

# THE SAVIOUR'S INVITATION

## And Other Evangelistic Sermons

by

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SERMON FIVE

THIS SAME JESUS

**“And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:10-11).**

Let us study, as the Holy Spirit guides us, these three words: **“This same Jesus.” “Jesus is the same yesterday, today, forever.”**

I have heard preachers say, but I do not believe it, that in every generation God selects certain men and endues them with power denied to the rest of us. I do not believe that is true, because God would then be a respecter of persons. We can say, however, that there are some men whom God uses more mightily because they make a more definite surrender to the Lord. I believe that each of us preachers can be used just as greatly and effectively in our smaller spheres in the service of the Lord as were Finney, Spurgeon and Moody if we make the same committal to God.

Christians today can be used just as fully and mightily in the service of the Lord as were the apostles if they but pay the same price for the same power. Today there are Christians all over the world who are doing apostolic work with apostolic zeal, in apostolic power. Now—not last year, but now—in every section of America, Christians and churches are achieving apostolic success, experiencing apostolic victories.

As someone has well said, we must not only have the Lord, but, more important, the Lord must have us.

If we preachers do not have a hold on our people, if our churches are not active, we ought first to blame ourselves. Ourselves! We do not have the power to draw people and win them. I have had to bite my lips to keep from saying harsh things when I heard people excuse their absence from the Lord's house by declaring that there was too much rain, too much wind, too many Jews, too many Catholics, too many Swedes, too many Modernists. Oh, beloved, there is not too much of anything. There is not enough of the Holy Spirit, not enough power, not enough fire, not enough love, not enough consecration.

Oh, brother preacher, oh, deacon, oh, Sunday school teacher, oh, beloved fellow Christian, the channels of our lives are choked and the power of God is not flowing through us. Jesus is knocking at our hearts but the doors to them are shut on the inside. Swing the doors wide open! Let the Lord of Glory enter!

“**This same Jesus**” is still the only Saviour. There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. “**This same Jesus**” is the only Saviour for a lost soul, and His precious blood is still the only possible agency for salvation. You do not have to explain Jesus. You do not have to apologize for Him. All you have to do is to lift Him up. He will do the rest. It is the same Cross, the same Gospel, the same message. “**This same Jesus**” is still the only Saviour. Without the slightest hesitation we can still point men to the Lamb of God, still cry, “There is power in the blood, power in the blood!”

“**This same Jesus**” still has the same work to do that He started to do, that He commanded His disciples to do, that He wants us to do. This work is to win souls out of sin into salvation, out of darkness into light. Thank God for it. We do not have to ponder, to question, to debate, to investigate what Jesus wants us to do. We have but one task, one work, one engagement, one plan: to preach the Gospel to every creature. All else is secondary.

God knows what we need. He sent His only begotten Son to seek and to save the lost. Jesus knows what we need. He sent His disciples to preach repentance and remission of sins in His Name. Again and again He reiterated the task for the Christian, the task for the Church: the making of disciples. How clear it all is, how definite, how powerful, to consecrate and concentrate all our energies in the one driving objective of rescuing the perishing, of caring for the dying, of snatching them in pity from sin and the grave. Oh, if we would but zealously strive to accomplish God’s work in God’s way.

I am sorely afraid that we are, like Martha, troubled about many things, and forgetful of the most important thing. Christians of today are hard workers; we have more organizations, more conventions, more records, more reports, more standards to reach, more places to go, more things to do than any previous generation. We forget, however, the supreme purpose of our activity. Instead of attacking Satan on the major battleground, we waste our energies and ammunition in unimportant skirmishes. The demons mock our senseless and superficial busyness. Let us restudy Christ’s work for us. Let us refuse to be occupied with nonessentials no matter how attractive they may be.

These other things are necessary. I am not minimizing them; but it is altogether possible to pay so much attention to the machinery that the product is forgotten. Machinery is required but, in religious work as perhaps in no other sphere, the less of it, the better. The Holy Spirit will do more to call out, train, organize and empower men and women than all our so-called experts. Concentrate on preaching Christ, on soul-winning, and your Sunday schools will grow, your church attendance will increase, your financial needs will be amply supplied. Your membership will be consecrated. There will be little disturbance. The tides of compassion, of concern, of consecration, of concentration will sweep away grumbling, unrest, disaffection, envy, strife.

A soul-winning Christian is a separated Christian. A soulwinning church is a sanctified church, free from the entanglements of a mad world. Lead your church, your Sunday school, your young people's organization in the one direction of harvesting souls for Christ. Souls saved by Christ will grow, and glow, and go. Keep the needs of souls—perishing and immortal souls—before you constantly. Point them to Christ's compassion, to Paul's passion. Fire them with your own burning anxiety for the hell-bound multitudes. Great will be your reward in the dedication of the saints, in the salvation of the sinners.

**“This same Jesus”** still has the same organization” (“organism” would perhaps be a better term) through which He has done, is doing, and, at least during this dispensation, will continue to do this same work. There has been no God-permitted change, no Holy Spirit-honored improvement. The Church—the blessed Church—is the evangelizing agency of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Some ask, “Which church? What about the different denominations?” My answer is: the New Testament Church, the Scriptural, spiritual, evangelical, evangelistic Church. If you happen to be a member of a body that is neither New Testament nor evangelical nor evangelistic, get out of it and enlist in the ranks of a group that has these earmarks of the Lord.**

The Church was built by the Lord Jesus Christ, and its purpose is this: to go to the ends of the earth to make disciples, to baptize them, to teach them to observe all things of the Lord. It is well nigh impossible to be an effective Christian, a fruit-bearing Christian outside of the Church. The Church sent out Paul. The Church, bad as it then was, trained Luther. The Church gave Wesley his start. Moody organized a church. Spurgeon was the pastor of a church.

You cannot be loyal to Christ without being loyal to the Church. You cannot, aye, you will not take your part in and under the Great Commission unless you ally yourself with the Church. Throughout the centuries of Christian history the Church, in the hands of the Holy Spirit, has been Christ's tool for the telling forth of the story of salvation. As you love the Lord, as you are concerned for the souls of men, let your life be dedicated to the building up of the Church.

I pray that God may impress this next thought upon your souls. Not only is this same Jesus the same and only Saviour, not only has He the same work for us to do that He started to do long ago, not only does He depend upon the same organization to which we are to attach ourselves in order to do that work, but He also demands of His disciples, of His children, of His servants, of His blood-bought band, of all those who are Christians, the same things He demanded of His apostles, the same things that He has been demanding of all generations of regenerated souls since then. There is no exception, no escape, no excuse. The work is the same. The workers are identical. The procedure is to be the same.

What are the demands of Jesus? Let Him tell you. **“If a man love me, he will keep my words.”** That is the first requirement. If you are a child of God, born again, washed in the blood, you must show it by keeping His commandments. How are you going to keep His commandments unless you know them? You must therefore spend minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years studying the Bible. You must know the Word of God. It must throb in your heart, sing in your soul, ring in your mind.

- You are a citizen of the heavenly Jerusalem.
- You are a pilgrim on the road to heaven.
- You are an ambassador for the King of kings.

Your conversations both in word and in deed must be savored with the aroma of Canaan. In the Book you will find your road map, your code of ethics, your guide to eternity. No problem can face you but that the Holy Spirit in the pages of this volume will lead you to its happy solution. Let the Bible be your meat by day and your thought by night. Believe it, love it, live it, lift it up to the needs of others all about you.

The first demand of Jesus is that we keep His commandments. The second is this: **“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”** What does that mean? Just this. Give the kingdom of God preference in your home, over your business, over your pleasure. What is the kingdom of God? I do not understand completely and neither does anyone else. I have ideas and opinions. This one thing I do know, that every part of the program of the Church that is Scriptural and spiritual is part of the program of the kingdom of God.

We are not seeking the kingdom of God if we are absent from Sunday school, absent from the preaching of the Word, if we do not give of our means to advance missionary interests to the ends of the earth, if we do not ourselves do our best to help win the lost. In seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness Paul became all things to all men that by all means he might save some.

In seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness David Brainerd toiled out his young life among the savage Indians. In seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness Adoniram Judson festered his tortured body in Burma’s bloody prison. In seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness we also must count no effort too great, no task too exacting, no expense too costly if it will enhance the glory of the Saviour, if it will discomfit Satan, if it will deliver souls from the pit of hell.

**“This same Jesus”** demands, in the third place, that we, each of us, every one of us—men, women and children—go into the harvest field to reap the golden grain of precious souls, to bring the sheaves to His pierced feet. He will use us in this supremely exalted, and greatest of all earthly, perhaps even heavenly, tasks. He will empower us for it.

The Holy Spirit will go before us, will go with us, will remain after us to clinch our humble testimonies. In my soul there is a conviction as deep-seated as my faith in God, as my assurance of salvation, namely, that the Lord saves us and lets us live for this one purpose: to witness for Christ and win men for eternal life.

- **“This same Jesus”** is still the only Saviour.
- **“This same Jesus”** still urges us on to the same work.
- **“This same Jesus”** still uses the same organization.
- **“This same Jesus”** still repeats the same demands.

From one end of glorious America to the other, churches, preachers, God's people are meeting the requirements of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His holy Name, by His mighty power winning glorious victories. Men and churches are battering down the gates of hell, giving Satan no quarter. "**This same Jesus**" is being vindicated in His mighty claims to possess all power in heaven and on earth.

Oh, I beseech you, throw away your alibis. Forget your excuses. Get right with God. Obey the behests of Christ. Meet these three conditions. If you do, you shall see such manifestations of God's grace as will make you and all about you to know that this same Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

~ end of sermon 5 ~

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