

Lacked Ye Anything?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Luke 22:35, "And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing."

The Lord had sent His disciples out to preach with limited supplies, trusting in Him to take care of them. Now he asked them if they had needs that he hadn't taken care of while they were on the journey. The answer was no, they had all that they had needed. They had preached the gospel, healed the sick, and cast out the unclean spirits in the name of Jesus. The Lord had met their needs and blessed them for their faith and trust in Him.

I wonder about us in this day and time. What do we lack? I mean there must be something that today's church is lacking for we don't see a whole lot being done for the Lord. It would appear that the world is getting more wicked every day. The church doesn't have the power that it did in the past. We don't even have the unity and love among believers that the Lord said that we are supposed to have. What is the cause of this? Surely we must be lacking something to have brought about this condition.

If we think about it, the disciples didn't even have a

building that was dedicated to the worship of the Lord. They preached in the streets, in someone's home, or anywhere they could talk to anyone. We have the privilege of having a church building to go to, knowing when and where to worship. They didn't have this blessing but got more done with less. Another thing they didn't have was the freedom to preach, or even to believe and confess Jesus as Lord, like we do. They met with the knowledge that they could be beaten, tortured, jailed, and even killed for their faith.

We have it too easy in some ways as we have too many 'things.' The early church didn't have a lot of comforts that today's church can't seem to do without. They didn't have padded pews as they had some rough benches, or rocks, and might have even had to sit on the ground. Once in a while I hear of some place where a person was told that they had to move because they were in someone's seat. I guess that if everyone sat on the ground there was no claiming a particular spot. It was hot or cold depending on the weather, but they kept the faith and worshipped the Lord anyway. Now we have to have it so comfortable or we won't go to church.

When they would sing praises to God they sang with joy and hope. Now many congregations have to have a choir, with robes, and everything has to be just right. I even heard of a church, or two, where some people

couldn't sing because they weren't considered good enough. Jesus didn't say that a person had to have a voice good enough to be a professional singer to praise God. Man did that all on his own authority.

No, we're not lacking in material things with which to worship. We have it all and maybe too much, for the things seem to hinder worship at times. Still, with all of this there does seem to be some things that we're lacking as we try to do the Lord's work.

I don't think that we have the sense of dedication and purpose that the early church had. They saw things with an urgency that the people of today don't seem to have. Look at the people who listened to Jesus for three days without food. Who would do that now? Some years ago a man came to a church where I preached and looked around. He said, "I came on the wrong Sunday. I thought today was the homecoming dinner." He was ready for a dinner and was disappointed that he came on the wrong day.

No, we're not lacking in material things to worship and to serve the Lord. What the church of today lacks is a real commitment to the Lord. When we have a service on Sunday morning there seems to be a feeling that we have done a great deal for God, and we are done until the next Lord's Day. If there is no love, faith, and devotion to God then there is no service that he is pleased with. In such a service we have only pleased ourselves.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

DAVID'S fighting courage
DAVID HAS SECURED A GREAT VICTORY OVER THE PHILISTINES IN THE VERY BATTLE IN WHICH SAUL HAS HOPED DAVID WILL DIE AND THIS END THE THREAT OF TAKING SAUL'S CROWN FROM HIM, NOW...

428

MESSANGER, RUN THOU AHEAD AND TELL SAUL OF THIS VICTORY OF THE LORD OVER THE PHILISTINES!

AS DAVID AND HIS MEN RETURN FROM THE BATTLE, BRINGING WITH THEM THE SPOILS AND PROOF OF THEIR VICTORY...

429

O KING SAUL, IF IT MAY PLEASE THEE - I COME TO TELL THEE THAT DAVID HAST PREVAILED OVER THE PHILISTINES!

IF DAVID HAST KILLED AN HUNDRED PHILISTINES THEN MUST I INDEED GIVE HIM MY DAUGHTER MICHAL TO WED!

AND THEN WHAT WILL BECOME OF MY KINGDOM?!

430

WITH DAVID HUSBAND TO THE KING'S DAUGHTER, AND LOVED BY ALL ISRAEL MORE THAN I, HOW THEN CAN HE BE KEPT FROM TAKING THE THRONE EVEN AS SAMUEL HAS PROPHESED?!

AND WHEN DAVID AND HIS CAPTAINS APPEAR BEFORE KING SAUL...

LET US HAVE A FAITHFUL COUNT OF ALL THE ENEMY SLAIN BY DAVID AND HIS MEN!

431

...IT IS FOUND THAT NOT ONE HUNDRED - BUT TWO HUNDRED PHILISTINES WERE KILLED BY THE ISRAELITES!

IT IS PROOF AND ENOUGH! I GIVE THEE MY DAUGHTER MICHAL TO WIFE, DAVID!

JOHN LEHTI

Next Week - David's rise

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