

GO THEN INTO ALL THE WORLD WITH THE GOOD NEWS

"Go, then, into all the world telling this good news to all creatures of every race, tribe, and nation." P.2054:1. The morontia Jesus delivered this message to a group of Samaritans at Jacob's well and soon afterwards again gave a similar command to a group at Tyre: "My Father sent me into the world to proclaim this salvation of sonship to all men. And so send I you abroad to preach this salvation of sonship. P.2054:4.

Over and over we are told to go into all the world with the good news, the gospel, the message.

What is this good news? Certainly the good news includes the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, but these two concepts are more all-embracing and multifaceted than one might think at first consideration. The fluidity and evolving nature of the gospel is pointed out in a quotation from P.2060:6. Jesus sent in his place "his Spirit of Truth, who is designed to live in man and, for each new generation, to restate the Jesus message so that every new group of mortals to appear upon the face of the earth shall have a new and up-to-date version of the gospel, just such personal enlightenment and group guidance as will prove to be an effective solvent for man's ever-new and varied spiritual difficulties."

Jesus taught a dynamic and many dimensional gospel because he recognized that, at least initially, one feature of the gospel might appeal to one personality type while another aspect would appeal to a different type of personality. We must also recognize that the way in which we teach the gospel of Jesus may vary from group to group for Jesus said: "Go, then, into all the world proclaiming this gospel of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men to all nations and races and ever be wise in your choice of methods for presenting the good news to the different races and tribes of mankind." 2042:2.

So the good news can be proclaimed with or without The URANTIA Book. As William S. Sadler, Jr. has said: "The Book itself is not an End -- it is a most important Means to an End. It is designated to bring God closer to man and to bring man closer to God. We may minister to our spiritually hungry brothers with or without the aid of The URANTIA Book. But, if the Book ever becomes mandatory in our ministry, then have we truly become sectarian. Our primary objective, as Urantians, is the service of God, and the Book is an important Means to that End. Here we should make a vital distinction between that which is value and that which has value."\*

On P.1766:5 we are told that: "In preaching the gospel of the kingdom, you are simply teaching friendship with God."

We also read, "In answer to Thomas's question, 'Who is this God of the kingdom?' Jesus replied: 'God is your Father, and religion - my gospel - is nothing more nor less than the believing recognition of the truth that you are his son. And I am here among you in the flesh to make clear both of these ideas in my life and teachings.'" P.1590:6.

The importance of knowing Jesus' life is again pointed out on P.2090:4. "One of the most important things in human living is to find out what Jesus believed, to discover his ideals, and to strive for the achievement of his exalted life purpose. Of all human knowledge, that which is of greatest value is to know the religious life of Jesus and how he lived it."

\* From William S. Sadler, Jr.'s 1957 URANTIA Brotherhood Triennial report.

Some of the varied aspects of the gospel are indicated in the following passages:

"The gospel of the kingdom has taught you that all men are the sons of God. And this good news concerning the love of the heavenly Father for his children on earth must be carried to all the world. The time has come when you worship God neither on Gerizim nor at Jerusalem, but where you are, as you are, in spirit and in truth. It is your faith that saves your souls. Salvation is the gift of God to all who believe they are his sons. But be not deceived, while salvation is the free gift of God and is bestowed upon all who accept it by faith, there follows the experience of bearing the fruits of this spirit life as it is lived in the flesh." P.2053:5.

At Pella, when Jesus gave his last sermon there, he spoke of five points as representing the cardinal features of the gospel of the kingdom: P.1863:3.

- "1. The pre-eminence of the individual.
2. The will as the determining factor in man's experience.
3. Spiritual fellowship with God the Father.
4. The supreme satisfactions of the loving service of man.
5. The transcendancy of the spiritual over the material in human personality."

If we are not careful, we can make the same mistake with the Fifth Revelation that the well-meaning leaders of the Fourth Revelation made. They changed the religion of Jesus and the story of his matchless life into a religion about Jesus. On P.2051:4 we are told that "Already had begun the first steps of changing the gospel of the kingdom - sonship with God and brotherhood with man - into the proclamation of the resurrection of Jesus." And in the next paragraph we are further told that "under the vigorous leadership of Peter and ere the Master ascended to the Father, his well-meaning representatives began that subtle process of gradually and certainly changing the religion of Jesus into a new and modified form of religion about Jesus. And we, with the same sincerity and best intentions, can change the religion of Jesus into a religion or gospel about The URANTIA Book."

We should continue to work for the dissemination of The URANTIA Book into all the world for those who can read it and will read it and will go on to serve as light-houses in their native lands for those who cannot read. But let us be clear that the instructions given to us are to take the gospel - the good news - to all creatures of every race, tribe and nation. Nearly one-half of the world's 4.7 billion population cannot read and certainly more than that are not able to read The URANTIA Book yet we are admonished to take the message to "all creatures." If we are not able to personally "go into all the world" we can surely support those who are able. The Family of God Foundation is an example of a group that has a very successful radio program that carries the Jesus gospel all over the world. We can also support those scholars of The URANTIA Book in various countries who will use many methods to share the gospel of the book with non-readers in their own languages and dialects.

On P.2090:5 we read: "The common people heard Jesus gladly, and they will again respond to the presentation of his sincere human life of consecrated religious motivation if such truths shall again be proclaimed to the world." And that is up to us - that is our challenge - to see that those truths are again presented to the world.

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