

1B.

Jesus & the lost sheep of
the house of Israel.

We are on the defensive as
Christians...?

Sheep follow the shepherd.

1.

Address. Foxwarren. Oct 15/67
Laymans Sunday
"Why Continue to Preach to
adults."

In our Old Testament reading Ezekiel
Prophecies what God will do for the lost
house of Israel. Ezekiel in chap. 53-6
makes a similar statement in
prophesying the role that Jesus will
play in the world. In Luke 15 vs
1-7 Jesus tells the parable of the lost
sheep.

All His listeners knew of the
problem of lost sheep but here Jesus
wanted them to think for themselves
about their own seemingly lost nations.
We have a parallel in our own day
and age. All we like sheep have
gone astray. We have turned everyone to
his own way. We refuse to change. We
have set our minds to a certain track
and like the sheep will not budge from
it does it carry us over a precipice &
to death

We are conscious of a deep unrest. A
disquiet that at times almost reaches

Wide spread national
disquiet.

Spreading to worship in
our churches. "Why do we go
to church to be preached at?"

A continuous reason for
reasoning together.

Eternity.

(18.) A guilt complex. We come to church
that we may share with others the
opportunity to worship God within
the fellowship of like believers. "When
two or three are gathered together in
my name, there am I among them".
So we continue to join in our worship
service and are preached to or at,
wherever we choose.

And there is a reason. Not just
a customary part of our worship ritual
but a vital continuing reason. And
that reason could be perhaps summed
up in one word "Eternity".

No matter which way we look at it
or how man may reason, if he subscribes
to the Christian beliefs and his faith
in our Heavenly Father unshakable then
he cannot escape Eternity because he has
become part of it through his belief in
Jesus Christ and His resurrection: We may
stray from the fold and become lost
amongst the barrens of materialism &
selfishness but we always find some
representative of Jesus Christ ready &
willing to come & search for the lost sheep.

In The Parable of the Lost Sheep Jesus tells His people.
4. "I am the one you have been looking for, I am he of whom Isaiah spoke and ^{then} tells them the story they well could understand if they wished. And he continued teaching and preaching in this fashion.

One can understand the Jewish reaction about being compared to sheep. They entirely missed his point, or many of them chose to ignore it.

Perhaps we today are also on our defence when compared to ~~cattle~~ ^{sheep}. Our world of today presents much the same picture as Isiah saw and as Jesus saw. Their world moved both men to use the same comparison and they continued their work of preaching to adults. The one because he felt within himself the necessity of prophecy. Jesus

5. Because he knew the way his people should go to save themselves. They should not be driven but they should submit to being led.

Each man, in his own time realized the limited time of his teaching. Each man knew that he spoke to people that could understand if they wished. They were not children just out of school they were adults with adult growth and responsibility.

In speaking to his people Isaiah knew that the lifetime of his people was short. He also knew quite well that another generation was following behind and for the young, informative, growing years, would follow in the footsteps of their parents. The succeeding generation was the hope then as it is now. Isaiah knew his people could if

6. they would, change themselves. They had done it before and could do it again.

Jesus faced the same problem but offered a different solution. Himself. He pointed the way. Not of armed conquest but of submissive following. Not opposing an enemy of greater numbers and heavier armor but of opposing an enemy within far more subtle than the power of Rome. Jesus knew too that if his people chose they could change themselves but that they had to use the power of God within themselves and follow him, Jesus, as a guide.

So we continue to preach to adults. We are the "sheep of this pasture" and where the sheep go the lambs will follow. We wonder why our young people act the way they do. We hesitate to criticize

7. especially in our big cities for fear of mob retaliation. And yet is not the mob spirit latent in each one of us as witness the recent riots in the south and near riots at times in Canada. This taking place in two countries which have the greatest wealth per capita on this globe and which boast to all the world of the high standard of living, the greatest productive capacity per capita of all the essential material possessions we need. Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that except with all our prosperity is the fact that we also possess the greatest spiritual lack ^{our} ~~the~~ age has ever experienced.

The lambs look at us and wonder why it is that mother and Dad argue so long about what color the new car is to be, why they ^{M & D} warn them about the dangers of liquor, promiscuity,

and other social evils and when quite often come home from a party in such a condition they scarcely know or care whether they have a family or a home.

Because children observe and follow parents in home behaviour is perhaps one of the chief reasons adults are still preached to or at. Up to a certain point young folk lean on their parents for guidance in life. One even thankful to parents for saying no to certain requests that in youthful minds contains a doubt. When that guidance is not there or fails to be forthcoming young people turn elsewhere. Our public schools are full to overcrowding. Our pews in church are empty of young folk.

In Jesus' Parable of the lost sheep" he makes a point that is all too often overlooked and in closing these remarks I would like to quote from a poem given me by an old friend and devoted servant of God. The author is unknown.

In Jesus Parable

There was a sheep not a lamb that went
astray

There was a grown up sheep that
wandered away.
From the ninety & nine in the fold
out on the hill top out in the cold

There was a sheep that the good shepherd

There was a sheep that the good shepherd
brought
back to the flock & the fold.

Now why are the sheep so carefully fed
And cared for even today.

Because there is danger that if they
go wrong
They will lead the lambs astray.

The lambs will follow the sheep you
know

Wherever they wander wherever they go

If the sheep go wrong will not be long

Till the lambs are as wrong as they

So still with the sheep we must earnestly plead

For the sake of the lambs today

If the lambs are lost what a terrible cost

The sheep will have to pay.

over

Comment. Even in our celebration of
Christmas or any other holy day
The lambs will follow the sheep.
Let us give the lambs the true
meaning of all our seasons
and holy days. Every day is holy
to God.

Scale $\frac{1}{3}$ = 1 inch

Kitchen
Cupboards

25 $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide

