

CHRIST'S PATTERN FOR LIVING

~~John~~ In the 14th Chapter of John, Verse 6, the Savior ^{SMHS} states, "I am the way, the truth and the life."

Christ is the ^{IN THAT} way, ~~for he came to the world~~ through him, ^{WE GAIN} Salvation. To gain the presence of the Father ~~we must come to him~~ and walk in His paths and follow after ~~him~~. ^{He is the Redeemer, and the great Exemplar} whose cry to all men is, "Follow thou Me".

^{office move} He is the truth for in him is the embodiment ~~and manifestation~~ of truth. His word is truth and he knows all things and has all truth as is told to us in the 26th verse of the 93rd section of the Doctrine and Covenants. His cry to us is, "Follow thou Me" for I am the way. ^{the truth + the LIFE.} ~~the 31st chapter, 10th verse of the Bible.~~

He is the life, ~~and we are told in John Chapter 1, Verse 4, "The life was with him, and the life was the light of men."~~ He is the creator, ~~and life came through him.~~ He is the Redeemer, ~~and we are saved from temporal and spiritual death because of Him.~~ ^{We} All ~~we~~ gain immortal ~~life~~ and many inherit eternal life through Him. He is truly the life.

So if we honor His plea to "Follow thou Me", we must ^{FIRST KNOW} recognize that Christ is the way, and ~~we must~~ seek after his pattern for living.

You know when ~~the~~ Jesus was seeking to comfort his apostles and prepare them ~~for~~ his impending death and resurrection, He told ~~them~~ ~~that~~ of the heavenly mansions he would prepare for them and then He added: "And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."

It was Thomas who entered the protest, "Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?"

I suppose ~~the~~ Thomas' inquiry was a natural one for they had not ~~yet~~ really understood the Savior's mission ~~and their minds were not yet enlightened~~ as ~~that~~ their minds had not yet been enlightened by the Holy Ghost. ~~They~~

~~Particularly did they fail to understand his forthcoming sacrifice and then the glorious resurrection. It might have been that they were too close to this Divine greatness to appreciate it and therefore could not clearly see the path they were to take or the vision of their destination.~~

~~Maybe this is our situation at times.~~ ^{Yod 24,} Perhaps our closeness to the Church, and our involvement with the mechanics of its operation tend to blind the real goal that we seek after which is to help each other along the road to perfection which is gained through the Savior's pattern for living.

An incident is told in the life of ^{one} Jim Clark, ^{He was} the Gospel Doctrine teacher in his ward. One evening he was studying the class lesson titled, "The Master's way". He had arranged a tentative outline for his lesson and then had started to develop it further.

It was about this time that a knock came at the door. This was a Saturday evening and he happened to be alone at home and he had ~~just~~ planned this special opportunity to prepare himself for the important lesson he was to teach at Sunday School the next morning. The knock at the door

certainly was not music to his ears and he was sure that a visitor would be a nuisance.

He was still registering his displeasure when he opened the door and found a man standing on the porch. He saw a man of about forty dressed in clothing that was somewhat frayed.

The man, in a voice that was quiet and in a manner that was somewhat subdued said, "Excuse me, but are you Mr. Clark"?

Jim answered him a little brusquely - "Yes, what do you want?"

The man continued, Mr. Clark, would you please help me? I'm out of work. He said, "I heard you might need someone in your plastics factory. I've done that kind of work and- -"

Jim cut him off and said, I'm sorry. We're completely staffed. We filled our vacancy yesterday."

The man was deeply disappointed. and He asked Jim, if he could possibly suggest somewhere else he might look. He said, "I really need a job, and maybe with your contacts, you could- -"

And the man was cut off again as Jim told him, "I'm afraid not ^{He said this} as he was closing the door. He said ~~that~~ its a bad time in the industry right now and I dont know where to suggest."

The man started to speak again, but Jim cut him off with - "You really must excuse me. I'm very busy - and He shut the door.

He started back to his desk to continue his preparation of the lesson titled ~~in~~ "The Master's way", but he paused at the front window and the man's movements caught his eye.

The stranger went down the front steps and made his way to the street.

While he was passing out of sight, his shoulders seemed a little more stooped than Jim had noticed before and he didnt have the spring in his step that you would expect from a man of his age. He thought, "well maybe the guy is ~~xxxx~~ tired. - But we all get tired sometimes. - and then he went back to preparing his lesson, "The master's way".

But he couldnt, for some reason, seem to blot out of his mind, the picture of the stranger ^{who} had come to his door. He completed his lesson and had the material neatly arranged in the outline and then began to read some of the supplementary scriptures recommended. ~~xxxx~~

One of them was the Savior's comment on the judgment to come as recorded in ~~xxxxxx~~ the 25th chapter of Matthew: verses 31 to 46. (Read)

While ^{he} read, the stranger's departing form loomed in his mind's eye with an increasing intensity. All the scripture he read seemed to blur except those words, "For I was an hundred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

And then - "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matt. 25:35-36, 40.)

Jim put down the Bible ~~and~~ in his attempt to rid himself of these accusing words and he started debating within himself, the issue that they raised.

And he thought to himself, "Well, the man wasn't necessarily hungry or thirsty or sick, - was he? He certainly wasn't naked or in prison.

True, he was a stranger, but you don't ask any old Tom, Dick, or Harry into your home. Why, he might have been a burglar "casing" the place!

Anyway ^{Jim says} he was doing the Lord's work in preparing the lesson and he didn't have time for such interruptions.

Besides, if a person was in need, there were places to go - for example, the state welfare department. Why should He accept individual responsibility when there were tax-supported organizations to help the needy. There were employment bureaus to help them find work, and so on? He paid what the bishop asked for Church welfare. Wasn't it the bishop's job to coordinate help to the poor? - He had the experience to know how to separate the truly needy from the scrounger, - the sheep from the goats, so to speak.

Now This last statement really hit a sensitive cord! - These were the words that Jesus had used in the passage of scripture that Jim had just read and somehow it made him feel uncomfortably close to the day of judgment.

And then he continued in his ~~time~~ rationalization: He thought, "All right, supposing I did shirk the issue a bit ~~with~~ with the man at the door! What should I have done? What responsibility did I really have in such a situation? - Was responsibility really the right word in this situation? Was there ~~a~~ really some basic element lacking in ~~my~~ the way I treated that man?

And as he sat there pondering, his eye caught a note that he had written almost first as he developed his plan for his Sunday School lesson the next day.

It read: Determine your actions by the criterion - "What would Jesus Do"? "What was his pattern of living"?

Let us remember brethren and sisters, The Savior said, "I am the way the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

He has given us the pattern. Let us ever pray for strength and courage and wisdom that we shall be able to follow it. That we shall be able to follow after Him.

I say it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.