

Strong Sermon Preached By Evangelist on Obedience and Faith of Fishermen

Despite of Handicap of Early Starting, Second Day of Evangelistic Campaign Draws Big Crowd.

AGAIN FINE MUSIC IS ONE OF BIG FEATURES OF THE DAY

NEARLY 1,200 PEOPLE GOT AN EARLY START FOR TABERNACLE TO HEAR POWERFUL SERMON ON "CATCHING FISH FOR GOD"—BOB JONES PUTS FIRE INTO VIVID MESSAGE OF OBEDIENCE AND FAITH—CHOIR SHOWS MARKED IMPROVEMENT.

From The Daily Item, April 27.
Despite the fact that the services were started at the tabernacle last night a half hour earlier than the regular set time which had a natural tendency to cut down the audience, a crowd estimated to number about 1,200 heard Bob Jones preach a sermon that was equally as strong as either of his Sunday sermons. In fact, the sermon last night, centered as it was about a familiar episode of Christ's ministry, which holds a peculiar appeal for almost every Bible reader, showed Mr. Jones' power of delivery in probably a stronger light even, than on the previous day.
The music last night, too, showed up in greater strength, notwithstanding the fact that the choir also suffered in membership from the early starting hour. "God Will Take Care of You" was one of the songs that the audience seemed to like, and number 296, and the song that Mr. McKenzie seems to have as a favorite, "Jesus Included Me," also proved popular. Last night Mr. McKenzie didn't only announce the whistling of one of his songs, but he had the choir whistle "If Your Heart is Right," and if it would be permissible to use a theatrical term to describe it, the whistling chorus "made a big hit." Mr. McKenzie sang, for his solo of the evening No. 143, in the song book, "These books, by the way, are sold at a small price every evening, to those caring for them, by the Filipino secretary, Jose Elliot."

Mr. Jones took his text last night from the 5th chapter of St. Luke where Christ enters into Peter's boat to talk to the assembled crowds, the particular words of his text being "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draught." In a beautiful manner Mr. Jones explained the parallel between this incident in the lives of the fishermen and in the lives of "Every man" of today. From the story, as it is recorded in the passage referred to above, is first to be learned the lesson of obedience, the fishermen had had no success until Christ entered into their boat. Their nets had been let down with no results and they were discouraged. But Christ told them to let them down into the deep again. His will was obeyed and lo, the nets were heavy under the weight of the fishes caught. This shows, said the evangelist, that a man should not merely do what he feels like doing, but what God wants him to do. The disciples, tired as they were of unsuccess, yet were willing to obey God's will, and they were overly repaid for their obedience. In other words, the speaker summed up the substance of the story's moral in the brief sentence: "It is up to you to find out God's will for you, and do it," and "If you'll do what God tells you to do, you'll have all the feeling you need"—this last in answer to the excuse of some that they "don't feel like doing" one thing or another.

Then there is to be learned from the story, the lesson of faith. In spite of the storms known to exist with forbidding intensity, on Lake Gennesaret, those who heard Christ's commands willingly put out from the shore, because, in the words of Mr. Jones, "no man who ever trusted Christ implicitly ever hit bottom." Some men, however, trust God with one thing and not another, for instance they trust him with their soul but not their pocket book. The real lesson to be learned is that a man should be willing to "turn loose" completely, and trust everything to God, then safety through the storms of life is assured him. Just as the fishermen had to put out into the deep, where the storms could not wreck them as easily as in the shallow water, so the true Christian would be safe out on the broad bosom of God's love and protection. Some men, however, the speaker said, are so "tied to the shore" that they don't want to see it all slip away from them. Sometimes it is a compromised life, maybe only one little thing, but that little tie must be cut, if the absolute faith in Christ's protecting arms is to be evidenced. "God can never do anything with any man

who wants to have his own way about one single thing" was the way Mr. Jones expressed this. The further away a man gets from the shore, i. e., the more he trusts Christ, the less he wants to cling to the shore, the less he is tempted by the devil to put his faith in the shore, rather than on the deep expanse of Jesus' loving bosom. Just here Mr. Jones stopped for a minute to tell of his own experience in this regard. He said that he was not an evangelist through choice, but because God wanted him to be. The decision was made at 2 o'clock one night in a bed room of a hotel in a little Louisiana town, after he had tried to argue this or that reason why he should not accord with divine will. And that is the way with so many newly made Christians, they push their little boats out into the sea, but before they can get far enough away from the land, a snag, a rock, or a storm overturns them. Sometimes, however, one gets away out safely where only sky and sea are evident. Then they are truly out in the atmosphere of God's love. And when you do, you have unexplainable happiness enter your life, for "if you can tell all you've seen of the matchless love of God, you haven't seen much." Approaching the other shore, after getting out of the grip of the shore you are leaving behind you, you see the signs of God's goodness and mercy manifested, just as Columbus saw the moving light, and the live branch of a tree floating near his ship.

There were no fish in shallow water for the fishermen to catch, and so in life, Bob Jones says, you must get out where the water is deep. Give what you have to God's use, whether it be voice, imagination, personality or what not. "Turn your business into a pulpit," just as Peter freely turned over his boat to Christ. And there are plenty of fish to be caught. The father should be sure to catch his son, the mother her daughter, the business man his friend, and so on. "I pity the man who can't catch his own son for Christ."

Telling the functions of the modern revival, Mr. Jones said it is where men bring their friends to Christ one at a time, and it was up to everybody to try to "Catch fish for God." As a parting question Mr. Jones asked: "All of you who will say 'Bob Jones,' by the help of God I'll bring at least one soul to Jesus Christ during this revival," stand up." A good portion of the audience stood. The speaker then requested all who felt that they were not right themselves and hence not in position to help bring others to Christ, but who wanted to be prayed for, to stand up. A number of men and women took advantage of this offer.

From The Daily Item, April 28.
Having to face again last night the handicap of an early start, Bob Jones drew a crowd, estimated to be greater than that of the night before, to hear him preach a strong sermon on "The Peace That Passeth Understanding." His audience last night probably numbered 1,400.

The singing is becoming better daily, and last night the audience showed a greater disposition to join in than at any previous service. Nos. 37, 20, and 49 were sung by the choir at the opening last night, and the entire audience, standing, sang the old familiar hymn, "Take the Name of Jesus With You." The chorus was repeated softly twice at the direction of Choir Master McKenzie. A prayer was offered, at the conclusion of this song by Rev. R. S. Truesdale, of Trinity Methodist Church. Mr. McKenzie sang for the audience "Sweet Peace, the Gift of God's Love."

Before getting into the subject matter of his sermon of the evening, Bob Jones said that on Friday night he would know just how much the church men of Sumter are interested in his campaign, Friday night being "Church Men's Night," when a parade to the tabernacle, headed by a brass band, will be a feature of the evening. He urged that the audience

be more liberal with contributions to clear up the running expenses, for, said Mr. Jones "at the rate we are going now it will take 48 days to lift this expense. I have been telling my northern assistants all the time 'just you wait until we get down South and see how warm hearted our Southern folks are about giving,' and don't you folks in Sumter go back on me, and ruin my reputation for veracity."

"My Peace—I give unto you" was the brief but impressive passage, taken from the 14th chapter of St. John around which the evangelist built up a wonderful story of the restfulness that entered into a heart when it had secured possession of "the peace that passeth understanding."

Despite the culture and so-called high civilization of the present day, there are some of the bloodiest battles ever known in history being fought at the present time, Mr. Jones said. And the two reasons for this are rebellion against God and the prediction of Christ himself that there would be "wars and rumors of wars." "I have no patience with this talk of universal peace, because while human depravity continues, war must continue." The time will come, however, when the devil will be chained and another age will see a world at peace. It was the intention of Christ that people should live together in peace, and to this end people should love one another better. By this, it is not meant that the laws of temperament should be ignored, but that no man should confine himself to doing good only in one particular sector society, for instance a Methodist should be eager to help out his brother Baptist, for said Mr. Jones "we stand together on the essential beliefs," and the mere forms and ceremonies of service should not be allowed to estrange congregations so that they cannot live together in the harmony that Christ intended should exist between them. The success of holding a union revival proves that the churches are essentially in accord with each other.

Telling of the peace that should be in every home Mr. Jones said, "If you haven't got a little heaven in your home, God pity your home." Lots of homes have everything but the peaceful sovereignty of Jesus Christ, so much needed. Then some homes would have this peacefulness but for the fact that one member is without Christ's help, and one Godless member can destroy the peace of a home. Jesus Christ, said the speaker, can solve the home problem, if he is given a chance.

Another kind of peace that every man should carry in his heart is peace with his neighbor; a man should love everybody and "the religion of Jesus Christ can make us love folks." What is meant by this is not admiration, necessarily, but love in the sense of being "without a grouch" towards humanity. As an illustration the evangelist told a touching story of an old soldier who couldn't get right with God because he held a murderous hatred in his heart towards one old man. But when he felt the touch of Jesus' peace in his heart, he was not satisfied until he had gone on the run to his old enemy and "squared up."

This is a restless old world, Bob Jones says, and individual peace is another kind of peace that is needed. Many a man is apparently happy, and enjoying life to the fullest, and yet there comes a time when all gayety and glitter can count for nothing and the only balm that can ease is the peace that Jesus brought when, bound to the cross, with either hand stretched towards God and his fellow man, he spanned the chasm between sinful man and the omnipotent and peace-giving Father. There is nothing that can help like peace, when ruin and trouble comes. Even Christ used its healing power to hold him up in the great hour of sorrow, when in the lonely garden he saw pass in review the shadow of the misery to be endured on the cross, yet still was able to say "Thy will be done." And so can every man, who has accepted the offer that Christ made when he said: "My peace, give I unto you," say in his hour of trouble and sorrow, "Thy will be done."

From The Daily Item, April 29.

A short but inspiring service at the tabernacle last night attracted a surprisingly large crowd, considering the fact that the last and star attraction of the Chautauqua season was presented and many passed up the tabernacle so as to be able to reach the Chautauqua tent in time to secure a choice seat. Bob Jones said last night that he and his party were very tired from their work in the last campaign, on reaching Sumter, and that, since the Chautauqua was dividing the attention of the people the first three days of this week, he had been conserving his strength, until the service could be settled into an uninterrupted series of sermons.

The choir last night added several more songs to their repertoire, "Regatta of the Perishing," "O, That Will Be Glory" and "In the Sweet Bye and Bye" were some of the songs sung last night. Mr. McKenzie sang "I'm

Sure That He Loves Even Me." Rev. W. E. Thayer, of the First Baptist Church made a prayer at the conclusion of the song service.

Christ's sending out his disciples two by two to preach and work miracles, as chronicled in the 10th chapter of St. Luke and its application to the work to be done for Christ today was the skein of thought from which Mr. Jones wove an interesting sermon last night. The influences which bring a man to Christ must be brought to bear by more than just one person. Billy Sunday, Sam Jones and other evangelists did not really "save thousands of souls" as they were so often credited with. Credit should be given to mothers, fathers, ministers and friends, who, often jointly contributing their little bits of help were the means of saving a man who never could have been saved by the power of one single individual's influence. Going further into the reading of this particular section of biblical history, as told in St. Luke, Mr. Jones took the phrase "And salute no man by the way," and showed just what Christ meant when he gave this admonition. Of course, he was speaking of the oriental salutation, which sometimes necessitated a stop of a half hour to pass greetings, and he wanted his disciples to know that they must go quickly about their work for the master, and "salute no man by the way," for there was not the time to waste. In the present time, as then, there is no time to waste in bringing souls to Christ. Mr. Jones says he believes in reform, the abolition of gambling, and corrupt politics, also prohibition, but "the work that counts above everything else is bringing unsaved souls to Christ." Personal work means the bringing of man and God together, and just the inspiration to be derived from the thought of what this means ought to be sufficient urging for a man to help his neighbor in getting in touch with God. Introducing men to God is a great work, the evangelist says, and those who set out to do personal work need not be afraid they will strike someone who is already "nice" enough, and doesn't need Christ in his life, for "there isn't a man or woman in Sumter who doesn't need Jesus Christ." The mere fact that the devil tempted Adam to become like God proves that he gets in his insidious work under any masquerading mood that will accomplish his own ends.

"Every sinner without God is lost," and in a striking manner Mr. Jones warned mothers and fathers that there was no time to be wasted in saving their boy or their girl "the only thing between that boy of yours and hell, is a heart beat." Speaking of some so-called "hopeless cases" which are claimed to exist in almost every town and city, Bob Jones says there is "no such thing." If only people will give him a chance there isn't a sinner on earth that Christ cannot save. A revival, in a manner, like a political campaign, there is only a great concentrated effort once in every few years, and in Sumter the campaign is now on and the time to work with might and main is for the next three and a half weeks of the campaign's continuance. For three main reasons "there is no time to waste" now when so many issues are at stake. First, there is so much to be done. There are more unconverted than the average person would suspect. Second there are so few to do the work. Church work must be done by a few loyal people, just as community work is generally by a few putting their shoulders to the wheel. And, lastly, the time is so short. At best the time is short for a man's life work to be done. Mr. Jones says he remembers distinctly little happenings of his childhood twenty-five years ago, and so does every man. All of which goes to show that, even taking it for granted that every man will live to a reasonably old age, there is very little time in which to do things. And in the present campaign already an eighth of the time has flown by. Only three and a half weeks more are left, and it is up to every Christian to exert the utmost effort these next few weeks, to introduce men to God.

In closing Mr. Jones had the audience bow their heads, while he suggested a beautiful chain of thought for solicitation of a divine guidance in the work which it is hoped to accomplish before the campaign shall have ended.

POLL TAX EXECUTIONS.

Turned over to Sheriff by County Treasurer—Road Taxes in List.

From The Daily Item, April 28.
County Treasurer B. C. Wallace this morning turned over to the sheriff 369 road and poll tax executions which will be collected through the sheriff's office in the next 90 days, the collections being in the hands of the sheriff and the rural policemen, to whom the executions will be turned over this afternoon.

There are not as many delinquents this year as usual. These are merely road and poll taxes, executions on all other taxes will be made out later on and turned over to the sheriff for collection through his regular collectors.

BUY IT NOW--IN SUMTER.

PRESIDENT WILSON SAYS "BUY NOW AND START PROSPERITY."

Chamber of Commerce Suggestions on How to Revive Business—War Scare Has Passed and This is Time to Work for Future Prosperity.

In his recent Indianapolis speech President Wilson said among other things: "That every individual who buys an article becomes a seller and a buyer." He said in substance: "That hoarding money and not buying is stagnating business and knocking millions of men out of work." The railroads immediately responded to President Wilson's suggestions. The great Pennsylvania railway system gave orders for twenty million dollars' worth of additional engines, coaches, freight cars, hundreds of tons of steel rails. Other railway systems followed the Pennsylvania with millions of dollars worth of orders for equipment. Immediately the steel industry was re-established, many manufacturing plants were reopened and hundreds of thousands of men went back to work. Millions of dollars are in circulation today that were hoarded two weeks ago. We can do it in Sumter county on a smaller but telling scale, if we start to "Buy it Now."

Every time a man spends a dollar now he hastens a return of normal business conditions. The manufacturer gives some one a job to earn money to spend with a merchant and this money the merchant deposits in a bank to be again placed in circulation. "Buying it now" doesn't mean extravagance. Buy what you need and have been needing since the war began. The time for "hard times war scare" is over. We know now that there will be no starvation in this country. Exports are greater than ever in the history of this country. The demand for "made in America" goods has swept over the world.

Prosperity is here already greater than ever before if we will only open our eyes and see it. "Buy it now." You can buy it cheaper than you will later on. You must have it. Why not get it while the price is low? We have passed through the critical stages of the European war scare. The United States have demonstrated their ability to weather the storm. Cotton is bringing as much as it would have sold for had there been no war. Sell your cotton and use the money. Forget the war. Get into a nor-

mal state of mind. Turn your money loose. Millions of dollars in circulation are necessary to keep factories going; to give millions work. The time for hoarding your money has long since past. Wake up from your nightmare of "hard times" and call it all a hideous dream and be thankful that the South is still the most blessed country on the earth. With the greatest prospects for the greatest crop in the history of South Carolina, with millions of dollars more to be planted than ever before, with diversification of field crops greater than ever before, with the cattle and other live stock industry established, and the greatest era of prosperity before us that we have ever known, and a prosperity that can withstand a ten years' European war if necessary, now is the time to help each other by "buying it now." In other parts of this country "everybody is doing it." Sumter county can "do it" too. "Buy it now."

"Buying it now" means millions put into circulation to keep hundreds of factories going to employ hundreds of thousands of men and women. American made goods have found new markets. American cotton, corn, oats, wheat, and other American foodstuffs are being sought throughout the world. This is our year of prosperity, if we only start out right.

"Buy it now." Don't think about the war. "Forget it."

Colored Pastors Invited.

The pastors of all the colored churches of the city are invited to attend the Bob Jones Tabernacle meeting. Seats will be reserved for them. We regret that the building is not large enough to permit us to invite all the colored friends. On Saturday night, May 8th, the service will be for colored people only, and we hope that they will fill the building to hear Mr. Jones.

J. P. Marion,
Chairman Executive Committee.

Tabernacle Notes.

Have you joined the personal workers' class? If not, why not? The choir is improving, but your voice would help it to be just a little more effective. Ask Mr. McKenzie. The colored pastors of the city have been invited to the meeting by Rev. J. P. Marion, chairman of the executive committee. A number have taken advantage of the opportunity. On May 8th the tabernacle will hold services for the colored people of the city.

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