

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

THE INTERVIEWS OF JESUS
"The Beatitudes"

HOW THE HUMBLE OBTAIN THE BEST

"Every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 18:14). "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3).

Why is humility held to be so important? How do the humble obtain the best? They obtain it because they have high standards which will not allow them to be satisfied with small attainments. The Pharisee in Jesus' Parable (Luke 18:11) could take pride in his life because his standards were set so low. He needed new standards set so high that he would have spiritual mountains to climb.

IN THE high standards, the humble have a steady incentive which keeps them moving toward finer things. Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, distinguished surgeon, once said, "It is this longing to beat your own record, to do bigger and better things today than you did yesterday that leads a man to do anything worthwhile." Here is the glory of a man like Paul. He had so surrendered himself to Christ that he was always longing for and seeking a greater experience of him (Phil. 3:10-14).



REV. D. M. CLARK

No matter what the humble have learned or done, they remain teachable. They know that the more one learns about any subject the more he discovers there

is to learn. Pride of attainment is often the fault of persons whose knowledge is limited. The humble, by keeping their minds open, are able to advance in knowledge and spiritual insight.

BECAUSE OF their freedom from pride, the humble live in larger, richer fellowship with other people. "I'll not be the first to forgive," someone says, and a relationship remains broken that a more humble spirit might restore. Youth and age often clash for want of humility. Peter wanted both to clothe themselves in humility (I Peter 5:5). Each has something valuable to contribute, each can learn from the other, each needs the help of the other.

The humble come into closer companionship with God as they confess that their ability to accomplish anything is not within them but from beyond them. "A pipe and not a cistern" is the truth one man discovered about himself, and it gave him a new peace of mind. Many outstanding men and women have had this feeling of being a channel thru which the Divine flows. Jesus had it preeminently. His authority and power were not in Him but thru Him (John 14:10).

Humility is rightly regarded as the basis virtue because it aids the cultivation of every other virtue. Dante in "The Divine Comedy" finds that when the chief sin, pride, is effaced, all other sins become much lighter.

WHEN MOURNING IS BETTER THAN MIRTH

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Jesus' thought ran to a particular kind of mourning--for one's own shortcomings, for the world's evil that hinders the doing of God's will. But how do such mourning in particular and mourning in general lead to blessedness? What comfort is there?

Out of mourning for one's personal failure can come a fresh appreciation of God's grace as it is sought and received. We're so made that we cannot be satisfied with an impenitent life. "The soul that has no sorrow for its sins is shut out from any true paradise." The Penitent are comforted with the only true comfort--God's gracious pardon for the misdeeds of the past, God's abundant power for better living today and tomorrow.

IN TAKING upon ourselves the burdens of distressed men and women, we have less time to be concerned about our own troubles. The

SAWYER TO SPEAK AT YOUTH PROGRAM



FASHION SHOW PARTICIPANTS of the Bethel Baptist Church's Youth Program to be presented Sunday, August 21 at 7:30 p.m. are (from left): Yolanda Anderson, Seylinda Houston, Walter Wilson, and Joyce Mitchel. Sixty youths will take part in the program which includes a Tom Thumb Wedding and Governor Grant Sawyer as Guest Speaker... A total of 14 models will exhibit fashion and the Bethel Baptist Church Male Chorus will provide the music.



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most miserable people are always those who center attention upon themselves and shun the cares of others in the attempt to win personal happiness. On the contrary, people who deliberately take on themselves the trouble and pain of others find happiness, so that, strange as it appears, the happiest people are those who care until it hurts.

Those who mourn can be comforted by spiritual companionship with the greatest souls--men and women who could not look on wrongdoing and suffering without being deeply stirred. In the Bible, when we feel the burden of the world's disloyalty to God, our spiritual companion is Moses. He so felt the weight of his people's wrongdoing that he wrestled with God in prayer for their pardon (Ex. 32:31, 32).

"God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:36). Here is the deepest source of comfort--that God could make the crucifixion of his Son the channel for the greatest outpouring of his power.

ALTAR CALL

By EMORY G. DAVIS, D.D.
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL
SALVATION AT LAST

An elderly, white-haired, distinguished-looking white woman, viewing a group of civil rights demonstrators was heard to say, "I never thought I'd live to see the day when this would happen here."

None of us made any reply, since we have been trained not to debate with critics while in the line of demonstration. But, many thoughts went through our minds.

Although she would not admit it to herself, she should be glad that she has lived long enough to see the day when people of all races and religions would join together to bear witness to the sin of segregation and discrimination because of race or religion.

NOT KNOWING WHO the woman was, my first suspicion was that her type is generally one of pietism--a person who belongs to First Church; past president of the Ladies Aid, who has led financial drives to toss pennies to those "poor unfortunate people in Africa" and who believes her religion can best be characterized by being so "pure and invisible" that no one could justly find fault with it or her.

There was an old prophet in Jerusalem who lived in expectation of seeing the "salvation of Israel." After having seen with his own eyes the Babe of Bethlehem, he said, "At last, Lord, you can dismiss your servant in peace; for with my own eyes, I have seen your salvation..." Perhaps now, this dear old soul, can die in peace, now that she has seen mankind doing something about the sin of segregation and discrimination.

Unfortunately for her and thousands of others like her, the revolution has come too late. If mankind had demonstrated earlier, she might have been "converted" and able to leave the quiet confinement of her church and join with those who put their faith in God and man on the line--as did another white-haired, elderly white woman who was in this particular demonstration.

Those of us who live in this age of civil rights demonstrations--like the prophet of old--should be grateful to both see and participate in the healing process (salvation) that is destined to enable us to realize our common humanity and become the family of our Creator.

The church, today--Negro, white or grey--is faced with its greatest opportunity "to see salvation" by being where the action is taking place. Those of us who have lived to see this day, though amazed at what is taking place, had best be worshippers at the Altar of Salvation, outside the quiet and impassive church building.

Evangelist Now at Power House Church



Elder J. W. Logan, Pastor of the Power House Church of God in Christ announces that Evangelist Phyllis Jackson is now appearing at the Church, Nightly at 7:30 p.m.

Talented Guitar Player and Soloist, Prentiss Richardson, of Los Angeles is another nightly attraction at the Church located at 1216 Adams.

REID

Hospital Trustee