

"Preparing the Way"

12/15/91 PM

Please Open Your Bibles to Matt. 3 /
In days of old when a King set out
to visit some part of His Domain,
people were sent ahead of Him to
prepare the way / ^{you see} ^{Preparing the} ^{way is important work}

ISAIAH Assumed those who had
been in exile for so many years
that God would prepare a way
for their deliverance / He promised
that God would come and lead
them out of Desolation and
back to their own Land.

In A Sense / He was preparing the way

If you'll turn in your Bibles to
Matthews Chapter 3 you'll find that
there was ^{some one} ~~sent~~ destined to the
task of "Preparing the Way for Jesus"

Matt 3:3 reads "For this is he that
was spoken of by the prophet
Isaiah, saying "The voice of one
crying in the wilderness, prepare
ye the way of the Lord. make
his paths straight"

It was John the Baptist who had
the task laid on him // Just as I
Believe women sees Guides of the
Same Directive — "Prepare ye
the way of the Lord" //

"Prepare Ye The Way" Are words God
Speaks Over And Over in Every
Generation — words we need
to consider today as we prepare
to celebrate the birth of the
Christ —

Oh listen we need to use every
minute of every day to share
the message of Christmas —

perhaps hearts are more
Receptive during the Christmas
season than at any other time
of the year — And we need to
use this time to remind
hearts that "There is hope"
"There is Comfort" "There is a
God who loves / And a Savior
who is still in the saving business" //

21 Oh Listen, The days of Christ-mas
Come And Go So Quickly / and
if we let Another opportunity slip
away from us, We may never be
given the opportunity again //

well

How Can We Begin the Way? / What
must you and I do to do our part //

1st "I Believe We must Pray" //

(How often Jesus prayed as He
prepared to complete His work began
in a visible way by His Birth)

How often Jesus spoke of the
urgent need for "People to Pray,
And Faint Not" // Oh Listen, many
of the obstacles / the road blocks
that are put in our way, are
removed thru prayer — //

We need to be reminded that
"Every Great Revival was preceded
by much prayer" // Oh Listen Dear
Hearts, you and I must begin with
prayer, IF we are to begin the way —

We Can Also "Prepare the Way" by
making Crosses for Jesus in Our Own
Hearts //

you see

Our AA Attitudes / Our Actions / Speak
so much louder than our words //

Our Very Lives Can Reveal / ^{And} must
Reveal the Gospel in Action — //

People Can And must See Jesus
in us — And when they do,
the task of preparing the way
becomes much easier — //

We Can Also "Prepare the Way" through
our Concerns for the Welfare of
Others // Let me tell you, there
are multitudes about us who
are not living in poverty by
choice — // There are multitudes
all about us looking for the
next meal // Looking for clothes
to cover cold bodies // Looking
for a roof over their heads //
Our just saying "God Bless You"
isn't enough — Father

31 Just saying "We are bringing ~~the~~
your Needs" won't do the job -

We must Allow Our Concerns to
Melt our hearts // I say Again
"If We Are to bring the Way,
People must See Jesus In It //

Not just at Christmas // But every
day of the year. ——— Amen //

Poverty of Lichness is not something
New // Jesus saw it in His Day — //

He saw it as an "Obstacle" to
Hearts becoming Capable for
the Gospel. And Jesus said:
"As ye would that men do unto
you. do ye also unto them" //

I believe Jesus was saying: "Put
yourself in their place // Put
their clothes on your back // Put
your feet under their table //
Put their shoes on your feet —"

Valleys of Depression must be
dealt with / And mountains of
Pride & Selfishness must be dealt
with because they stand in
the way of Compassionate hearts
for the coming of Jesus —

you see

The mission of the Church has always
been to minister even as Jesus
ministered // Our mission has
always been to proclaim the
truth // Its always been to
point people to Jesus —

Beloved, If the "Father's Business" is
not the business of this Church,
we are in the wrong business Amens

God has given us a mandate —
We are to "Carve the Way for the
Lamb" It's Our Business —

We must be about our Father's
Business, every day of our lives —

It's the Only Way, We ~~Can~~ Begin
the way for the word —

Oh But Before We ~~Can~~ "Begin the
Way" / We must proclaim the
message of His love — The
message of God's love is not just
some theory — It's the Gospel —

Jesus told us Again and Again how
necessary it is to love — Oh But
Not Just to love — But to love
even as He has loved us —

It's the expression of that kind of
love that says to the world, "This
man" / "This woman" / "This young
person" / "This boy or girl" is a
follower of the Lord Jesus —

God's word tells us how God loved //
It tells us how Jesus loved //
And it tells us how we MUST
love (If) we are to successfully
begin the way for the word —

Jesus said in John 12:26 "If any
man serve me, let him follow me"
(let him follow my example)

And He makes this promise: "Who
will my Father honor" / He or she
will be rewarded by my Father

Jesus said in John 15:14 "Ye are
my friends, ~~only if~~ ~~or as~~ "ye
do whatsoever I command you"

Jesus ^{also} said: "Ye shall be my witnesses"

Just before Jesus left this earth He
said: "Ye shall be my witnesses"
It will be your knowledge to
bring the way for my coming
again

"He also said:

"And I promise you help." After you
allow the Holy Spirit to control,
then you will be full of power =
"And you will be my witnesses"

5/ On Wednesday Evening Our Mission
Group took in on a Verseless
Adventure - "My heart was very full
that they were so far here to
receive the blessing"

~~But~~ they told us how children would
go about sharing Jesus every day -
How they set goals to reach
at least one person for Jesus
each year - How they
witnessed daily -

I believe they were "pursuing the
way, for the Lord's coming"

Let me ask "How many people have
you tried to lead to the Lord
this year?" How many witnessed
every day, to someone lost
and destined to spend eternity
in hell?

Behold, it's not enough to say
"It needs to be done" - "We must do it"
because Jesus said so -

Jesus said, "Ye shall be my witnesses"
What does witness mean?

It means you will be

- ① One who shows a first hand experience — / It means:
- ② One who relates their very own experience — / It means:
- ③ One who tells others how they were saved — and how others can be saved — //

If a person refuses to witness, ^{it could} say they may never have had a first hand experience. //

If one refuses to witness they may never have been saved. //

Jesus said: "Witnessing by loved people is Not An Option" / He said: "Ye shall be my witnesses" Acts 1:8

"Witnessing" is the business of every loved person — It paves the way of the Lord —

6/ Now there is something Else We Need
to do if we are to "Carry the Way"
for Our Lord's Return - //

- ① We must welcome Him into our
own hearts - //
- ② We must invite
Jesus into our hearts - //
- ③ We
must allow Him to Abide in
us - //

Dear Hearts, "If We Are Saved, It's Our
Business to Carry the Way for the
Lord Emmanuel's Return" // Jesus said so

But Before We Are Saved, We must
have the Witness of Jesus in us - //

If We Are to Save Him // We Absolutely
Must Commit Our All to Him. //

We Can't hold Any Thing Back

If We do, We Are Not Committed to Him. //

Are You Saved? Are You Totally
Committed to Him? For He is All
He Accepts From Us - //

Now He may not take all you offer
Aim / But unconditional surrender
says: "Dear Jesus, it's up to you /
Use what you have I will" //

Will you do that tonight? I believe
It'll help you beyond the way -

Are you here without Jesus - Having
no witness to show // No testimony
to bear? // But feeling that you
have a great need? If you'll
come, I'll try to help you find
out what it is -

Oh beloved, let's make this a truly
Christian Christmas. As we commit
ourselves to beginning to way for
our Lord, return.

Let's pray -