

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

MEN of FAITHFULNESS

Text: "Ye Are They That Have Continued With Me in My Temptations." (Luke 22:28).

These were great and gracious words spoken by Jesus on a memorable occasion at a critical time to his little band of disciples. "When the going was hard you stuck by me"--thus we might paraphrase his words.

In the group were Andrew and Peter, James and John, the four fishermen of Galilee whom Jesus had called from their nets. I am thinking especially of them. Why had they left their fishing in the first place? Why had they never gone back? They had "continued," but why?



REV. D. M. CLARK

Answers to our questions come to mind. They followed because they were aware that he was a superior person. They continued to follow because he included them in his plans and purposes. They followed because they felt the vital spark of sympathy pass from his life to theirs. They had within themselves the capacity for response; this he must have recognized.

And so he spoke these words to them. They would cherish them all the days of their life, however undeserving of them they may have felt themselves to be.

It is not easy to follow the Master. Continuing with him, sticking to him, is against resistance. Continuance as a follower of Christ is against the pull of the horizontal.

On one occasion a man wanted to follow Jesus, but Jesus warned him: "The foxes have holes, and the birds of heaven have nests, but the Son of Man hath no where to lay his head." Peter, if you're concerned about life on the horizontal level--comforts, income, getting on in a worldly way--you'd better go back to your fishing.

The horizontal level is the secular level, where there is much concern about getting on in the world. It is the materialistic level, as against the spiritual. It's the in-come level, not the out-go level.

Continuance as a follower of Christ is against the pressure of the crowd.

On one occasion in the life of Jesus it is written, "Upon this many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him. Jesus then turned to the twelve and said, 'Will you also go away?' 'No,' said Peter." (John 6:66-69).

When everybody's quitting it's hard to stick. I can imagine those four fishermen getting their heads together and saying, "The Master's slipping--we'd better get out from under. John the Baptist had his head cut off."

Continuance along a distinctive way of life is often crushed by mass thinking. The crowd pushes a man down to the horizontal, to standardization. It flattens out individuality. The mass mind makes of a man less than he is.

The words of Thomas when Jesus was called to Bethany because of the death of Lazarus were against terrific horizontal pressure: "Let's go with him that we may die with him."

Continuance as a follower of Christ is against the perversity of the self.

It is not easy to follow Jesus if you have an ego that must be preserved at all costs. There are some things that are not easy to take. Did Jesus run a chance of losing the Big Fisherman on a certain occasion? (Mark 8:32-33).

By the perversity of the self a man's ego must be rubbed the right way. By this perversity one becomes set in one's ways. That is the royal road to Phariseeism, which Jesus loathed and condemned.

By the perversity of the self one may block the advance of the Kingdom.

As someone has written, "There is no project for the betterment of life, for an advance on any sector of the Kingdom of God which cannot be obstructed by plain, old fashioned obstinacy."

Continuance is the pathway to knowledge.

GO to the CHURCH of YOUR CHOICE



DEADLINE for church news and photographs is Friday noon preceding the next Thursday publication date at the Rev. Mr. Clark's home, 1676 N. 'E' St., telephone 642-1560. All items submitted must be accompanied by the sender's name, address and telephone number.

BAPTIST

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Rev. C.L. Alexander, 384-7413
815 Bartlett, Vegas Hts.

ST. PETER BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Leo A. Johnson, 642-2559
"C" & Washington Sts., Las Vegas

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. I. W. Wilson, 382-2632
400 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. M. Carroll
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Rev. J. L. Simmons, 382-2748
311 Madison Ave., Las Vegas

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Rev. E. C. Kline, 382-7263
101 N. "A" St., Las Vegas

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. J. Thompson, 642-4001
1305 N. "E" St., Las Vegas

Continuance in following Christ brought the shared experience which brings knowledge of another.

The disciples at Galilee were aware of the superiority of Jesus; their awareness changed to knowledge by their continuance with him. It is what you go through with another that gives

Bethel Thanksgiving Feast Huge Success

MORE THAN 300 PERSONS partook of the free, old-fashioned Thanksgiving dinner put on by the Rev. I. W. Wilson and members of his congregation at Bethel Baptist Church. Special guests were the Rev. Joe Chaney and many of his flock from Antioch Baptist Church of Long Beach, Calif. Food also was distributed to needy families not present.

Helping to prepare and serve the menu of turkey, ham and chicken with all the trimmings, including delicious fried pies made by Sister R. Miller, were Sisters E. Champion, chairman; G. Dementre, A. Diggs, E. Glasco, J. Wesley, N. McGee, W. Austin, M. Love, E. Nash, C. Spencer, and Brothers F. Glasco, C. Spencer and Small.

Featuring the program arranged by Sister McGee was a Thanksgiving play presented by Mrs. I. W. Wilson's 5th grade group at Kit Carson School. Maxine Brewer delivered the welcoming remarks.

CATHOLIC

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Msgr. W. J. Devlin, 382-9953
"H" & Morgan Sts., Las Vegas

Sunday Mass--11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Week Day Mass--7:30 p.m. each evening
Confession--Saturday 4 and 7:30 p.m.

CHURCH of GOD in CHRIST

UPPER ROOM C. of G. in C.
Bishop C. C. Cox, 385-1541
1117 N. "F" St., Las Vegas

POWERHOUSE C. of G. in C.
Supt. J. W. Logan, 382-6187
1216 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

MOST HIGH C. of G. in C.
Eld. J. Washington, 642-5675
Henderson

PROGRESSIVE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Jos. Prudhomme, 642-5556
1155 Lawry Ave., Vegas Hts.

LIGHTHOUSE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Willie Rawls, 384-5539
E. Sahara Ave., Fourmyle

PRAYER HOUSE C. of G. in C.
Eld. W. M. Shaw, 382-1743
Blankenship St., Vegas Hts.

(All Churches of God in Christ)

Tuesday 8 pm - - - - - Bible Band
Wednesday 8 pm - - - - - *Young People
Friday 8 pm - - - - - Consecration
Sunday 10 am - - - - - Sunday School
Sunday 12 m - - - - - Morning Service
Sunday 6:30 pm - - - - - YPW
Sunday 8 pm - - - - - Evening Worship
*Progressive - - - - - Inspirational

METHODIST

ZION METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. M. D. Bennett, 382-9900
911 N. "G" St., Las Vegas

PENTECOSTAL

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH
Eld. Hosea Coleman, 642-8741
Bartlett & Lexington Sts., Vegas Hts.

you knowledge of him.

Continuance is a secret of revelation. After they meet the test of continuance the Master says, "I have many things to say unto you."

Continuance as a follower of Christ culminates in friendship with him.

There is growth in friendship by the warm glow of sympathy, by the vital spark of comradeship, by the developing affection of friendship.

Do we have the capacity of response? Do we have the capacity to resist against the pull and the pressure and the perversity? Do we have the positive stick-to-itiveness which brings us knowledge of God, fitness for his Kingdom, the friendship of the Master?

There is a secret by which we can answer "Yes." We can stick by him, because he sticks by us. He never fails us. He will continue with us in our temptations. When the going is hard he will be right by our side to help.

We come under the strong name of the Trinity to worship thee.

We bind ourselves to thee by our confession of our sins and the acceptance of thy forgiveness. . .

We bind ourselves to thee by our petitions. . .

We bind ourselves to thee by our intercessions. . .

We bind ourselves to thee by our thanksgivings. . .

We bind ourselves to thee, O God, because thou hast bound thyself to us.