

“THAT YE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS”

INTRODUCTION

The apostle Peter refers to God’s people as having been “called” (1 Pet. 2:21A). THEN, he reminds his readers of 2 things: (1) FIRST, that Christ suffered FOR us, as the “called”. Cf 4:1. (2) SECOND, Peter says in so doing, He left us, the “called”, an example. ALL OF THIS leads up to the **final purpose** of our calling, “that ye should follow his steps,” as they lead to heaven.

Almost 200 years ago, there was a minister’s wife and school teacher named MARY SLADE, who was born and lived all her life in Falls River, Mass.. She wrote the words for several hymns used in churches of Christ today. Among them are “Beyond the Land of Parting”, “Hark, the Gentle Voice of Jesus”, “Who at the Door is Standing?”, and “Footsteps of Jesus.” Dr. A. B. Everett wrote the music for all these songs.

Our lesson today is based on the 4 stanzas of this last hymn, “Footsteps of Jesus.”. We shall apply each stanza to **our lives today**, as we attempt to follow the footsteps of Jesus.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, we are to HEAR THE CALLING OF GOD.

1st stanza: “Sweetly Lord, have we **heard** Thee Calling, Come Follow Me, And we see where Thy footprints falling, Lead us to Thee.”

A. The words remind us of our calling, when we heard the message of the saving gospel of Christ, and obeyed that gospel in confessing our faith in Jesus the Savior, and being baptized into Him.

Mark 16:15-16; 2 Thess. 2:14

B. Christ began HIS **ministry** when He was “baptized” in the Jordan River. Matt. 3:13-16

1. Jesus had no sins to BE forgiven, but had He NOT been baptized, He would have sinned in not fulfilling God’s will for him. v. 15; Psa. 119:172

2. We are to be baptized FOR the remission of our sins, which begins our journey that leads us to God. John 14:6

II. 2nd, we are to SEEK lost sheep, and HELP the weak.

2nd Stanza: “Though they lead to the cold dark mountain, Seeking the Lost; or along by Siloam’s Fountain, Helping the Weak.”

A. Jesus came to seek and save lost sheep, and help the needy.. Luke 19:10; Matt. 15:24; John 9:1-7...

B. We want to follow Jesus’ example in seeking the lost, and helping the needy as we find them in life. John 1:43; Matt. 4:18-19; Gal. 6:10

III. 3rd, we are to PREACH the Word to Serve God.

3rd Stanza: “If they lead thru the temple holy, Preaching the Word, Or in homes of the poor and lonely, Serving the Lord.”

A. As Jesus came to seek the lost, He often went to the temple, even where religious people were, to bring salvation to them. Matt. 21:12-16

1. Religious people today IN and OUT of religions are lost without God and Jesus.

a. Some of our liberal brethren argue that we should **not** bother folks in denominations, for they already HAVE a “church”, but that we should spend out time teaching the unchurched.

- b. Saul of Tarsus was a religious man when he persecuted the church of Christ, and he was also a **lost** person at that time. Acts 22:1-4; 26:4-5
- 2. The Jews on Pentecost day in Acts 2, were also very religious, for they had come to Jerusalem to celebrate this great Jewish feast.
 - a. Peter said they were guilty of killing the Son of God and needed to be saved.
 - b. They were told that they needed to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins.
- 3. The whole world today is LOST, and needs to be saved. 1 John 5:19; John 3:16-17

B. We need to preach the word, that we might truly “Serve” the Lord. Acts 5:14-29; 41-42

IV. 4th, we anticipate by and by to ENTER into heaven’s golden street.

4th Stanza: “By and By thru the shining portals; Turning our feet; We shall walk with the glad immortals, Heaven’s golden street.

- A. Jesus came from heaven, and returned TO heaven, in spite of the problems and difficulties He endured on earth.
 - 1. In doing so, He left us an example. Heb. 12:1-2
 - 2. He died, that HE might live the resurrected life, AND that we too could experience the same blessing and reward.
- B. Entering into life will be a glorious experience. Matt. 25:21

CONCLUSION

- I. All of us have a choice—to walk in the saving steps of Jesus, or to walk in the steps of Satan, and lose our souls in hell forever and ever.
- II. Won’t you choose the right path for your steps—RIGHT NOW?

Don Tarbet