

ACTS 1:1-12, Sunday Evening, February 3, 1935 (four pages)

February 3, 1935. Sunday Evening.

Bethel Temple.

I want to read you for a moment tonight the last words of Jesus Christ on the earth. I am always encouraged when I see a great company of christian believers of men and women who are inclined towards the gospel. It is always a spiritual uplift to me, and I suppose all over the world tonight you can find companies of men and women such as this worshipping and praising God of Heaven for the gift of Jesus Christ the Lord.

(Reading of scripture) Acts 1:1-12

In these few brief verses of scripture we have the closing moments of the life and of the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, that the Spirit of God would come on us tonight as a congregation to show us the stern reality and marvelous truths that have been announced and enunciated for your benefit and mine through the lips of the Son of God and that we might prepare ourselves for what is coming on the face of the earth and also for what you and I as individuals are bound to meet as we walk with God and make our way thru this world with our eyes set on the kingdom of God. We are all making our way to Zion. I don't see what you would want in Bethel Temple unless your heart was inclined towards Jesus Christ and all of the outstanding things written of Jesus. I believe those closing moments are the most wonderful of Jesus and are filled with a real example and real testimony of the Son of God to you and me as his people.

Here we have a very wonderful thing to face. Often times we speak of the incarnation of the Son of God, and in order to know what the incarnation of Christ means and signifies you have to study God's bible and make it a real study. You know, and I know, that the greatest treasure that can come to a man is that thing which comes from God called the "Pearl of great price", and it is discovered in God's bible and as you and I get away from formal religion then we begin to understand some of the marvels and mysteries of that thing actually accomplished when God sent Jesus to this world. We study the incarnation and say the Virgin was overshadowed by the Holy Ghost and because of that there was conceived within her the wonderful Messiah announced of God. And none of us can describe it. The nearest we can get to it is to say that God fulfilled his word and married Israel and Mary and the result was the Messiah Christ, Saviour and Redeemer of the world, born by the immaculate conception. Born by the coming together of God and Israel and our bible says God is a Spirit and we wonder at the Spirit of God over-shadowing the body of the Virgin and bringing about that wonderful creature, Messiah Christ. The incarnation is a wonderful thing. And may I say that as you and I come to God we have to pass thru various processes. You watch men, turned from sin into a life of holiness and righteousness before God and you marvel and wonder how that could be wrought and you have watched them day by day and see men completely transformed. Their whole life has become anew, the revelation of something new. They have left forever behind them that thing called the world. They have no more use for the thing they loved and the thing in which they rejoiced in a sinful sense than in nothing at all. They are completely transformed, and now instead of going down another street in order to get away from a church or a christian you will find them loving God and loving to go to the house of God and find their joy and pleasure in those things of Christ. That kind of an experience comes by revelation and by actual business dealings between you and God.

It was not only necessary for the virgin to surrender herself under the touch of God but this is necessary for every man and woman. It was not only necessary for Christ to be formed in Mary but Paul tells us that Christ must be formed in us. This afternoon the thought came to my mind how little value God puts on the flesh being of mankind. It doesn't make any difference how beautiful you may be. No, God puts no value on the human side but he looks

through and behind that humanity and sees something that must be saved and salvaged and blood-washed and redeemed, linked up with God, regenerated and re-born and brought out into a place where God would have it and a man or woman through whom God can pour all the graces and fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The incarnation of Christ was one thing. The incarnation of Christ in you and me is another thing altogether. It means the same thing. Our bible reveals that every man or woman that will undertake to surrender (and you have the final say in how far you are going with God. Mary could have said, "No, what will the world say," and what has it said of Mary? But, my brethren, when you sell out to God you forget the world and the things of the world make very little difference when you sell out to God. They make very little difference to me. Once I tried to make out what the cost would be to walk with God but I long ago forgot that and I thank God for it.

Our gospel is designed after the plan of Christ. He became incarnate but thirty years after his incarnation he began his ministry, and the reason he waited 30 years was because long centuries before he came God had written in the law that no priest could minister until he was thirty years of age and the very minutest detail of the law was fulfilled, even in the Son. But that does not hold good now. Under Grace he brought in the new birth, washed in the blood, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, and that being instantly comes under the anointing of the Holy Ghost and is capable of doing anything Jesus can do. I have heard children under five years of age preach sermons that put me to shame. I have heard them preach to a congregation larger than this and men and women went down on their knees calling to God for mercy. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord!"

Christ waited thirty years. You don't have to wait. He came to fulfill the law and not to destroy it. At thirty years of age, born the actual Son of God Almighty, he came and stood before the Father in Jordan waiting to receive the out-poured Spirit from on High. In the temple there was a beautiful illustration. Under the law, when a man sinned, he was required to bring before the Lord a lamb, the firstling of the flock of God. It was brought before the priest and it was a common sight to see a big man going up Mt. Zion leading a little lamb. He would come to the priest and tell him that he had sinned and that he had brought this lamb for an atonement of sin. The priest would put it on the table and look it over and examine it minutely to see if it met the requirements of the passover lamb because it was a magnificent type of Jesus Christ. This bible is so full of magnificent things of Jesus Christ. When that lamb met the specifications, they took a seal and dipped it in the ink and impressed it on that lamb and it went out to the place reserved for those lambs that died. So many people profess to find fault with God's way but I can't do it. Every lamb sacrificed was a symbol of Christ who was to come as God's lamb to take away the sins of the world and had Christ not come at the very moment and time he did, the human race would long ago have been extinct. The only power that has preserved the race has been the fact that Christ died on the cross the moment specified by Jehovah.

Here we have Jesus coming into the Jordan and there he stood and the multitude looked on because John said, "Behold, the lamb of God," and they looked on as Jesus was baptised by the Baptist John and as he came up out of the water the heavens opened. God is a great High Priest and he was looking down at that lamb as he stood in the Jordan and God found in him no blemish, and he spoke from heaven and said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Brethren, the voice of God comes to you again tonight in the testimony of His Son. Here he is, and as God, the great High Priest, looks him over and finds him without spot or blemish, conceived of the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, and now presenting himself before God that his ministry might begin and he might go to the cross, and as the father testified of the

of the Son it makes me love the Christ more and more. It makes me honor and revere him and determine more and more to serve him and win every soul I can and render a perfect verdict after the Son of God. The Holy Spirit came down on Jesus, descending on him in bodily form as a dove, and remained on him, sealing the testimony of the Father and presenting before the world such a testimony. Every bit of it supernatural, coming from God out of heaven and resting on Jesus. My brethren, that is the revelation of the ages. Uh, if it would only lie in our power to describe to you the final events coming on the world in relationship to Jesus and your own soul. We think the salvation of Jesus touches men only for now. Touches him on the outside and inside and makes him give up those habits of men. The Salvation Army did a marvelous work in bringing men through the issues of the gospel and bringing men into salvation but the issues of the gospel are not all fulfilled yet. God doesn't do things in a hurry. God tonight is on his throne and above His mercy seat and is holding back from you the thing that would engulf you in your sin and take you down to death. God is wonderfully patient. Many have discovered that. One night Robert Ingersoll was lecturing and he took out his watch and said, "God, I give you five minutes to strike me dead." When it came to four and one-half minutes women fainted and at the end of the five minutes Robert Ingersoll said, "Pooh, that much for you God." Nobody but an absolute fool would ever think he could exhaust God's patience in five minutes. A man is devoid of real mentality when he makes a show of himself like that. God looks on a man like that in the classification God has made of him. "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God."

But God, instead of seeking to destroy and cast men into a hell of fire, is bearing with the sin and hardness of men's hearts. His patience is still un-exhausted and that makes it wonderful for you and me to know that He is a God of love. Here we have the Holy Ghost sealing Jesus as the Son of God. We find Jesus at the last moment of his life standing on Bethany and 500 believers with him and suddenly he began to ascend and arise and by and by a cloud received him out of sight and he was gone to the right hand of the power and Glory and throne of God.

I am so glad the bible has revealed the Saviour in his true light. Today men are getting away from the old Pagan ideas of a cruel God and know he is a God of love and every moment of his ministry on earth was wrought with a view for the salvation of the whole world. Before he went he said, "Now you are born again. You have passed through the regenerative processes of the gospel that take you to the cross and when they take you there they settle forever the things concerning sin. You cannot fool your friends or God or anybody for long and when you go to the cross as these 500 had been (they stood by the cross and had seen the Son of God die and heard his parting words, "It is finished,") and they had passed through the regenerative process of the gospel in the cleansing of sin and now heard him say, "Tarry at Jerusalem until you be endued with power from on High."

I know I am speaking to many christians tonight and you believe the Lord. May I say to you, there is a step further to go. Christ was born the Son of God and then came before God for the Holy Spirit. Then he went to the cross and ascended on High and he did it for you and me and before he ascended on high he left you this command. You have been saved and born again and now he says you shall receive the Holy Ghost not many days hence. Many christians today do not know what the Holy Spirit is. They do not know what it means to receive God's Spirit and be baptised with the Holy Ghost. Never mind, God laid the command on you and it is not only necessary to be born again but if you would become one who brings forth fruits of the Holy Spirit of God then you must tarry at Jerusalem waiting for the gifts of the Holy Spirit

the Gift of God's Holy Spirit.

You remember when Christ picked up that man on the way to Samaria. He not only picked up that man, but he was a symbol of all humanity. Christ picked him up, took him to the Inn and said to the Innkeeper, "I will give you two pence". That two pence that God gives to his people everywhere is the new birth through the operations of the cleansing blood and the baptism with the Holy Ghost and immersion in God, and what a sin and crime it is among christians that they fail to receive all that God has to pour out on them, in order that the Spirit side of your nature may be perfected and by and by presented to God in the fullness of his glory.

Your flesh is one thing but your Spirit nature is the one the Holy Ghost is after. He wants to bring that thing to God and energize it with the Spirit of God and impart to you the power to bring the similar gift to another. It will make you a soul winner and one who is a disciple of the peace of God that passeth all understanding. If you are a believer than I say to wait before God. You say, "I don't know what the baptism is?" God can show you and the Spirit can make it plain. You can seek him as you walk along the street, as you tend to your business. You can seek him every waking moment. I want to lay this charge upon you in the interest of your own soul and in the interest of God when every worker is needed for these last days and when the marriage supper is called, only those who are clothed in the marriage clothes will be ready to go into the marriage supper of the Lord. Let us pray.

WHO:MH

W. H. OFFILER, PASTOR
BETHEL TEMPLE
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.

