

21. 9. 64
LaT97H

Substance of Sermon preached by our Pastor Mr. J. W. Spading-Tyler
on Thursday Evening, October 30. 1975 at The Dicker

Lesson. Luke 1. vv. 26-56.

He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy.

Luke 1. 54.

You are well aware, dear godly friends, of the nature of the Text, for it is one of the closing sentences of the beautiful Hymn sung by the virgin Mary after the enunciation by the angel Gabriel on her immediate visit to her cousin Elisabeth in the hill country. There is a remarkable activity manifested in the sacred and beautiful contact with her beloved cousin. I speak with the greatest decorum and propriety. Already the prophecies and promises of all the ages from the time when quickly, or soon after the complete fall of man the Lord gave a promise and special revelation that is recorded by His servant Moses, of the eternal transaction and the greatest event in history when would take place that which would bring joy to a multitude no man can number, that there should be a seed of the woman who should bruise the serpent's head. O the amazing character of the revelation, given, as it would appear almost immediately following the fall of man! It would appear to me the Lord very quickly accomplished in Adam and Eve the new birth after they had fallen. They knew they were guilty, and they went to hide themselves from God, and He so mercifully provided something infinitely better than a few fig leaves, - coats of skins. This is remarkable reading. He spoke to Adam and Eve, and to the serpent He gave this word; "It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." You see, there would no gospel to preach, no holy ordinance of the ministry if this had not been fulfilled. Christ, the seed of woman has bruised his head. He has destroyed his power over the whole election of grace completely. We see to day the whole world in a state of ferment, violence, upheaval. "Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities." There is peace there. If you get to the Sanctuary, or it may be in your own house, though it is undoubtedly in God's House that He gives the greatest discovery of His peace, - if the streams of the

precious river from beneath His Throne and heart begin to flow into your soul you will know the sweetness of the water. Your sense of gladness, peace, tranquility, security and comfort will be inexpressible. God gave early in history, when there was only Adam and Eve, a wonderful revelation. What a revelation! The angels desire to look into it. It is so deep and unfathomed, it will be your delight from the first moment that Christ is revealed to you as your Saviour, God's only begotten Son, and all your days. I am speaking of every occasion you are blessed with the descent of the Holy Ghost, and your souls are filled with heavenly unction and the dear Saviour's nearness in your heart by His Spirit. It will be your objective to reach Him, be with Him, like Him, and to know Him. O the delight, whether in Sussex, London, Hertfordshire, the West Country,- O the delight known by a few of the Lord's people as they know the fulness of the Text! when they get a sense of the glorious mystery, and to have the witness of the Holy Ghost with your spirit that the mystery relates to your person and dear ones.

I will mention as I begin, the activity that is always where the Lord is as a scarlet line and golden thread. The promises and prophecies relating to Christ and all the types pointed to the Antetype. All that was noble and beautiful in the saints pointed to Christ. Joseph manifested the Spirit of Christ in forgiving love to his cruel brethren, and a greater than Joseph is here. So everything in the saints of the Old Testament of beauty pointed to the Lord Jesus. All the ceremonial law pointed to Christ, the High Priest, the sacrifice, the burnt offering and the offering of incense. One point to make is, all those blessed with living faith clearly saw this. Isaiah, the prophet of the Advent wrote of the incarnation as an accomplished fact. He wrote of the Passion of Christ. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." He spoke of His sufferings as he viewed a precious Redeemer in agony and His sacrificial death, and in the same chapter he wrote of the glory of the Resurrection. "He shall divide the spoil with the strong." It is wonderful. Faith sees far into the distance: faith sees a thousand years ahead. All the saints looked for His Coming, for the birth of Christ. With Naomi, taking Ruth's little babe to her breast, there must have been in her soul a pointer to the precious Babe Simeon took in his arms.

A word to you on the other side of the Advent. In a certain sense you look back.

"My soul looks back to see

The burdens Thou didst bear," (125)

Yet although you look back on the Advent there is a certain sense in which you do not. You have the Saviour in your heart: you do look back, yet you have Him. You say; "He is present with me now. The sweet Babe is in my heart now." So the great and vital point is the grace of faith. Those dear saints before the Advent all had the secret. They saw beyond the type to the Antetype. They received the promises and they all died in faith. It is wonderful. The ceremonial law the Jews were involved in had no power to take away sin: they saw beyond it. They saw it was a shadow of good things to come; that there would be a sacrifice that would be able to take away sin, and would take it away. They all died in faith before Christ was born.

I will stop for a moment. When grace is in blessed exercise and holy activity in your soul you have substance, virtue, life. It is not the letter of truth: it is not doctrinal; there is a receiving of virtue. You know when faith is active and you are free, and the blessed fruits flow into your soul,- divine love and peace, and you say; "I am in the midst of trouble." This is the path the people of God walk. Where Christ is there is peace, and you will feel it. And there is joy, and there will be a taste of gladness. "Ah!" says the Psalmist, "the world is convulsed; the earth is removed, and the mountains are carried into the midst of the sea. The waters thereof roar and are troubled, but there is a river." When there is the activity of faith you know there is a river, and the streams flow into your soul because of Christ. My soul rejoices in the faith the Lord gave to the worthies: they all died in faith. My friends, if Israel had not been blessed with faith in Christ he would have had no bed to get into to die. "And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed." He had faith in the precious One. "He hath holpen his servant Israel." He saw Christ. Abel saw Christ the Sacrifice by living faith in the priestly work of a dear Redeemer. He saw Christ, and he "brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof." Poor Cain took of the fruits of the earth. If we have nothing better than the fruits of the earth ours is a hopeless case. Abel saw Christ by faith. The promises and prophecies of all the ages were now

being fulfilled. They all pointed to faith in the types and shadows. I would like to be a means to hearten your spirits: to tell you how faithful God is. You may wait long for the promise to be fulfilled, but God is faithful. You may wait long in relation to those dear to you: a day comes that is very sweet. The promise is revived and the covenant renewed in your soul. I pause to emphasise this: if God has spoken He will do it. If you have in your breast and heart a written promise of God's He will fulfil it. It may look impossible, as it did with Martha. "By this time he stinketh." Putrefaction had set in. You may get to a stage where it is beyond expectation or hope. The Lord had a word for her; "Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?" So I emphasise the divine attribute of faithfulness. They were waiting all those years, but the Lord fulfilled it. He was beginning to fulfil it, and oh the activity in the heavens! the activity of the angels, and of the angel Gabriel who came to the virgin Mary, and the activity centres in this; "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee." There was activity. As she received the enunciation and it was unfolded to her, the Holy Ghost came upon her and the power of the Highest overshadowed her, and she conceived in her womb. So think of the activity of the Holy Ghost, my friends! We have the word of our Lord concerning Himself; "Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart... A body hast thou prepared me." He descended into the lowest parts of the earth in the womb of the virgin, the Holy Ghost forming His sacred humanity. Mary had recognition of it. She said; "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her." "And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda," O the activity there! "And it came to pass, that when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb." These things will be exceedingly precious to you because this is the foundation of your hope. The activity of the Holy Ghost was known to Elisabeth: she was filled with the Holy Ghost. And John prior to his birth leaped in his mother's womb. We have the sweet song of the virgin Mary's; her Beatitude. "My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call

me blessed."

"He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy." This is a part of the close of her sweet Magnificat. O this activity! Do you know it in your soul? Where will there be singing, melody, praise, gratitude? Where Jesus Christ is born. Think of the activity of the whole of the heavenly host in the great Gloria sung in the firmament! That is the substance before us. I take another pause. We need to inquire concerning this: do we know the same divine secret? Two things stand out and have been sweet to me. One is; "Thou shalt call his name JESUS." Can you say, my Jesus? and the point concerning this is,- take the subject: it overwhelmed me. I felt afraid to begin, but I was assisted in the very Text. God remembered His mercy in the Covenant and in the promises. He remembered it, and He will give you to remember it. The word helped me because of 'holpen' It fits my very soul. The subject is so divine and sublime and glorious and full of glistering holiness, purity, majesty and love, I hardly knew how to approach it, but "His name shall be called Jesus." That is the secret, so poor penitent sinners can draw nigh. He saves His people from their sins. He came to seek and to save that which was lost. Blessed title! dearest of all names! my lovely, loving Jesus! Emmanuel, God with us, in our nature, a holy humanity. "Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!" You will know the truth of "Emmanuel, God with us." You will know He is with you, for "He hath holpen his servant Israel." Let us unite in ascribing praise, glory and honour to Him because "He hath holpen his servant Israel."...He is with you when your soul is melted and broken, full of divine love. "Emmanuel, God with us," And He is with you in this way: an hour is like a moment, and you get a sense of eternity. What a feast awaits you in Emmanuel's Land! You will know He is with you if you are the Lord's. The Lord so helps you in trouble; goes before you in trials; turns the darkness into light; makes the crooked places straight and the rough places plain. You come to Marah, and the bitter waters are made sweet: you know He is with you. You get to the close of the day and you get into bed, and you feel soberly, blessedly, sweetly; "Lord, I am ready to come to Thee. If Thou shouldst call me to night I am ready." Heaven begins below.

"He hath holpen his servant Israel," If I tried to tell you what help

is, it is to have Christ. Help is all you need all the time. It means Christ is there; His strength, presence, support, peace, love, joy, wisdom, grace, mercy. The Lord is there. That is help. "He hath holpen his servant Israel," Israel stands for the royal seed, and it has a beautiful reference to the biography of Israel by His servant Moses, so that the people of God should see all the steps of his path to heaven. You see the bright shining light at Beth-el. "He hath holpen his servant Israel," The first rendering is that God remembers His mercy, His Covenant, His boundless love to His dear people in the Covenant of Grace, entered into before they were born, and He will give you to remember His mercy. He remembers when He looks on the bow, the Covenant He made with you, ordered in all things and sure. You remember it, and God remembers it. He remembers all the promises He has given you; all He has spoken to you, my friends. "He hath holpen his servant Israel," and no mistake, we need it. The Lord sees to it that we walk in a path where we could never live without His help, and you will realise it. The trials, sorrows, exercises in your daily path are such that you would never be able to endure only by divine help. I want to ascribe praise, glory and honour to Him, for "He hath holpen his servant Israel," It is not only compassion and pity coming where you are: it is doing all for you. Your wounds are bound up. He strengthens you. He is with you in the furnace, and He brings you through and out as gold."

Amen.