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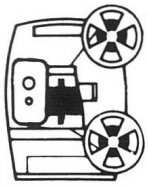

The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, Founding Editor (1972-2006)

"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"

THE PATTERN OF A SERVANT

by Dr. Dayton Hobbs (1924-2006)
Founder of *The Projector* 1972

In Matthew, Christ is presented as King; in Luke, as the Great Physician; in John, as the Savior; but in the book of Mark we see Him as the Servant. Mark gives no genealogy. Nobody cares about the genealogy or heritage of a servant. There is no mention of His miraculous virgin birth or His childhood. Who is concerned about the birth or childhood of a servant? There is no mention of His pre-existence. Now we know that Jesus lived in Heaven in eternity with the Father. He was pre-existent, but there is no reference to that in this Book. There is no mention of His authority. Servants have no authority. They are under authority, so there is no claim to it in Mark. There are no "woes" pronounced upon the Pharisees. There is no Bridegroom in the whole book. These are not marks of a servant and are not even suggested here.

The Perfect Servant

One trait in the very fiber of man, I suppose because of his depravity, is that he wants nothing to do with being a servant. Rather he wants to be served, and this streak is passed to our children through the generations. They not only inherit it because they are depraved, many are taught from babies that they are to be waited on and have no duty to give or do for others. No wonder we have problems with greed and crime. "Get all you can and can all you get." No wonder it is difficult to train young people to serve. Service is what the Book of Mark is all about, and the Lord Jesus Christ is presented as the perfect servant.

There is a certain word that describes this book. It appears only eighty times in the whole Bible, yet it appears forty times in this short book. The word is *immediately, straightway*, or *anon*. It means *get at it, move, go*! That is the work of a servant.

A Servant Has No Reputation

Philippians chapter 2 reveals Christ's servant-hood probably better than any other one passage. Phil. 2:5-8, "*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."*

To ever be a servant, you must have the attitude of a

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EDITOR'S DESK

by Pastor Tod Brainard

"Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. ***And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us****: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it." Psalm 90:16-17*

There are two thoughts I wish to direct the reader to in this passage. First, think of God's train of thought here presented, ***"Thy work....the work of our hands..."*** These are not competing ideas as some would believe. Rather the privilege of the righteous is to submit to God's work in the working of our hands. Just as God's work will endure, so His blessings on our works will cause them to endure. Though our days are few and full of trouble, they can be lived in Christ and thus take on eternal significance.

Secondly, ***"Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us..."*** The Amplified Bible reads, *"And let the beauty and delightfulness and favor of the LORD our God be upon us."* How rich is this phrase! One of the most important messages of these two verses is that we are in desperate need of God's beauty in place of our own ugliness. We have been told for too long by our culture that we are "beautiful." The stark reality is that we are spiritually ugly and in need of Christ's glorious beauty. We are in need of the following:

God's Beauty in place
of our **Ugliness of Soul**

God's Beauty in place
of our **Ugliness of Spirit**

God's Beauty in place
of our **Ugliness of Speech**

God's Beauty in place
of our **Ugliness of Character**

God's Beauty in place
of our **Ugliness of Attitude**

God's Beauty in place
of our **Ugliness of Personality**

God's Beauty in place
of our **Ugliness of Conduct**

I close with a few choice paragraphs from Charles Spurgeon's 1867 article in the **Sword and Trowel** entitled, ***"The Rose and the Lily."***

"As for us, my brethren, the beauty of Christ is such that if we go into a barn to worship, we are quite as satisfied as though it were a cathedral, with grained arches and glowing windows.

Such is ***the beauty of Christ*** *in our eyes, that we are quite content to hear of him without the pealing organ and the swell of Gregorian chants; and we are even satisfied though there should be no display of taste, nothing sensuous and scenic, nothing to please the eye or charm the ear.*

Jesus alone affords our mind all that delightful architecture, poetry, and music could profess to give. And when our soul gets near to him, she looks upon all 'outward adornments' as mere child's toys, fit to amuse the rattle-brains of this poor idiot world; but vain gewgaws (editor's note: inexpensive trinkets) to men in Christ Jesus, who by reason of use, have had their senses trained, and learned to delight in nobler things than those in which the swine of this earth delight themselves."

Well said! I encourage you to go back and read these paragraphs again. Get the full import of their meaning especially in light of our current religious climate. Oh, let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me!

The PROJECTOR

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The Projector is a fundamentalist publication that seeks to "project the light of the Word of God on the issues of the day." It desires to honor Christ by articulating a clear testimony for Biblical separation from error in these last days as God's answer to the deepening apostasy of the visible church.

America's Disconnected Belief

by Pastor Adam Watt

After years of ignoring the objective truths and principles of the Bible, many associated with religion are finally realizing the ramifications. The famous commentary in Judges 17:6 is the sad condition of Christianity in America: *In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.* This verse is written in the context of Micah who (with the support of his mother) constructed a worship house with his own gods, an ephod, and even his own priest. Micah had built his own religion and hired a Levite as his personal priest; yet at the end of the chapter, Micah said, *Now know I that the LORD will do me good….* Despite the fact that he fashioned his own religion, Micah still believed in Jehovah and was confident that Jehovah would now bless him. As indicated by recent studies on the changing scope of American religion, Christianity is being individualized in such a way that the blessings of God are hoped for even though the teachings of the Bible are ignored.

In her September 2011 *USA Today* article entitled *More Americans tailoring religion to fit their needs*, Cathy Grossman reviews Barna surveys to outline the growing trend that Americans are formulating their own religion. Citing George Barna, she wrote "America is headed for 310 million people with 310 million religions." The strange bewildering pattern is to claim both acceptance of Jesus Christ and firm hope of heaven but to deny principles from the Bible, the source of belief in Christ. Barna surveyed a change from 1991 to 2011, asking particular questions about what professing Christians believe when it comes to prominent Biblical principles. For example, many find encouragement and hope for a religious America when they see the rise in number of those who accept Jesus and expect to be saved (up 5%). However, the strange reality is that all other areas polled experienced a decrease in number. Several questions were asked about a professing Christian's typical week: did they read the Bible outside of church, attend worship, attend Sunday School, or volunteer outside of church? All of these areas experienced a decrease even though more people supposedly believe in Jesus Christ. The response may be that these are practical areas that shouldn't be used to judge belief; two other questions proposed by Barna, however, show that the disconnect extends beyond outer actions. Sadly, the number of those who believe the Bible is totally accurate and that God is an all knowing and all powerful ruler greatly decreased in the past 20 years. Barna also cites the fact that only 7% of professing Christians believe in the seven fundamental doctrines. In other words, I can believe in God and then believe in whatever I want, even if it contradicts the Bible. This is the great divide in modern Christianity. Many claim Jesus Christ and hope in salvation, but this claim does nothing to affect both belief and practical living. Just as the days of the judges, Christians seek blessings from God without the desire to know and follow the God of the Bible.

Sadly, the churches of America have contributed to this confusing situation. In the emphatic attempt to be accepted by the world and culture, the Gospel has been watered down to include only belief on Christ. Repentance and transformation have been carved out of the Gospel in such a manner that all a sinner is told to do is pray a prayer and believe. Preachers of America will be held responsible for this atrocious misuse of the Gospel. Barna blames pastors and writes that everyone hears "Jesus is the answer. Embrace him. Say this little *Sinners Prayer* and keep coming back. It doesn't work. People end up bored, burned out, and empty…they look at church and wonder, 'Jesus died for this?'" Now more than ever, preachers must stand for the whole counsel of God, fight against cultural acceptance, and live according to the Gospel that is presented.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/story/2011-09-14/america-religious-

"You are not insulated from sin just because you seem to be used of God at the moment." -editor

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servant. He "thought it not robbery to be equal with God" (a thing to be grasped after or held onto), "but made himself of no reputation." If you are interested in your reputation, want folks to think you are special or want to make a great impression, you are not a servant. A servant does not care what people think of him as long as he knows he is doing what his Lord wants him to do. His only concern is for the reputation of his master. Jesus humbled Himself to become a man, then humbled Himself as a man, and having become a man, He humbled Himself to be a servant of men! And *forever the office of servant was lifted up to the highest position*! *Now the highest calling you can have is to be a servant!* No occupation, vocation, or position is higher than being a servant! Whatever your job, you can serve. Jesus humbled Himself to the farthest extreme becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. "Wherefore God hath highly exalted Him," and God will exalt every believer who voluntarily becomes a servant. Eternity will tell.

A Servant Prepares the Way of Another

A servant does not aggrandize himself. A servant lives to prepare the way, so that his master will be seen in the best light. The fact that one is a servant implies that he has a master, a lord. The servant is not the top man. He does not give the orders or draw the blueprints. The servant carries out the directions. His life's work is to make straight the way of his master.

Isaiah 40:3-4 portrays this picture. *The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:*

In Bible lands, the custom was that when a king was coming to visit a town, the people went to great effort to prepare the highway, smooth out the potholes and rough places and remove the rocks. They straightened out the tight crooks in the road and carefully prepared the way for the king. Then his servant went ahead of the entourage crying, "The king is coming! The king is coming! Prepare ye the way of the king!" That is a picture of John the Baptist's job.

As a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, our responsibility is not too different from John's. Our life is to be given to preparing others to receive Jesus Christ. John said, "Behold", "Look", "Behold, the Lamb of God." He urged people to look at the Lamb of God. When they looked, they then forever followed the Lamb of God. John's business was presenting his Lord.

I fear that much of the soul winning today has nothing to do with this attitude of preparing hearts for the Lord's arrival. My friend, soul winning is more than cornering a person, giving him four steps of salvation, getting him to sign a pledge, sticking it in your pocket and announcing, "I won one to Christ." Some may get saved that way, but it is not the usual way the Holy Spirit works. He works as God's people faithfully day by day serve Him with one purpose in mind, preparing hearts. That takes a day by day, year by year dedication and surrender that some of us know nothing about. Anyone can talk of the experience of a moment, but it takes labor to prepare hearts, and that is the responsibility of servants, of the John the Baptists of the world. Our responsibility is to prepare the hearts of people we know. It is easier for them to accept Christ after they have known you, heard you talk about Him, magnify Him, and seen you back your testimony by your life. Men who have gone to the mission field will often say that the major portion of their work, especially in the early years, is developing a testimony of credible witness before the people. It often takes years to establish a ministry. It is not just a passing shot in the night but takes a steady, consistent life. Some preachers who have gotten off into sex scandals have been so-called "great soul winners." But where is their testimony now? Who now can they win to Christ? The Gospel is to be carried by a clean testimony that prepares the way, so when the Lord comes behind, hearts are more receptive. If people are not more responsive to truth and Christ because of your life, you have no testimony. Preparing the way before the Lord should be our life's work, and only servants can prepare the way.

John came from the wilderness. No servant works in an ideal environment. He may be in an air-conditioned office or comfortable surroundings physically, but he

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Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 17:24, **Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth.**

This is a proverb about boundaries. Boundaries establish beginnings and endings. Boundaries are separation markers that provide clarity in distinguishing lines of ownership. In other words, they are a good and necessary thing.

Land boundaries permit the farmer to know the extent of his property holdings. Knowing this tells him where to plow and where not to plow for he has no business plowing on his neighbor's land.

Traffic lines establish boundaries. When traveling along at 65 MPH with a closing rate of 130 MPH between cars aren't you glad that there are center line boundaries to give each driver direction? Where there are no boundaries there is only confusion.

In this proverb we are told that wisdom is a boundary to those who have understanding. It provides fencing to guide or limit the actions of the one who understands. It provides a framework that if followed will guarantee real success in life.

Wisdom provides principles of conduct that separate those things which are helpful from that which harms. Wisdom warns of danger. A person who is governed by wisdom, voluntarily limits himself to that which wisdom allows. Wisdom is the center of his thoughts, his motives, and his pursuits. Wisdom's boundaries provide order to life.

Every desire, everything for which he has affection, every talent that he has been given finds a proper place within the boundaries of wisdom. Those who possess wisdom seek to regulate their affections, desires, and talents within wisdom's boundaries. The person who has understanding is content and satisfied with wisdom, having no need "to look to the ends of the earth" as does the fool.

Those who possess understanding agree with Psalm 19:8, "The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes." But the fool's eyes are never satisfied for he says, "No God for me!" As we read in Proverbs 27:20, "Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied."

The fool says, "No boundaries for me. No fences for me. Let my eyes gaze where they will and let them wander from one thing to another. Let my thoughts roam to and fro unhindered and let them scatter and not settle on anything that may cause me good. I do not want anything that is absolute, definite, settled and fixed. I love to stay in the grays of life. Let me care for those things that are the furthest away, those things that are in the ends of the earth. My eyes crave those things."

The fool has compassion on the starving millions but no desire to help the neighbor next door. The fool halts between two opinions. No need to take sides if he can help it. "Why rock the boat and commit myself today to one side for it may be more profitable to commit to the other side tomorrow."

So the desire of fools to look to the ends of the earth is the weapon of Satan. Satan's purpose is to turn the mind from that which is substantial to that which is insubstantial. The fool is turned from that which is relevant to that which is irrelevant. He misses that which is important and grasps the unimportant. How sad that the unimportant takes the place of that which is of

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GOD IS MOST SEVERE ON THOSE WHOM HE IS USING AT THE MOMENT

by the late Pastor John Ashbrook

Review: Last issue's article, "Would A Brother Lie," compelled the question, "Why was God so severe on the young prophet who spoke to Jeroboam so well; but the old prophet who perpetrated the lie seems to have escaped scot-free?" This issue answers that question in the form of an axiom.

AXIOM # 13: AT ANY GIVEN TIME OF CHURCH HISTORY GOD IS MOST SEVERE ON THOSE WHOM HE IS USING AT THE MOMENT. The old prophet in our story had been laid on God's shelf for years. God was not using him in Israel. The younger prophet was God's man of the hour. Because God had so clearly commissioned him, He was forced to treat the breach of his responsibilities with death.

With all of my heart, I am a fundamentalist. I believe that the Bible-believing, separated, fundamental church is God's instrument in this hour. For that reason, I do not believe that we can afford the luxury of compromise. As I observe fundamentalism at this hour, I see fundamental associations becoming more new evangelical. Every fundamentalist gathering I attend has less protest and forthrightness than the one before. I see fundamentalists more tolerant of new evangelicalism's great speakers. The fundamentalists' desire for souls and consequent growth have opened the door to new evangelical methods. Success, instead of Scripture, has become the measure of a man's work. The music fundamentalists sing has more new evangelical notes. Fundamentalists have adopted the silent stand and allowed vocal new evangelicalism to sweep the day.

God does not have to use fundamentalism. If we sell our birthright of obedience for a mess of new evangelical pottage, God can leave us lying in the middle of the road somewhere between the lion and the ass.

EPILOGUE

On the evening of October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed the list of his ninety-five theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg. I do not expect this baker's dozen axioms to have the impact of Luther's theses. However, I do want to take the space to nail them up in one list. I trust that it will help some young pastor to review the list and find the principle he needs at the moment. Also, it will help those who want to argue to have one clear list with which they can joust.

SCRIPTURE FORBIDS US TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH UNBELIEF.

SCRIPTURE COMMANDS US TO REPROVE APOSTASY.

SCRIPTURE TEACHES US THAT WE MUST PURGE UNBELIEF IF WE CAN.

SCRIPTURE TEACHES THAT BELIEVER AND UNBELIEVER CANNOT BE YOKED TOGETHER IN SPIRITUAL ENDEAVOR.

SCRIPTURE TEACHES US TO SEPARATE FROM DISOBEDIENT BRETHREN.

GOD'S WORK DONE IN GOD'S WAY PRODUCES ONLY GOOD RESULTS. GOD'S WORK DONE IN MAN'S WAY PRODUCES GOOD AND BAD RESULTS.

DO NOT AFFILIATE YOUR CHURCH WITH ANY CHURCH, MISSION, MOVEMENT OR EVANGELISTIC EFFORT WHICH DOES NOT FULLY BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD.

DO NOT AFFILATE YOUR CHURCH WITH ANY CHURCH, MISSION, MOVEMENT OR EVANGELISTIC EFFORT WHICH DOES NOT PRACTICE BIBLICAL SEPARATION.

YOU CANNOT PRESERVE A POSITION WITHOUT CRUSADING FOR IT.

WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T JOIN.

SEPARATION IS NOT THE ANSWER TO EVERY DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN BRETHREN.

THE SPIRIT OF GOD HAS NEVER LED ONE CHRISTIAN CONTRARY TO ONE WORD OF THE WORD OF GOD.

AT ANY GIVEN TIME OF CHURCH HISTORY GOD IS MOST SEVERE ON THOSE WHOM HE IS USING AT THAT MOMENT.

(To Be Concluded Next Issue)

Teaching Tips *by Doris Peppard*

Keep the "Ends" in Mind!

When we keep the "end" of the year in mind while we make the plans at the beginning of the school year, we will focus on what is really important to our students. While planning for that first day, the first week, and first term is vitally important, you will want to begin with an understanding of what you will want your students to be able to accomplish or understand by the end of the year. Proverbs 19:20 says, ***"Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end."*** All the work we put in during the school year will pay off when we keep our eyes on the goals we want to accomplish.

In order to accomplish what we want and need to accomplish by the end of the year, the following ideas are suggested:

See the course you are teaching as a whole with the course goals in mind.

Preview the entire text.

Keep your focus on student learning.

Maintain expectations for all students.

Use assessment results to rate your effectiveness (As the old saying goes, "If the students haven't learned, the teacher hasn't taught.)

*Translate Bloom's Taxonomy into "Kid Language":

Knowledge becomes **Find!** (Recall specific ideas and information.)

Comprehension becomes **Understand!** (Understand ideas, meanings, and information.)

Application becomes **Use!** (Apply information, ideas, and principles in new situations.)

Analysis becomes **Break down!** (Break down information into its parts.)

Synthesis becomes **Create!** (Put together parts to make a whole and do something new with the information.)

Evaluation becomes **Judge!** (Judge ideas, purpose, and usefulness of what you've learned.)

*Idea from *Why Didn't I Learn This In College?* by Paula Rutherford. Just ASK Publications, Alexandria, VA., www.askeducation.com

These suggestions can be used for any subject. When we keep our eyes on the goal, our teaching and our student's learning will be headed in the right direction. We should continually check to see that our students are keeping up with us and that we are not on this journey alone. Rather than simply going through our textbooks chapter by chapter (getting through the text), our "End" is knowing the goals we want our students to master and utilize.

No matter how experienced the teacher, getting ready for the new school year requires a great deal of planning and work. Teaching Tip? Keep **THE END** in mind!

SPOTLIGHT on Contemporary Trends……..by Curtis Sluss, Waterford, MI

Evangelicals and the Social Gospel

Nearly 100 years ago religious liberalism controlled the big denominations and in the absence of spiritual truth, embraced many errors, including the social gospel (i.e. belief that the gospel includes relief of suffering and correcting social wrongs). Because of fundamentalists' rejection of liberalism along with the social gospel, they left the compromising denominations to start fundamental institutions. Mainstream 'Christianity' looked on fundamentalists as being uneducated Bible thumpers who did not care about the sometimes real, sometimes perceived social or cultural evils that permeated our society. Many viewed the fundamentalists as simple-minded gospel preachers who were so heavenly minded that they were insensitive to the needs of man.

In the 1940's, elements within fundamentalism developed a mood of discontent and created a new evangelicalism consisting of elements from both the liberals and the fundamentalists. They announced they were not going back to liberalism; they just wanted to reclaim some of its elements. They rejected the separation of the fundamentalist and (along with many other issues) renewed their commitment to the social gospel.

Early evangelicals may have viewed social action as secondary or supportive to the proclamation of the gospel message, but since the nose of the camel of the social gospel was already in the tent, following generations brought the whole animal in. By 1974, around the time of the International Congress on World Evangelism at Lausanne, Switzerland, social action was promoted from a secondary obligation of the Christian to a primary obligation, equal to the proclamation of the gospel. Noted evangelical John Stott and others advanced this change. The mission of the church now included social action equal to evangelizing the lost.

For those who now see the Christian mission as two fold (spiritual and physical) it is no surprise some have embraced a liberal political agenda. After all, the liberal agenda promotes raising the minimum wage, supports affirmative action, believes in the equal rights amendment, and backs more liberal welfare benefits. Some evangelicals see this liberal political agenda consistent with and in harmony with their social gospel.

During the late 60s and 70s, evangelicals who embraced a social gospel and a liberal political agenda rose in national favor as evidenced by articles appeared in the liberal media: *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *National Review*. You may also recall the "evangelicals for McGovern" movement during the 1972 elections, a joining of evangelicals with left-wing political ideologies.

I recently attended an event at a nearby evangelical Church and a man there mentioned that several in the church were Democrats. For many, this is consistent with the gospel since it is redefined to include social action. In *Promise Unfulfilled* (The failed strategy of modern evangelicalism) by Dr. McCune chapter 18, the joining of evangelicalism with liberal politics is more thoroughly exposed and documented.

Back in the 30s and 40s, the fundamentalists had it right. The fundamentalist understands the mandate is a call to a spiritual battle for purity, truth and the souls of men. We are not to eliminate poverty, slavery, racism, or other societal wrongs using Christianity as a platform. Neither are we to embrace and support a liberal political system to accomplish a "greater good". Jesus and his followers made no effort to correct these and other social evils. As individuals living as salt and light, we have an impact for good in these issues. For the church to enter the battle to right societal wrongs wins the approval of the unsaved world who otherwise will view the Christianity as irrelevant; but it is not the job of the Church to right the wrongs on earth. It is our job to proclaim Christ who can right the wrong in men's hearts.

Promise Unfulfilled, by Rolland McCune, Ambassador International, 2004, p 241
Ibid, p 236
"U.S. Evangelicals: Moving Again," *Time*, September 19, 1969, p. 58;
"Restive Evangelicals" *National Review*, February 15, 1974, p. 192;
"The New Evangelicals," *Newsweek*, May 6, 1974, p. 86;
"A Born Again Faith," *Time*, September 27, 1976, p. 87;
"Born Again!" *Newsweek*, October 25, 1976 cover story;
"The Evangelicals: New Empire of Faith", *Time*, December 26, 1977 cover story.

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works in the wilderness of lost souls. He deals with people who work against their own best interest, yet he has the responsibility to share the Gospel with them. A servant desires to bear fruit for his master.

A Servant Must Have Personal Humiliation

Verse 6 – *And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey.* I don't know all the reasons God put him in the wilderness in such a life style, but I know this, the best preparation to be a servant is to learn to do without, to learn that having and seeking the things of this world is not what is important. The best preparation for a servant to learn humility is to not have great amounts of this world's goods. The outfit John wore was camel's hair woven into a garment and spoke of a man who lived in the rough outdoors. His fare was not from the king's table. He lived on locusts and wild honey. Now the wild honey is not much of a problem. Most of us could live with that fairly well. The Judean wilderness is very barren with rocky hills and cliffs where the wild bees hide their honey. People say it is sweet and tasty, but it is hard to get out of the rocks. Consider the birds. We know God takes care of them, but He does not deliver their food to the doorstep of their nest. They have to hunt and scratch to get what God provides. That is servant training. In the wilderness, John had to crawl on the rough rocks to gather the honey. The other part of his diet was locusts. I believe these were actual locusts related to the grasshopper family. It is not too unusual for the Bedouins in that country to eat locusts. They say they are very tasty when properly prepared. They remove the head and legs, roast them quickly to bring them to a high temperature, then lay them out to dry in the sun. Perhaps you know of missionaries in some places who eat such foods.

Also in Israel near the Mediterranean, there is a tree called the locust tree with long bean pods. Some believe that those beans were what John ate. In either case, he got the protein and vitamins needed. It was not king's fare, but it was a good diet and sufficient. It made a man out of John. This was servant training! Well, you say, he was a special man. Jesus said that there was none greater than John born of woman. Couldn't the Lord have given him a little softer life? If God loves you, won't He give you a "cushi" life? No! He doesn't work that way. If God loves you, He gives you a tough time. God loves us with an everlasting love, but He shows His love to the fullest to those who will allow Him to put them through some tough times. The business we hear about, "Come on, jump on the bandwagon! Be a Christian! Glory, glory! We're going to have a wonderful time," is not Biblical, and that's not how we should train our children. Don't try to take all the bumps or trials out of their lives. Don't run to them at every little cry or complaint. Let them have hardships on purpose. We don't want them to have serious injuries, but we do want to toughen them up to train them to be servants.

Wilderness training made a man out of John, and he was not afraid to preach the truth! It cost him his head, but how many times can they cut off your head? You know, there are some things people can do to you over and over again. They can lie and spread rumors about you and give you heartaches and problems time and time again. Getting your head cut off is not so bad. It can happen only once, and then through all eternity, "Martyr! Martyr! This man died for Jesus Christ!" When you see John, he can say, "I had the opportunity to have my head cut off for Jesus." Have you suffered unto blood? "No", you may say, "I'm afraid I didn't do too much for Christ. I was afraid I would get my hands dirty or that I would not have enough income or money if I sold out to be a servant." Just remember, we are not living for the "here and now" but for the Hereafter! That is what is important!

A servant cannot think of himself. God gave John special training in the wilderness. After those thirty years, He sent him out to preach and do the preparation work for Jesus' coming. And he did a good job! Jesus said he did. Jesus said, "Did you go out to see a reed shaken in the wind? Did you expect some weak-kneed, sissy, pussy-footing preacher? You got fooled, didn't you? You saw a man of character and principles - a servant, a man with personal humiliation!"

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A Servant Preaches the Merits of Another

John 1:35 – *Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus*. In verse 40, we see that *one of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.* I admire Andrew. His life and character was outstanding. One of his qualities was his constant reaching out to someone telling them of the Messiah, but remember who told Andrew. It was John the Baptist, who stood and looking upon Jesus said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The most remarkable thing about John the Baptist was his willingness to step aside and give place to Jesus Christ. The disciples said, "John, He is taking all your followers. He is baptizing more than you. You had big crowds, but now you have competition!" (Let me tell you something about preachers and their crowds. You can fool with their money or other things, but if you mess with their crowds, you will be in big trouble. That is their pride; that is their life!) John the Baptist lost his crowd to Jesus, he lost his disciples to Jesus, he lost his life for Jesus! He said "He must increase, and I must decrease." There is no more glorious statement than that in the Bible for a servant to make. "My Master must increase!" That is a servant's heart! Not "I", but "My Master must increase." As you study John's character you see why Jesus said, "There has not been greater born of woman than John the Baptist." This rugged preacher came out of the wilderness, preached along the banks of the Jordan, and "All Judea came out to him." Many repented and were baptized by him, but after rising to such popularity, another came along and began to take his crowd and his disciples, and John got thrown into prison. The only weakness we see at all concerning John was that lapse in prison when he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Art thou He that should come or should we look for another?" In his dire circumstance, he just wanted to be assured that he had pointed to the right One. Jesus simply answered, "Go, tell him what you have seen and heard." That message assured John that he had, indeed, pointed to the right One! Get this! A servant points out the merits of another! Our calling is to point out the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Verse 37 – *And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus*. John said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The disciples were drawn to the One to whom John was pointing. They were won to John before they were won to Jesus. You have to win people to yourself before you win them to Jesus. If people are not drawn to you, they will not be drawn to your Lord. It would be tragic to be a stumbling block that kept people from Christ! All John said was, "Behold", and that is all you can say. Say it to your friends, to your neighbors, to your relatives, "Look to Jesus." John was absorbed with looking, so he said, "Look," and they could not but look!

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eternal value. How we fail in keeping wisdom before our eyes! How we fail in our understanding!

Where are our eyes or our thoughts during prayer? Are they on "the ends of the earth" instead of on the object of our worship, Jesus Christ? Do we "turn our eyes upon Jesus" as the song says? Do we put our mouth on cruise control without entering our minds and hearts into prayer? Where are our eyes during the teaching of the Word in church and in Sunday school?

Wisdom is before him that has understanding. Wisdom is our guardian, our guide, our protector, our teacher. Our eyes are to be single, not letting our eyes focus on the ends of the earth as the fool.

Proverbs 23:26 says, ***My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways***.

God knows that if He captures our heart He will capture our eyes. Our duty as God's children is to fix our eyes on wisdom and there we shall find understanding.

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Stars of the Morning

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS*

by "Aunt Carolyn"

The ants go marching one by one,
hurrah, hurrah,
The ants go marching one by one,
hurrah, hurrah,
The ants go marching one by one,
The little one stops to suck his thumb,
And they all go marching down to the ground
To get out of the rain, BOOM, BOOM, BOOM!**

The children continued singing, "The ants go marching two by two," all the way to "ten by ten," when "The little one stops to say 'THE END', and they all go marching down to the ground, To get out of the rain, BOOM, BOOM, BOOM." Jamie and his friends raised their raucous voices, half-laughing and half-singing as they marched clumsily along the beach. They sang through their ditty a second time, and when it was done, started over again! It was fun to tramp along and sing their silly song!

Suddenly the boys stopped and froze in silence. They all followed a silent command within to hide in the sand dunes and sea oats keeping a keen watch but saying not a word! Yep, there was one! Later there were three more! Yep, this was serious! Who knew how many more were following? The boys had been warned more than once, that if they ever spotted any, not to confront the invaders. They were illegal and could get the boys in big trouble! They were dangerous, too! If for whatever reason or however it might happen, they should touch one they might, not for sure, but they might get a terrible disease!

The boys looked at each other. "It's them, all right!" Jamie whispered. "We'd better report it to the authorities before they overrun us!" With that, the boys scrambled between the dunes and headed for home! As soon as the boys told Mom what they saw, she called the government authorities! They would come round up these illegals and eradicate them immediately!

These illegal immigrants did not belong in this country! They did not have proper papers or permits to enter the borders. Nobody wanted them! They were nothing but trouble and must be rounded up before more harm was done! These were not ordinary immigrants – they were the kind that entered undercover through the water, crawled ever so slowly onto shore and moved relentlessly over field and all terrain eating everything and anything in their path! No vegetation was safe. And if they couldn't find enough plants to consume they would eat away on people's houses! Plaster and stucco were to them fine fare!

No! These illegal immigrants were not human - not men, women or children, they were giant snails! Giant African Land Snails! Originally from East Africa, they have been found in the Hawaiian Islands and in the Caribbean Islands. They are not ordinary snails but can grow as big as eight inches long and four inches in diameter. A few years ago, some were discovered in Florida and a few became multitudes. One adult snail can reproduce 1,200 eggs each year, and with a nine-year possible lifetime, a few snails can become a deadly plague spreading disease and destroying crops and property. In Florida, they multiplied so fast that the state had to spend over a million dollars over ten years to stamp out the awful infestation!

Some people have tried to grow them for food. (You may see small "escargot" on the menu of a fancy restaurant, but not these giants.) Some want them for pets, but they are absolutely illegal for any reason. One snail may seem fun and of no harm, but one can soon become a multitude and take over vast spreads of land. Isn't that just the way with sin? Sin may start small and seem insignificant, but if not confessed, if allowed to fester, it can soon take over your whole life and ruin it! Sin must not be ignored. It must be repented of, rejected, and never repeated!

Giant African Land Snails may like the USA. With its weather, plentiful food, and pleasant habitat, they may think it is a wonderful place to live. They may try many ways to come in, but they do not belong here. If found, they are not allowed to enter. No matter how attractive, how smooth and pretty their shell, or how reasonable it seems to be allowed, they must be blocked and denied entry! They have no entry permit! In much that way, some boys and girls may hear about the wonders of Heaven and would like to go there when they die, but they do not have the proper permit to enter. It is not that God doesn't want them in Heaven. God loves children, and Jesus Christ gave His life on the cross for their sin. He freely offers the invitation, "Come unto me", but they must come God's way by receiving His Son. "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us

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from all sin" (I John 1:7). If they trust Christ as Savior, their name will be written in the Lamb's Book of Life. God keeps perfect records, and no one will be allowed to enter Heaven unless their name is in that Book! They may be "nice kids", they may go to Sunday School or come from a good family, but none of that will count when they meet God. The only permit into Heaven is salvation by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "**I** am the door", "**I** am the way…No man cometh unto the Father, but by **me**" (John 14:6).

Your sin, your unclean heart, your selfish desires cannot enter Heaven. So what can you do? How can you be free from your sin? How can you be saved? There is only **one** way. Realize that you are a sinner, that your sin is against a holy God, and that your sin grieves Him. Realize that God is pure and cannot look on sin or allow it in Heaven. Then repent of your sin – the things you have done wrong, but more than that, that the reason you commit sin is because you have an unclean heart that loves wrong things. Christ gave His life a ransom for your soul (Matt. 20:28). Turn from your sin, receive Christ as the only Savior, and put all your trust and hope in Him. He will then forgive your sin and give you a new nature that will want to please God. The Holy Spirit will dwell in you to help you do right. God will also record your name in the Book of Life. Your "permit" will be free and clear because of what Jesus has done for you! Then there will be no question about it. When your time comes to meet the Lord, Heaven's gates will swing open wide to welcome you in. You will live with the Lord Jesus forever! You will not be an *illegal immigrant*! You will be *HOME!*

*Story based on a true invasion of Giant African Land Snails on Antigua, West Indies and reported in the missionary prayer letter of the Caribbean Radio Lighthouse by Missionary Station Manager Curt Waite, April 2008.

** *The Ants Go Marching*, Children's song from "Barney's Campfire Sing Along", 1990.

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