



Gospel Broadcasting and Publishing
The Mission Trail
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VOL. 8, NO. 15

THE MISSION TRAIL

APRIL 28, 1972

The Price of Disobedience

Radio Broadcast for week of April 23, 1972. (See back page for list of stations)

"But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof and went down unto it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord." Jonah 1:3. We have here in the book of Jonah the report of a man whom God had chosen to witness for him in the city of Nineveh and to warn them of their wickedness and the impending judgments of the Lord. But instead Jonah chose rather to disobey. Oh, the price he did pay for that disobedience. Listen again to this one part of the verse: "So he paid the fare thereof."

I wonder how much that fare was. I suppose in dollars and cents it wouldn't have been very much. But look, what else it cost him, the peace of mind and satisfaction of knowing he had done the will of the Lord. It cost him the price of going through a storm at sea. It cost him his place on the ship for he was thrown overboard into the sea, where he was swallowed up by the fish the Lord had prepared for him. It cost him three days in the belly of the fish, where the certainty of life itself was in doubt. He also had the humiliation of going to Nineveh as God had said and preaching to them the Word of the Lord. So I say the fare he paid was rather expensive for the few days he was a fugitive from the will of God.

But Jonah learned the folly of disobedience. It was a heavy fare. The money after all, was only a small part of the fare he paid. Think of how Jonah must have felt as he walked along the docks waiting for that ship to sail. And I am sure confessing to the captain that he was a prophet running from his job was

no easy task. But he paid the fare thereof, as we all do in one way or another, when we try for Tarshish after God tells us Nineveh. It just doesn't pay to run from God. Can you think of others who "paid the fare thereof"? How about Esau. The price he paid for a mess of pottage was rather expensive. He shed tears and sought for repentance, but he had made the tragic mistake of selling his birthright, which he could never regain.

Then on the other side of the ledger is the price it costs in receiving a bribe. That is expensive too. Judas accepted 30 pieces of silver for the betrayal of his Lord, but it surely did cost him a tremendous price. He lost what respect he may have had of the Jews for being a traitor. It cost him the fellowship of Jesus and the other disciples. And that wasn't all. The thoughts of his crime and a guilty conscience caused him to go out and hang himself. So it cost him his life. But even more than this--think of the never-dying soul which was lost eternally. Oh, what a great

price he paid for the thirty pieces of silver.

Then there was Lot. He thought he was making a smart choice in selecting the well watered plains for his cattle. In a material way perhaps it was, but it cost him dearly as he pitched his tents ever nearer to the city of Sodom and Gomorrah. When he was finally cleared of that wicked place barely with his life, he didn't have much left as he took inventory. Practically, all of his possessions were gone. His wife had perished on the way out as she disobeyed and turned again toward Sodom. Only he and his two daughters survived. Wasn't that a price to pay?

There was a time when Hezekiah was a young man and he became king of Judah. And he was a good king. Hezekiah was only twenty-five years old when he became ruler. But he began to clean up the place for the Lord. "He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan." 2 Kings 18:4. Well, in the course of time the king of Assyria besieged Samaria and took it. You see, they had disobeyed the Lord. Later this same king of Assyria came against Judah. And he really caused them some trouble. Listen to this offer made by one of Assyria's spokesmen: "Now therefore, I pray thee, give pledges to my lord the King of Assyria, and I will deliver thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them." 2 Kings 18:23. In substance this is about what he was saying: "Your men cannot handle horses. If I were to give you two thousand you couldn't find the men to ride them."

But God did deliver Hezekiah from the hands of the Assyrians when they inquired of the Lord. Isaiah gave them comfort and strength. However, I want you to pay particular attention to this challenge about riding the horses. Our modern age is like this. We have plenty of "horses" available, figuratively speaking that is now. In fact, they have multiplied to outstrip our horsemanship. Our nation has pushed knowledge to ever widening boundaries, but the ability to handle that knowledge has receded. The world has marvelous "steeds" of power, but how poorly they are being ridden. There is entirely too much lag between the material and moral progress. We are living in perilous times even as the scriptures tell us that men shall be lovers of their own selves, proud, boasters, and despisers of those that are good. We should never forget that wisdom and power belong to God, and that reverence for him is the beginning of wisdom. The hope of our nation lies in the task of returning to God and the precepts of his word. Yes, it is then that we as missionaries will be better qualified to go forth into all the world and teach them by precept and example the ways of the Lord. We might liken each man's personality to a corral into which God has turned a certain number of horses.

There are at least six: Intellect, Emotion, Will, Conscience, Imagination, and Influence--do we know how to ride them? Some of them may be undersized, and scrawny, while others are strong and lively! We should all be good riders and bring them under control. Are you disciplining your mind? Do you keep under your emotions and bring them into subjection to truth and reason? Is your will strong for the truth? Are you earnestly contending for the faith which was once delivered to the saints? Are

you educating your conscience in the school of the Sermon on the Mount? And your imaginations--are they being kept clean and pure, or are they allowed to go unrestrained and run loose? What we ought to say to the Lord is this: "Thou hast given me horses. I will set strong and skillful riders on them all"! Listen to these words of the apostle Paul: "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." 1 Cor. 9:27.

And now this poem:

The Builder

I watched them tearing a building down,
A gang of men in a busy town.
With a ho he ho and a lusty yell,
They swung a beam and a side wall fell.
I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled,
As the men you would hire if you were to build?"
He gave a laugh and said, "No, indeed,
Just common labor is all I need,
You can easily wreck in a day or two,
What others have taken years to do."
I thought to myself as I went my way
Now, which of these rules have I decided to play?
Am I a builder who works with care,
Measuring life by the rule and square?
Am I laying my deeds to a well laid plan,
Patiently doing the best I can,
Or am I a wrecker who walks the town
Intent with the labor of tearing down?
--Select by A. G. Davis.

Let us pray.

Our father, bless the message to the good of every listener. Those who are having problems with their own desires and habits, give them victory through the wonderful grace of God. Heal the

sick and deliver those who are calling upon thee for we ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Thanks to each of you who have taken the time and interest to write up expressing your concern for the truth and the things of the Lord. If we may be a help with some spiritual problem be sure to let us know. Address your letter to the Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla.

Here is a song: "Leaning on the Arms of Jesus" As sung by the Carvers.

Until we meet again, this is Willie Murphey saying may God bless and keep you in the center of his will and a very cheerful goodbye!

Testimonies

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."--Rev. 12:11.

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From Mo.: "We trust all is well and happy in the service of the great King. It is so good to know we can walk to please this great King of Kings and Lord of Lords and he is so kind and loving to each one of his creation. His children are a chosen generation. We can know that when we are in any trial he is with us. Just today he answered prayer for us. We needed help soon so he never came too late. We want to make him a better servant. So very glad he knows our hearts. There is no friend like the Lord. We always enjoy the radio sermon and the little Mission Trail paper. Bro. McMillian preaches on Sunday morning for about 15 minutes. So we get two messages on Sunday. We are having lovely weather now. The dogwood trees are beautiful. Must close and get this in the mail."

--Bro. & Sis. F. E. Wilson

From La.: "The Lord shows his love to us in so many ways and often. I am amazed at the way He cares for us. I wanted to tell you of a little incident that happened yesterday. I had several letters to mail and some more that I needed to write--as I stamped the ones to be mailed, I noticed that I had only one postage stamp left. The thought came to me 'Well, I'll just have to pray about which letter is the most important and to be mailed until I can get some more stamps.' I don't drive and have to go to the postoffice for stamps. Sometimes I'm out several days before I get a chance to purchase more but in yesterday's mail I received a letter from a sister that I don't recall ever writing to me before and enclosed in the letter was 6 postage stamps. How I did thank the dear Lord, for today I can mail more letters! I am sending a request for prayer for my body. I'm having so much pain and swelling in my limbs and hands. I don't rest much at night and many days I can scarcely get about. I also have a very urgent unspoken request. I know God hears and answers the prayers of his people. ... This is such a lovely time of year. I'd love to just live out of doors... I'm looking forward to the camp meetings--don't think I'll get to Guthrie this year, but one never can tell... May the dear Lord bless you each one and ever make you a blessing to others... Pray for us." --Sybil Goldsberry, 107 Oliece Dr., West Monroe, La. 71291.

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From La.: "Greetings to you this nice spring morning. I'm sure you both find much to do to keep you busy. But I'm sure you find it a pleasure working for the Lord. He is the best employer one could ever work for. He gives good pay and always adding bonuses. I sure thank him for salvation and all the blessings of life." --Sis. A. E. Flynn



Sister Maudie Sharp

From Ohio: "Dear Brother & Sister Murphey, and to the dear saints and friends of the Mission Trail--'Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.' Acts 11:23. I am writing to thank every one that has been so thoughtful in remembering me, in prayer, and to thank every one for their beautiful get-well cards and letters and gifts of love. I had taken a stroke on the 4th of Dec. of 1971. And I was moved by ambulance on the 12th of Dec. to my grand-son's in New Carlisle, Ohio... I lost my voice the time I had the stroke, until 6 weeks and two days, past, and in the evening of the 24th of Jan. the Lord brought back my voice. Some of my children were here, and the Lord seemed to be in my inmost being, and He was so marvelous. I could do nothing in myself, but the Lord blessed my soul in such a way, that it seemed heaven was in my soul, and in my room. I love him today with all my heart and soul. I think of the scripture in Isa. 41:10--'Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.'... I won't be able to write each one at present, but I trust the Lord will bless each one, and keep you all close to Him."

--Sister Maudie Sharp

From Mo.: "Greeting of Christian love. I trust this finds you prospering in your body and encouraged in your soul. I can truly say by his goodness and faith in his precious promises all looks bright to me. I have thought of that scripture here of late that is found in Heb. 4:2-- 'For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.' He tells us again not be slothful but followers of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. I want by God's grace to be like the apostle Paul when he had come to the end of his work here on earth. He said, 'I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteousness judge, shall give me at that day:' The word or the gospel unto him had profited him much. He also had been able to preach the gospel to others who believed it and obeyed it, and were made rich spiritually and they also became heirs of salvation and of eternal life. His life and that of the Lord Jesus and the lives of all the other saints that have fought a good fight of faith is a challenge to us. Thank God for faith in his promises... The saints here are interested in getting the truth to all they can. Some of them need prayer. Especially remember Sis. Sell in prayer. She is a very dear saint and is afflicted and needs healing in body. The Lord seems to be prospering our little effort to get the gospel to the people here around Neosho by means of the broadcast. We are happy for this privilege and trust that we shall be able by God's blessing to reach many precious souls with the gospel which is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. Romans 1:16."

--Bro. T. V. McMillian

From Mo.: "I greet you and family in Jesus name and all of God's children every where, hope all are well... We have had a good rain. Everything is greening up... have had some hot weather which the dear Lord gave us... What would we do without his love and mercies?"

--W. D. Harmon

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From La.: "Greetings of love to your family. After being detained twice on the phone for quite a while, my time is cut so short to get this ready for the mail carrier today... Kathrine just called and read a card over the phone she's just received in morning's mail from La Vern saying if nothing came up to hinder, it looks like she will be able to move in 2 or 3 weeks. This is a big undertaking for her, real hard in different ways... She surely needs much help from the Lord and is asking for prayer. So we will appreciate so much if you dear saints there will pray with us for her to be able to draw all the strength and help from the Lord she will need at this time. We know He is able for every need for all of His children. The Lord is very good to me, daily loading me with benefits, as David said. And I do want to turn back real often giving Him thanks. My heart is so heavy because of the condition of the world. Poor souls are sleeping the sleep of eternal death and it seems nothing can awaken them. I do pray whatever the cost, that many will be able to see the end of their way and flee from the wrath that is to come upon all the ungodly. I trust the Lord is blessing all of you dear ones there that are laboring in the gospel work, daily supplying every need. We enjoy listening to the Mission Trail message each Sun. morning--messages that would save every soul in reach of the broadcast if they would only hear and heed. In Christian love,"

--Sister Alta Flynn

Children's Page

READ THE BIBLE BY SYMBOLS.

and before him shall be gathered



and
he shall
separate
them
one from
another,
as a



and he shall



MATT. xxv, 31-33.

at press time

we understand:



From La.: "We trust all of you are well and happy today. We want to thank everyone for their earnest prayers concerning our keeping Little Lynn. The Lord worked in ways that we never thought of and we do thank him for it.

The Interlocutory hearing was March 27, and we are happy to report that the mother did not interfere. Those were days of great anxiety, but we couldn't feel that we would lose him. Hope to see you during the summer. Love,

--Charles, Joan & Lynn DePhillips

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All-day services are scheduled for Springfield, Mo. Sunday, April 30. Sunday School is to begin at 9:30 daylight saving time and morning service at 11. After lunch there will be service again. It was thought best to omit the singing on preceding Saturday night. Don't forget to set your clock up one hour. Chapel is on 718 N. Kansas.

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From N. Mex.: "Trust every one is well and enjoying the many blessings of God especially in his services. How we do thank each one of you for praying for Cheryl our little grand child. She is home now since April 8th and doing so well yet her lung isn't cleared up entirely and still needs our prayers so she can be a healthy and strong child able to resist. They have to be real watchful of her yet, but thanks again so very much and most of all we thank and praise God."

--Ruth Doolittle

We request prayers of all the saints for the companion of Sis. Doris D. Littlefield, RFD 2, Belfast, Maine 04915 who has a serious heart condition. She recently wrote from Maine: "...But I know all things are possible with God. ...Yesterday we had bare ground in spots. In front of the door etc. It was supposed to rain last evening. It rained lightly for about 5 minutes, then it turned to wet snow. So this morning we have about 5 inches of new wet snow. My telephone is out. My brother-in-law will be here to plow me out sometime this morning."

--Doris D. Littlefield

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It was good to have Bro. & Sis. Max Williamson and their son, David, visit in Guthrie recently. They visited relatives here and also attended services with the saints before returning to their home in Hammond, Louisiana. The Lord used Bro. Max in bringing several messages.

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"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood there were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

--Matt. 24:35-39.



THE MISSION TRAIL, originating in Guthrie, Okla., is broadcast by radio and published weekly in printed form by Willie and Frances Murphey with the help of others. It is mailed free of charge to those who request it. Its purpose is to reach the hungry hearts of the unsaved everywhere with the gospel which will save them. Its principal support comes from the free will contributions of its listeners and readers. Those who feel directed by the Lord to assist may do so by sending their offering to: THE MISSION TRAIL, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

For some it will come true: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20. Let us hasten with the message which Jesus gave: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."



Broadcast Schedule

Listen for THE MISSION TRAIL weekly on one of the following stations:

RADIO STATION	LOCATION	DIAL SETTING	TIME
KGGF	Coffeyville, Kansas	690 kc.	Sunday, 8:00 a. m.
KCKW	Jena, Louisiana	1480 kc.	Sunday, 7:30 a. m.
WFPR	Hammond, Louisiana	1400 kc.	Sunday, 7:45 a. m.

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