

COME TO CHURCH

Preachers A Problem When Shepherds Become Sheep

Nowadays, Even as in Jeremiah's Time, People Are Imperiled by Religious Teachers Who Miss the Message of God — Will a New Prophet Arise via the Radio?

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

A delicate and difficult problem is posed for us by Jeremiah, whose twenty-five hundred-year-old words are assigned for this week's study by the millions of Sunday School members. It is the problem of the preachers, whom he calls prophets although, alas, the two words are not always synonymous.

We are habituated to hearing the subject of preachers respectfully. By far the great mass of them are God's men, and godly men. They are set apart to deal with the sublimities, and to declare to the world the whole counsel of God. They are sought for in life's crises. They stand at the bier of our dear dead. They are counselors in the tragedies of human souls. To them society looks as to the mouthpiece of God. Theirs is the highest calling, to be sustained by unflinching prayer and study of God's word.

Preachers have been the shaping force in the life of our Nation. They have implanted and sustained the growth of morality and democracy. They have been counselors to congregations and guides to individuals. Their own sons and daughters have played an astonishingly important part in public life. In times of moral crisis, their voice has been decisive. In a generalization, it may be said that the character of the United States and Canada is a product of the preachers.

"Middlin' Preachers"

In "The Virginian" one of the characters says, "A middlin' doctah is a pore thing; but keep me from a middlin' man of God." Probably the "middlin'" minister is our worst weakness, the man to whom preaching is just a job. At the moment, we are concerned with the man in holy orders who is merely negative and routine; in whose utterances the will of God never blazes forth passionately; and who proudly creates no antagonism, heads no movements for greater godliness; has no spiritual vision, and merely does the mechanical round of duties for which he draws his pay — ever hoping for a call to an easier, more profitable field.

There are such. All of us know them. Perhaps it is a fair description of a "middlin'" preacher that he leaves us where he found us, with no clearer vision of God, no step upward onto higher levels of daily living. The community that is afflicted with this type of preacher is worse off than if visited by a flood, a hurricane or an earthquake. For it suffers soul-starvation.

The Ear-Ticklers

Jeremiah had blistering words for the "popular" preachers of his day, who proclaimed only what the people wanted to hear. They were the ear-ticklers of his day, as of ours; who listened for God's approval rather than for God's disapproval. Ministers of this type who usually gravitate to the cities, are more interested in press notices than in conversion rolls. These are the men who speak of their hearers as "audiences." They would rather please people than change them.

Jeremiah's time was cursed with this type of "stand-patter" prophets, who, in the face of impending national disaster from without, and gangrenous moral corruption within, cried, "Peace! Peace!" when there was no peace. With their dreams and unwarranted optimism, they lulled the people into a false sense of security. They left the idolatrous, corrupt and imperiled nation with a spirit of complacency which disregarded the clear counsel of God.

Shepherd Becomes Sheep

Such preachers were the vogue in Jeremiah's day. Then, as now, many prophets followed fashions. We are witnessing a wave of the same sort in our own time: ministers as a mass swept up into cults of pacifism "social gospel" preaching; sentimental radicalism and Bible-denying modernism. The strange phenomenon of today's pulpit is that many shepherds have

become sheep — followers of an arid intellectualism, rather than God-led leaders of a flock. Their "ear is to the ground," rather than turned heavenward.

Some of these false prophets are heard on the radio, preaching intolerance, class and race hatred, and even open sedition. Their power points the need for the rise of a true prophet, after the order of Jeremiah, and of the other great Hebrew seers, who will command a national hearing for the clear commands of God. The radio is God's new trumpet, whereby the whole world may hear at once the message of God's man for the hour, when he appears. No longer need he be a voice crying in the wilderness; or a lonely persecuted, imprisoned prophet like Jeremiah. He may set the ether vibrating with the explicit counsels of eternity. That ideal seems distant in a day when the most popular figure on the radio is a wooden dummy!

Cults and Preachers

It would startle many a Christian to take a pencil and check up the religious advertisements in the Saturday issue of a metropolitan paper. I have known instances wherein the advertisements of the various "cults" outnumbered those of the Christian churches.

The existence of these is an indictment of the Christian pulpit as a whole. They signify that soul-hungry folk have not found satisfaction for their spiritual needs in the regular ministry and so have turned to yogis and swamis and weird ecstatic cults.

Equally an indictment of the Christian Church is the prevalence of crime and corruption and debased moral standards in our time. If the prophets of God, as Jeremiah pointed out, had been equal to their opportunity and to their duty, sin would not have been fortified by faith in the living God.

Summed up, all of the foregoing means that the true prophets of God must rise to the occasion. There is a deep under-surge of vague religious sentiment in the world today. But it needs the counsel and leadership of the ministry to become articulate and practical. This is a day of day for the widespread teaching and preaching of the Gospel of Christ, as applied to modern life. What a call it constitutes for young Christians to enter upon a career of Sunday school teaching!

And for the preacher it is a day of destiny. His power is greater than that of the politician, for he deals with the master motives of life. He must be an example: "Like priest, like people," he must be a voice, not an echo; a voice calling to the world in the certain terms of Holy Writ: "This is the Way; walk ye in it."

SEVEN SENTENCE SERMONS

Make it thy business to know thyself, which is the most difficult lesson in the world. — Cervantes.

The reason why so few marriages are happy is because young ladies spend their time in making nets, not in making cages. — Jonathan Swift.

Do the work that is nearest. Though it's dull at while, Helping when we meet them, Lame dogs over stilets. — Charles Kingsley.

Be sure you put your feet in the right place and then stand firm. — Abraham Lincoln.

Far be it from me to glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world hath been crucified unto me, and I unto the world. — Gal. 6:14.

One God, one law, one element. And one far-off divine event To which the whole creation moves. — Alfred Tennyson.

There is more ado to interpret interpretations than to interpret the things; and more books upon books than upon all other subjects; we do nothing but comment upon one another. — Michael DeMontaigne.

If you would reform the world from its errors, and vices, begin by enlisting the mothers. — Stimmone.

Mother is the name of God in the hearts of little children.

CHURCHES

St. Mary's Church
Rev. J. J. Seimetz, Pastor
(All services on daylight saving time.)
Pentecost Sunday
First mass — 7:00 A. M.
Children's mass — 8:30 A. M.
High mass — 9:45 A. M.
Prayer hour and Benediction, 2:00 P. M. Communion Sunday for Mothers and daughters in observance of Mother's Day.

Zion Lutheran Church
Monroe and Eleventh Street
Paul W. Schultz, Pastor
Sunday school and Bible class 9:00 a. m.
Confirmation services 10:00 a. m.
Choir meeting Monday 7:30 p. m.
Walther League meeting Tuesday 7:30 p. m.
Mother-Daughter banquet Friday 6:00 p. m.
Saturday catechism school 8:30 a. m.
All services and meetings according to daylight saving time, which is one hour earlier than formerly.

First Methodist Church
Monroe at Fifth Street
Ralph Waldo Graham, Minister
Mother's Day
(All services on daylight saving time.)
9:30 A. M. Morning Worship and Study: A Unified Service. Nursery for the infants. Junior Church for the children, with special message. Music by the Young People's Choir. Special Mother's Day Theme: "Positive Weeping." A most cordial welcome. For Mother's Sake, Come to Church.
6:00 P. M. Epworth League. Harriet Gilson, Devotional Leader. Special speaker, W. Guy Brown, subject: "The Church and Modern Social Problems." The public is invited. Young people are especially invited.

7:30 P. M. Evening Worship. Inspiring congregational singing. Special musical numbers by the Chorus Choir, the Mixed Quartet, and solo by James Harkless.
Wednesday: 7:00 Prayer and Bible Hour. Paul said: "Maintain your zeal for prayer with thanksgiving." Colos. 4, 2. (Moffatt)

First Baptist Church
Carey R. Moser, Pastor
(All services on daylight saving time.)
9:30 A. M. Sunday School. An interesting class with a competent teacher for you.
10:30 A. M. Morning Worship. As this is Mother's Day very interesting and helpful services are planned. The theme of the morning message will be, "Memories of Mother." Mrs. Dan Tyndall will be our soloist for this service.
6:00 P. M. Young People's Service. A special speaker will be with us, so all young people are urged to be present.

7:00 P. M. Evening Evangelistic Service. A beautiful stereoscopic lecture will be given at this hour, accompanied by appropriate organ selections. The picture theme is, "Mothers." Everyone is welcome to this service.
6:30 P. M. Tuesday evening our men's brotherhood will meet for their monthly meeting. All men of the church are expected and any friends will be most welcome.
6:30 P. M. Wednesday evening, our choir will meet for rehearsal.
7:30 P. M. Wednesday evening, all families of the church are urged to come to the church for an hour of fellowship.

The First United Brethren Church
Corner Madison and Ninth Streets
G. T. Rossett, Minister
Sunday School at 9:15 a. m. (DST). Roy Mumma superintendent. Classes for all ages with earnest and faithful teachers.
Morning Worship a special Mother's Day service at 10:30 a. m. Sermon by the pastor. Subject: "Mother, Home and Church."
Christian Endeavor at 6:30 p. m. (DST) Interesting and helpful groups for Jews, Juniors, Intermediates, Young People and Adults.
Evening Worship at 7:30 p. m. The evening sermon will be preached by the Rev. Harold L. Stephens, noted evangelist and preacher. Rev. Stephens has held evangelistic services in the United States, Canada and Great Britain and was at one time associated with the late Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman. His sermon will be well worth hearing.
Bible Study Monday evening at 7:00 p. m.
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 7:00 p. m. Groups for Children, Young People, Young Married People, and other Adults.
All these services will be held on Daylight Saving Time. A warm welcome awaits all who attend our church.

Trade in a Good Town — Decatur

Church of the Nazarene
7th and Marshadd Sts.
Paul Brandyberry, Pastor
Our Church will abide by the vote of the people and begin all services on fast time.
9:30 A. M. Sunday School. Doyle Lytle, supt.
10:30 A. M. Morning Worship. Sermon theme: "The Ideal Mother." Text: "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." Prov. 31:30.
3:00 P. M. "The Singing Preachers" WOWO.
7:00 P. M. The young people's service.
7:00 P. M. The Junior service.
7:30 P. M. The Evangelistic service.

7:30 P. M. Wednesday. The regular mid-week prayer meeting.
"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Heb. 9:27.
Let us prepare for the judgment now, not tomorrow. Come, you will enjoy our old fashioned religious services. You are welcome!

First Christian Church
Kenneth Timmons, pastor
9:30 a. m. — Bible School. Fred Scheiderer, superintendent. This is an important day. First, a lesson on "Faith." Also it is Mother's Day, which is an occasion for a great attendance in activity. Finally, but not least in importance, it is Pentecost Sunday, the birthday anniversary of the church.
10:30 a. m. — Special morning worship, communion and a sermon by Rev. Timmons. The sermon theme, "Mary, the Mother of Jesus."
7:30 p. m. — Evening worship services, commemorating the birthday anniversary of the church. The sermon theme, "The Day of Pentecost."

Monday, 7:30 p. m. — Corinthian class will meet at the home of Mrs. James Kitchen. Mrs. Elmer Darwacher will be leader of the social entertainment.
Tuesday, 7:30 p. m. — Sisters of Ruth class will meet at the home of Mrs. Elmer Harlacher. Mrs. J. E. Anderson will be program leader.

Wednesday, 7:30 p. m. — Prayer and praise service and Bible study conducted by Rev. Timmons. You are always welcome to come and worship with us.

Jehovah's Witnesses
710 Indiana St.
Watch Tower Bible study Sunday, 7:30 p. m., using the April 1, 1940 Watch Tower magazine. Subject, "Instruction." Scripture text, "Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased; I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall show judgment to the Gentiles." Matt. 12:18, 21.
Salvation book study Wednesday, 7:30 p. m.
All people of good will are invited.

Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church
Charles M. Prugh, Th. D., Minister
(All services on daylight saving time.)
Church School 9 A. M. — T. L. Becker, supt. Mother's Day exercises.
Morning Worship 10 A. M. Sermon: "The Church in the Home." 1 Cor. 16:19. Music by the Senior Choir.
Youth Forum 4 P. M. Richard Goldner, leader. "Boy and Girl Relations," by the pastor.
5:30 P. M. Youth Fellowship supper.
6:15 P. M. Zion Youth League. Dale Beer, leader. "Parents Are People, Too," topic.
7:30 P. M. Evening worship. Organ recital by Mrs. Chas. E. Stice, Chicago, assisted by the Young People's Choir.
Tuesday, 7 P. M. Girls' Missionary Guild.
Wednesday, 7:30 P. M. Ladies' Aid Society.

First Evangelical Church
George S. Lozier, Minister
(The church services are scheduled on daylight saving time.)
9:15 A. M. — Sunday School. Gregg McFarland, superintendent.
10:10 A. M. — Divine Worship. Sermon theme: "Behold Thy Mother." Mother's Day will be fittingly observed.
6:30 P. M. — Christian Endeavor.
7:30 P. M. — Sunday Evening Fellowship — Pentecostal observance. Sermon theme: "Dynamic Christianity."
8:00 P. M. Monday — Albright Brotherhood.
8:00 P. M. Tuesday — Official Board meeting.
8:00 P. M. Wednesday — Mid-week Devotional and Study Hour.
8:00 P. M. Wednesday — Choir rehearsal.
2:00 P. M. Thursday — Ladies Aid Society.
8:00 P. M. Thursday — Quarter-

ly Conference. Rev. R. H. Mueller will deliver a message and preside at the business session.

Church of God
Glen E. Marshall, Pastor
The Unified service begins promptly at 9:30 with a call to worship. After the prelude the congregation will sing together an appropriate Mother's Day song, "Faith of Our Mothers." The worship service of the day will be dedicated to mothers.
The boys and girls meet in the basement for their Junior church. The Unified service closes promptly at 11:20.
6:30 Shining Lights, Mrs. Emery Hawkins, director.
6:30 Christian Crusaders. Robert Strickler, leader.
7:30 Evangelistic service.
7:30 Wednesday, mid-week prayer service.

PLEASE NOTE: The services will be held on Daylight Saving Time. If an adjustment in the time needs to be made to accommodate the people from the farm, announcement will be made regarding it from the pulpit.
The public is most cordially invited to attend every service of this congregation.

The Better Way
A Beatitude for Mothers
Blessed are the mothers of yesterday, for their memories shall be called beautiful and beneficial. They are like flowers growing by sunken gardens and beside still waters and in green fields.
Blessed are the mothers of today, for they have the keeping of tomorrow in their hands and in their hearts; and the destiny of nations, hearts and homes.
Blessed are the mothers of tomorrow, for they have been summoned to a great and heroic hour. For they shall be called mothers of men who shall make miracles of human life.
Blessed are the mothers, for they are conservers of the human race.
Blessed are the mothers of the world, for they have conserved the spiritual things of life for the sake of their children.
Blessed are the mothers of the earth, for they have combined the practical and the spiritual into one workable way of human life. Blessed are the mothers! — William L. Stiger in "Pulpit Prayers and Paragraphs."

DO YOU KNOW?
1. Through what lake does the Jordan flow?
2. Into what sea does the Jordan empty?
3. Through what sea did the Israelites pass when fleeing from Egypt?
4. Name four mountain of the holy land?
5. Where is Mt. Sinal located?
Answers on page 2.

There is hope for every man, however sinful, who reveres his mother's memory.
Man is never homeless while his mother's picture hangs on memory's wall.
Raphael Madonnas are but the shadows of a mother's love fixed in permanent outlines forever.
Back in the brickyard of Philadelphia my mother taught me the principles of success. — Wanamaker.

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IF YOU APPRECIATE THIS CHURCH PAGE
PATRONIZE THE SPONSORS



Mother's Day
No greater honor can a son or daughter bestow to a mother, if living, than to worship with her on Mother's Day and no greater respect can be shown to her memory than by attending a service of worship.
It is a beautiful custom which calls sons and daughters to the House of God on this day to pay respect and tribute to motherhood.

Wit and Wisdom
The Open Sesame
Wilhelmina, a very queenly and promising girl was the only surviving child of William III. of Holland. She was constantly reminded that she would some day be the queen and was frequently haughty about it. It is related that one day she went to her mother's room and found the doors closed. She knocked and when her mother asked who was there she answered, "It's the queen of Holland." There was no answer. Again she knocked and said quite haughtily, "It's Wilhelmina of Holland. May she come in?" Still there was no answer. She knocked a third time and this time her mother's voice asked sweetly, "Who is it, please?" It's mother's little girl," answered the girl queen with becoming humility. "Mother's little girl may come in" and then the door opened wide and into her mother's arms she ran.

OUR PREACHER Says
Procreation is man's death blow. Few men but wish to do what is right, but not just now. That man is not free who does not do what he knows is right. A man's moral tissues are devitalized when he continually postpones doing what he knows to be right, and so his moral powers are weakened and we have all grades of moral derelicts. Do right at any cost, anywhere, everywhere, and thus be strong.
As one whom his mother comforted, so will I comfort you. — Isaiah.

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