

Attention--- Minority Contractors

Attention all minority general contractors or sub-contractors in the construction field. NEDCO is currently working on 8A set-aside contracts and other job sites that are in need of minority contractors. All contractors interested in bidding for work should contact Bob Bailey or Gil Flores at 618-620 East Carson Street, Las Vegas, Nevada, or phone 384-3293, immediately.



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SERMON OF THE WEEK By Rev. Marion Bennett

"Early Acquaintance With God"
"Moses rose early in the morning, and went up unto Mount Sinai." Ex. 34:4

The word "early" denotes alertness. When we mention the word it gives us the idea of getting off to a good start for the task that lies ahead. It also suggests that the individual plans to do a good job whether it is material or spiritual in nature.

I remember a little jangle from childhood which depicts the advantage of being on time whether for rest or play--"Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."

An early person is one who takes advantage of the time. He starts in the morning of the day or in the morning of his life. If we take the time to search the scripture we will find that it is literally filled with men who started at the very beginning of the day to talk with God. Genesis 19:27 tells us Abraham rose early to stand before God. Genesis 28:18 - Jacob rose early to worship God. Joshua rose early to lead Israel over Jordan - Joshua 3:1. Jesus, the Son of God, rose early to go to a solitary place to pray - Mark 1:35.

If it were advantageous for these men to become acquainted with God early in the morning, it is also necessary that we get acquainted with Him early.

Let us consider this morning the following points: (1) Acquaintance with God prepares one for hours to come; (2) We should use our mornings for God; (3) Acquaintance with God assures one in the evening of life He will be present.

1. ACQUAINTANCE WITH GOD PREPARES ONE FOR HOURS TO FOLLOW.

Life is too full of uncertainties and misfortunes for any well-thinking individual to neglect talking with God early in the morning.

Many of us mistake "hurry" for early. We hurry when we are late. If we start early we will not have to hurry. If we become acquainted with God early we can meet the rest of life in quietness and peace.

In this modern age the emphasis is in the wrong place. We have the accent on "hurry" when it should be on "early". Every morning I see people almost getting killed running to catch the trolley. Just the other day I mistook "hurry" for "early". I was late during the course of driving to my destination, I turned a left corner faster than I should have ordinarily turned it, almost causing me to come in contact with another vehicle. I thought of how I, too, had placed emphasis on "hurry" in lieu of "early".

If we will just take time, early time, and ask God to give us strength and guidance for the day ahead, we will not have to be JITTERY and FRANTIC. We can just depend on God; He will carry us through.

If John Wesley had known God before he got on the ship to sail back to England, he could have kept a calm spirit. When the rain began to fall, the lightening began to flash, thunder

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began to roar, he could not keep still. He was so frustrated until he attracted the attention of a Moravian Bishop who asked why he was so disturbed. Wesley replied, "I am afraid the ship is about to go down." The Bishop said, "Calm yourself. I am not worried because God is on this ship with me, and you ought to have Him with you."

Your ship may get shaky; the waters of life may be rough, but if you have Jesus on board, He will take care of you. He took care of the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace. He took care of Daniel in the lion's den, and He will take care of you.

2. WE SHOULD USE OUR MORNINGS FOR GOD.

We should use our mornings for God; it is the best time. We should give Him the first of the day while we are undisturbed by the pressure of others and the cares of the world. It is at this point when prayer reaches its highest aim. The great men of Church History were men that spent the early part of the day in prayer and God heard them and used them.

Childhood is the best time for preparation. Religious instruction to our children is just as vital as any other training. If we train them how to worship and come into the knowledge of God, it will give them guidance and poise throughout life.

Harold Martin tells a story under the caption --"He left, carrying his Bible with Him." Charles, a youth of 17 went into the Army the other day. He signed up for the paratroopers, which is the roughest and toughest branch of the fighting services. He left school to enlist. His mother did not exactly approve, but when she found his mind was made up, she did not argue with him. She said, "Charles, you are a man on your own now. Be a man. Be a soldier. Be the best soldier you know how to be."

Charles went to take his physical examination. He passed it, but he did not tell his mother. He called her and said he would not know for a while whether he was in or not. When his mother got home from work that evening, however, Charles was gone. He had been home to get his things. He did not take much -- just a razor, a comb, toothbrush, soap, and his Bible. His mother worried at first, but she realized how he felt. She had taught him to be truthful, friendly, cleanminded, honest, and to treat everybody right. When she found out that among the things she knew he had taken was his Bible, she was satisfied. She knew then that he was going to be all right.

3. ACQUAINTANCE WITH GOD ASSURES ONE IN THE EVENING OF LIFE HE WILL BE PRESENT.

If we get acquainted with God early, we will have no fear when we reach the evening of life ... Psalm 37:25. When David accepted confidence in God, he was apparently a young man and exclaimed, "The Lord is my Shepherd and I shall not want." Now he is an old man in the evening of life and he exclaims, "I have been young and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

If we make his acquaintance before trouble comes, He will be with us when it comes. He may not do away with our troubles but he will change the meaning and give us strength to bear our burdens.

Jesus is still calling and pleading to those that do not know Him. "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Jesus would have you to come and come now. "The day you hear my voice, harden not your hearts." If you come to Jesus early, you will have Him through the day.

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