev. A. C. Dixon, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

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Text "The Lord hath need of them." - Matthew 21:3.

In the previous chapter the mother of Zebedee's children came to Christ, worshipping Him and desiring a certain thing of Him. In worship we give to God what He is worthy of: in prayer we may simply beg, and sometimes the desire to get it in the way of our giving. This mother seemed to worship with a view to getting from Christ what she wanted, which was that her two sons might have a high position in the coming kingdom. Thus it is that desire sometimes mars worship. We give to God only that which we may get from Him. Selfishness is the happy that comes in to defile the feast of our worship.

We need so much from Christ that we are apt to forget that He needs anything of us. But the Lord Jesus, the King of Glory, has put Himself in such a relation to us as to be for our good, dependent on us. After we have received from Him what we need in the way of forgiveness, cleansing and salvation, the purpose of our lives should be to give to Him what He needs.

And He needs our faith. He could do no mighty works because of their unbelief, and He may stand among His people to-day, unable to work because they will not trust Him with their faith. He needs our love. He would love men through us. A wicked world is apt to be convinced that Christ loves them in proportion as it sees the love of Christ in His people. He needs our hope. God cannot use a despairing man. He works through the optimist. He needs His truth intimate in our lives. The truth in the Bible is His revelation, the truth in Christians is His manifestation. The best translation of the Scriptures is the translation into human life. The truth printed is important, and we should scatter it far and wide, but the truth lived is more important. Men who reject the printed truth will be constrained to accept the living truth.

Christ needs a Christly character. The Virgin Mary gave Him a human body, with hands, feet, eyes and lips, with which to do the will of God. That human body, glorified, ascended from the top of Olivet, and will come again in glory. The need of the present age is a re-incarnation, not in our bodies, but in many, the whole church making up the body of Christ. He needs you for your feet with which to walk, your eyes with which to see, your heart with which to love, your hands with which to work, and your lips with which to speak. But the effectiveness of all our activities depends upon our Christly character. It is estimated that every cannon must be one hundred times heavier than the ball it throws. If the cannon should be lighter than the ball there would be more danger behind it than before it. A man should be a hundred times more than what he says or does.

Christ needs our money and our property. The donkey was a very humble beast, noted for its insignificance and the hardness of its back. In war, it was used as a pack horse, and in battle, it was used as a mule. Christ had need of it. If we can use a donkey, we can use a man or woman, however insignificant and unworthy. Hereafter, therefore, do not give an excuse for refusing to work for Jesus that you are not equal to the emergency. Our only excuse is that unless you are lower in the scale of being than the donkey himself, the Lord Jesus can use you.

Our business is to supply the needs of Christ, and there are two ways of doing it, by giving directly, and by asking others to give. The owner of this boat loaned it to the Lord without hesitation. It was doubtless inconvenient for him to do so. He may have been a long way from home, and to give up his animal may have disturbed his plans for the day, but he did not think of his own convenience. The seed of the Lord was the argument that prevailed with him. So it may be inconvenient for us to give what Christ needs of time, effort and money, but let us remember the value of the gift is enhanced when there goes with it the spirit of sacrifice. The mission of the disciples, on the other hand, was to ask from this man the use of his beast for the Lord, and it may be our mission to ask others to give to Christ that which we have not. It is a trial for some of us to ask for money. It is more blessed to make it and give it. If the disciples had owned a donkey they would doubtless have gladly given it to the Lord rather than ask another for its use, and yet asking for money which the Lord needs should be as delightful to us as giving money, because in inducing others to give we are bringing to the Lord a greater blessing than they impart. Nothing this man ever did may have given him and his family so much pleasure as the thought that he had willingly yielded, at inconvenience to himself, the use of his property to the Lord. I can imagine him saying to his wife as he returned home that night, "I had a part to-day in the triumphal procession of Jesus." I can imagine that he would set such a value upon his donkey that no money could buy it after it had become associated with the Lord of glory. And whatever Christ uses becomes, the more valuable by such use. We hear of stocks doubling in value in one day, and the money that we invest in the cause of Christ may increase in value ten fold. What we lend to Him will, in some way, come back to us multiplied.

Again, if we give to Christ what He needs, others will be led to do the same, and more. The multitude brought their bright oriental garments and placed them upon the ass that Christ might sit upon it. So many garments were brought that the colt, though no one rode upon it, was also decorated with them and then they were spread in the road before them. The people took palm leaves, the sym-bols of triumph, and spread them in the way. The example of the man who gave the use of the ass to Christ was contagious; others caught the spirit, and so a good deed to-day is contagious. A blaspheming Herod has said that if he had created

the world, he would have made health contagious rather than disease. Health is contagious. To live with a robust, healthy person is better than medicine. So faith, hope and love are contagious. The man of faith produces faith, the man of love leads others to love, and the man of hope makes others hopeful.

At an exhibition in England some time ago the prize was awarded for the most artistic book cover to a Miss Matthews. The judges who awarded the prize did not know that Miss Matthews was really Princess Victoria, the daughter of the Prince of Wales. In early life she had asked her mother for permission to become a trained nurse, in order that she might make herself useful to somebody. Her parents refused this request, but she determined that in some way she would be useful, and therefore gave her attention to art. You may be sure that the art of decorating book covers received an impetus when it was learned that the Princess was engaged in such work. It became a fad among the upper classes. Doing good leads others to do good.

A step further in supplying Christ's need we are always fulfilling the purpose of God. This man little thought, when he consented to allow the use of his ass, that he was becoming a link between prophecy and fulfillment. I can imagine him reading the chapter in Matthew before he died, and with what astonishment he learns that by that simple act he was adding a proof to the claim that Jesus Christ was Divine. For one argument in favor of His divinity is His fulfillment of prophecy. He may have read in the Old Testament Scriptures, "Hold thy King cometh to thee meek, and sitting upon an ass," and they may have thought of the Scriptures when he saw the Lord riding at the head of the procession. If so, it must have been a joy inexpressible to know that he was working with God in this great event. He gave the animal to Christ just because he needed it, and such a thing always be our motive. We give to Christ not for a seat in glory, but to please Him who gave himself for us.

To be all the time seeking personal salvation without striving to help others, is a refined sort of selfishness. I read the other day of a cattle ship wrecked off the coast of Wales. The sailors on board noticed that the pigs were good swimmers, and seemed to be making their way toward the shore; so they tied cords to the legs of the pigs, hoping that the people on shore might rescue them by means of cables attached to the cords. They were not disappointed. When the people on shore noticed that the small cords tied to the pigs, they began to throw them in, and soon the end of the cables appeared, and by means of the cables the sailors on board were brought to safety. Well, what application can be made of such a pig story? I thought as I read it. There are some people who are simply intent on saving their own necks; they are swimming just for their own lives, they are careless about everything else, and yet their earnestness in trying to save themselves may be used of God in saving others. Such pig-like selfishness is not to be commended, but God may make even the selfishness of men to praise Him.

Another principal underlying this text, which comes out clearly in the context, is that our giving to Christ what He needs, be it much or little, will sooner or later result in glorifying Him. When the people saw Christ riding on the ass covered with the gay clothing, some of them must have thought of the prophecy and cried "Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna in the highest." The whole multitude takes up the strain and the air is filled with His praises. The man who gave his beast struck the keynote which thus swelled into an oratorio of praise.

The whole city was moved with a spirit of inquiry, "Who is this?" they ask, and if all Christians should give unto Jesus what He needs, all the cities of all the earth would soon be stirred by such a spirit of inquiry. They could not help asking the reason of such a commotion. As a result of this inquiring spirit many of the people confessed Him in the words, "This is Jesus of Nazareth." And when Christ needs in the way of faith, love, hope, truth, character and money has been supplied, the number of converts will be multiplied by the thousand. God is waiting upon us to supply the channel through which His blessing may flow.

Great results often come from apparently little things. The son of a spectacle maker was playing with some lenses, and he noticed that the wethercock on the church steeple was turned upside down as he looked at it. The father caught the idea and that day was born the telescope. The fall of an apple led to the discovery of the great law of gravitation. Carving with a penknife on a tree suggested movable type, and from that came the printing press and the civilization that followed. Matthias Joyce was a wicked drinking, gambling wretch who went to one of Mr. Wesley's meetings, drawn by curiosity and the spirit of criticism. The sermon did not move him, but when he saw the old man after the sermon so gentle and loving with the children that looked about him, the heart of the wicked wretch was broken. Christ entered and Matthias Joyce became one of Wesley's most earnest evangelists. Wesley doubtless thought the great event of that meeting was the sermon; but his speaking to the children may have been used of God to do more than the sermon. A meeting which I held in a Southern town years ago seemed to be a great failure. There was no spiritual movement among the people. I feared that it was time wasted, and yet five years ago I learned that one of the most useful evangelists pastors in the South was converted during that meeting. The failure may have been the greatest success of life. In Ceylon the little church needed a house in which to worship, and a young native convert by the name of Maria Peabody offered to give a lot which was to be her marriage dowry. The Ceylonese knew what that meant, and urged her not to act so foolishly, yet she persisted in making the sacrifice and the church was built. This young Ceylonese woman was named Maria Peabody, because she had been educated with money sent from America through a Mrs. Maria Peabody. When Dr. Poor came to this country

he expressed a desire to meet Maria Peabody, that he might tell her how much good her money had accomplished. At a meeting in New Hampshire he requested the audience to inform him of the whereabouts of Maria Peabody. If any one knew where she lived, at the close of the service Maria Peabody introduced herself, and Dr. Poor congratulated her on the good that she had done. "I am sorry to say," replied Mrs. Peabody, "that I am not the one who gave the money; it had been sent in my name; but the donor was my black cook, Louisa Osborn, who now lives in Massachusetts." She said that

Louisa, though she received but a dollar and a half a week as wages, gave 50 cents a month to foreign missions, and on her return from missionary meetings one night she said to her mistress, "We were told at the meeting that \$20 a year would educate a native girl, and I want to give it." Mrs. Peabody told her that was too much to give out of her small wages, that she could not lay aside anything for a rainy day, and for old age. Louisa thought a moment, and replied, "The Lord will take care of me; if I cannot do better I can go to the poorhouse, and you know in heathen countries there are no poorhouses; only Christians help the poor." Dr. Poor became all the more anxious to see this humble Christian, and in Lowell, Mass., he announced, after telling the story to an audience, that he had heard Louisa Osborn lived somewhere in that vicinity, and he would like very much to see her. As he was leaving the church a black woman in the vestibule approached him with extended hand. He said, "This, I suppose, is Louisa Osborn?" "Yes, sir, that is my name." "How did you come to give the money to educate that girl?" inquired Dr. Poor. "It was the Lord that led me to do it," she answered. And thus the poor black woman, by supplying the needs of Christ in Ceylon, became really the mother of the church, which has since for years glorified her Master. Her crown in glory may be brighter than the crowns of some who have given their millions, for God counts not the amount we give, but the sacrifice we make. Jesus Christ is worthy that we should supply all His needs, and the results in time and eternity will justify any sacrifice we may make.

Iron Ore. It is not generally known, except to the initiated in metallurgical details, that iron chemically pure is too soft for mechanical purposes. It is, in fact, rarely found in native masses, but mineralized in ores with different elements, metals and substances. In the form of oxides, chlorides and fluorides, and when reduced to a metallic state, these alloys combine; upon such alloys or combinations depends the commercial value of the ore. Thus, the mineralized ores of iron are brought through the agency of the blast furnace to the well-known metal designated "pig iron," the constituent elements of which are of the utmost importance to the foundry man, as upon these depend the value and usefulness of the cast metal. Now, the alloys which with iron will combine equally chemically, and mechanically, when reduced in a blast furnace, are thirteen, six of these being electro positive, and seven electro positive. The electro positive are calcium, magnesium, barium, zirconium, aluminum, manganese and zinc; copper and zinc are pyro-electro, and change polarities with iron at different temperatures. The electro-negative metals are chromium, vanadium, copper, cadmium, cobalt, and nickel.

For the Preservation of Elephants. If all the powers and States holding territory in Africa would agree to strictly prohibit the export of tusks under a certain weight, say fourteen pounds (or portion of such tusks), and would faithfully carry out such agreement, all small ivory would become valueless to the owners. The African does not like to waste his powder—he would soon cease slaughtering the small and undersized elephants. Not many cows exceed twelve pounds in weight; and one result of this prohibition would be that in course of time, as soon as the news had spread throughout tropical Africa that small tusks were no longer of any value, neither cow elephants nor undersized beasts would be shot for their ivory. It might be expedient even to go a step further, to make it a criminal offense to be in possession of tusks under fourteen pounds in weight.

There can be little doubt that if such a course were agreed upon and carried out, the result would be that the present indiscriminate slaughter of small elephants and cows would be long ceased.

Record of an Examination. The record of an examination held in Natal by the superintendent of education contains some gems. Here are specimens: "Mr. Gladstone was the first man who ever knew English grammar thoroughly. He was educated at Mr. Rugby's school." "Bismarck was a very clever man indeed. He invented steel and made it into iron. He was succeeded by his father as viceroy of India." A paper was set on "Health and Temperance" and contained this question: "Write out some simple directions to be followed in cases of convulsions in infants." This was one of the answers: "Put the infant quickly into a bath of boiling water up to the neck. Put ice on his head. Then give him a mild epidemic, followed by a teaspoonful of castor oil."

Cookery for Boys. It is not in reason, perhaps, to expect the boys of the family to be brought up to a knowledge of cookery. Still every boy should be sufficiently instructed in this very art and be able to cook without making a disgusting and unpalatable mess of it, the attraction of any other equally simple and common article of food. All boys need not be and should not be cooks, but every young man of 18 or 20 should, for the sake of being able to meet a possible emergency in domestic or national life, know how to boil rice, stew fruit, fry bacon and make coffee. The idea that it is beneath the dignity, or does not belong to the duties of the boys of the family to assist their mothers and sisters when occasion requires in the domestic realm is inimical to the production of good soldiers, and it may be added, of good husbands.

MODERN CAUSES OF WAR.

The Samoan incident has become noteworthy as a lesson in the modern causes of war. The nations involved have apparently decided that the material interests in Samoa are not worth fighting over, while the matter of principle at stake can be adjusted without resort to arms. Their governments have taken steps to arrive at a better understanding, and the quarrel at Apia seems to have degenerated into a sort of squabble over personal and trade matters.

Two hundred years ago, or even one hundred years ago, nations fought on slighter provocation than has arisen at Apia. A small quarrel between two ambassadors or princes or prominent subjects would often be the beginning of protracted strife. The character of the cause used to be different. Wars were not more frequent then than now. But they were more apt to arise out of the petty quarrels of individuals in power and over some trifling matter like a bow of ribbon or a course of justice, or some fancied personal slight. They depended on the ruler's caprice and were often waged to vindicate his personal honor. The interests of the people were not considered, though the people had to stop the bullets and pay the expenses just as though they were. The sovereign owned them and they did what he told them to.

With the decline of absolutism and the rise of constitutional government public policy has become the main consideration. Civilized nations would not think of fighting one another to soothe the ruffled feelings of some favorite of the sovereign, and hardly for those of the sovereign himself. The country's interests must be considered first. The people who must pay the expenses demand a voice in determining whether they shall or shall not fight.

It makes a great difference whether the government owns the people or the people own the government. The difference is not in the number of wars, but in the results and in the principles they settle.

As time goes on and the things for which nations will and will not fight become more clearly defined, war may tend to disappear, the punishment it entails on victor as well as vanquished, getting a wholesome regard for mutual rights among nations. That time, however, is a long way off. The important fact now is that warring, like all other functions of government, is coming more and more under the control of public sentiment, and is becoming a matter of public instead of private policy.

THE SEARCH FOR ANDREE.

If by-and-by the daring man who started off for the North Pole in a balloon should turn up or be discovered alive what a sensation there would be. There are those who still think he will, and among them are some who know much about what he would have to contend with if he got far on his journey. Among them is Professor Nordenskjold. The search for Andree is to be kept up until it is entirely hopeless. Professor Nathorst considers it an urgent duty to continue the search for him, as long as the slightest possibility exists that he and his companions, Strindberg and Frankel, may be still alive in East Greenland. Supposing that Andree was successful in reaching the most northern part of the East Greenland coast, it is not impossible, he thinks, that the rest of the time available for travelling in 1897 and the summer of 1898 was insufficient to allow him to reach the Danish government settlement and the Herranz mission, established four years ago in the most northerly colony of the Eskimos, at Angmagssalik, in sixty-six degrees north. The fjords, which run deep inland, with their plentiful fauna and musk oxen, encourage the hope that Andree and his companions would be able to support themselves. Professor Nathorst will start with a strong steam-whaler and try to force a passage through the ice-barriers on the coast of East Greenland, near the most northern point reached by the German Polar expedition—Cape Bismarck—and then to push northward, either by sledges or boats. The enterprise is guaranteed by the offer of a Norwegian merchant, Herr Hammer, of Christiania, to equip the steam-whaler Reela for the expedition.

If Andree is found he can have what he wants, for awhile at least. His experience would bring him money and fame.

A STARTLING FACT.

Some experiments were made recently in France on the penetrative power of bullets through snow. The Lebel rifle was used, and at a distance of 160 feet the bullet penetrated only five feet into the snow target. A bullet from a Lebel rifle has been known, it is said, to go through a tree of 3 1/2 feet in diameter—presumably through the full length of the diameter—that it should penetrate only eighteen inches farther into such soft stuff as snow seems altogether startling. The explanation suggested by the experimentalists is that the rotating bullet picks up particles of snow as it goes in and so gets "balled," or blocked up.

The atmosphere of London is particularly bad for statuary. It covers everything with a layer of black and even corrodes stone. This was recently noted on St. Paul's cathedral, where the heroic statues of the apostles on the coping are in a very bad state of decay. A close examination reveals the fact that they are pitted as if eaten by insects, and three of them were in such bad condition that they had to be firmly clamped and braced to prevent them from falling to the street.

That Cough Hangs On

You have used all sorts of cough remedies but it does not yield; it is too deep seated. It may wear itself out in time, but it is more liable to produce la grippe, pneumonia or a serious throat affection. You need something that will give you strength and build up the body.

SCOTT'S EMULSION will do this when everything else fails. There is no doubt about it. It nourishes, strengthens, builds up and makes the body strong and healthy, not only to throw off this hard cough, but to fortify the system against further attacks. If you are run down or emaciated you should certainly take this nourishing food medicine.

NEW TIME-TABLE

[Revised Nov. 13th, 1898]. GOING SOUTH.

Table with columns for stations (e.g., New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Norfolk, Suffolk, Portsmouth, Newport, Boston, Providence, Worcester, Springfield, Hartford, Albany, New Haven, New York) and times for various routes.

GOING NORTH.

Table with columns for stations (e.g., New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Norfolk, Suffolk, Portsmouth, Newport, Boston, Providence, Worcester, Springfield, Hartford, Albany, New Haven, New York) and times for various routes.

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