

Radio Talk.

Matt. 19:24-26. "Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

While preaching in a large county seat church in K'orea last spring I noticed a distinguished looking middle-aged gentleman in the congregation. Afterwards I asked the pastor about him, for I had not seen him there before. The pastor told me that the gentleman was a distinguished Confucian scholar and leader of the Confucianists in the city. But he had recently accepted Christ as his Saviour and joined the church. The pastor went on to tell an interesting story about him. He said, "When this Confucian leader took the preliminary examination to become a catechumen in the church, he answered the questions about Jesus and his faith in Him unusually well. But when asked about the resurrection of Jesus, he stated flatly that he simply could not believe in the resurrection of Christ; such an incident was ~~simply~~ impossible." But the pastor did a very wise thing. He told the man, "Since this is a preliminary examination, we will accept you as a catechumen. But when you come six months from now to be examined for baptism and full church membership you must have a satisfactory answer to the question of the resurrection of Christ." Six months went by and again the gentleman appeared for examination. After standing an excellent examination on other matters he again was asked about the resurrection of Christ. This time he firmly stated his belief in the resurrection and stoutly defended it. The minister asked in surprise, "How is it that in six months you have reversed your position completely?" The gentleman replied, "As I studied the Word of God, I became absolutely convinced that the God revealed there is an Almighty God. If God is truly almighty and can do all things, then the resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ is no problem at all."

One wonders if this man, steeped in the ancient Chinese classics, and now familiar with the even more powerful Word of Eternal Life, had not discovered for himself the supremely important fact about our God, which many who claim to be Bible scholars and who ought to know better have ignored or denied.

In the Korean language, the first phrase of the Apostles Creed is,

전능 하사 전지를 만드신 아버지 하나님을 믿노라

Due to the peculiarities of sentence structure in this language, the first word, Chun-nung, is "almighty" ..that all-important attribute of God. If God is "chun-nung" (almighty) we can believe all that follows in the Apostles Creed, we can believe what the Bible says about His marvelous acts of creation, the miracles, and the salvation He performs through Jesus Christ.

Contrary to popular opinion, those of us who serve as foreign missionaries in distant lands are quite ordinary people, doing ordinary jobs for Jesus Christ in strange places simply because we have answered God's call to work there. Missionaries on furlough in this country are often set on a pedestal and pampered and praised in ways they do not deserve. In some quarters missionaries and their policies in the past are severely criticized by those who look backwards with the ~~st~~ wisdom of hindsight. Much of such criticism is deserved. But the fact, the glorious and wonderful fact, is that God takes such weak, inefficient people, and even their mistakes, and makes the unsearchable riches of Christ Jesus known to thousands who rejoice in Him as their Saviour today.

These are days when some have been called to give their lives for the witness to Christ in foreign lands. Within the past year, three young missionaries of our denomination gave their lives in the line of duty in other lands. ~~and~~ Who can forget the news last fall of Dr. Carlson ~~xxxxx~~ and others who laid down their lives in the Congo, claiming for themselves the martyr's crown while we were eating Thanksgiving turkey? Yet those who are called of God not to die but to live for Christ have the same privilege of giving a witness and of seeing the fruits of that witness in the lives of others. It is this which makes our lives as missionaries worth while, and gives meaning and joy to it. Let me tell you about a few such lives.

In Korea it has been my privilege to help start churches in about a half dozen villages where all the people have the dread disease of leprosy. Because few others dare help them or love them, the appreciation and response of these lepers is beyond description. A couple of years ago, while visiting one such colony, a blind leper besought me: "Cho Moksa, hear my petition. Get me some Braille scriptures so I can learn to read the Word of God." The Bible Society supplied the Braille Scriptures in Korean. We were able to get a young student in a school for the blind about 15 miles away to come and spend his summer vacation teaching Braille to the blind leper. Now that blind leper can read the Bible, and he in turn is teaching other blind lepers whose fingers are in such condition that they can learn to read. Isn't this a case of "the Blind leading the blind?" Last summer when I visited their church I found a dozen or so blind lepers in the church one afternoon. I discovered it was the Scripture memory class held every week-day afternoon. "What are you learning?" I asked. "We are on the seventh chapter of Acts, having started from the beginning." "What else have you learned?" "We have memorized all of the book of Revelation, all of one of the Gospels, all of the Johannine letters, and the Shorter Catechisms." These people have learned the word of God not only for their own spiritual nourishment but so they may share it with others.

A doctor in our mission hospital is named Pak. He is from North Korea and is a faithful and earnest Christian. He also witnesses constantly to his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. When he came to the United States to study he took the name of Andrew. He did this deliberately, not only because he likes to fish as did the original Andrew, but because, like the disciple of our Lord, he also is a "fisher of men." I happened to tell about him one night at a country church on the shores of a lake. Afterwards, an old Korean man ran forward exclaiming, "We know Dr. Pak." Because of him I am a Christian. When he came to our lake to fish he employed me to set up his camp for me. He taught me about Jesus and led me to church. Because of him I and my family are Christians. Truly Dr. Park is a "fisher of men" and worthy of the name of Andrew. How many people who go fishing on their vacations are also using the time to be a witness to the power of God in Christ Jesus?

On a high upland plateau some fifty miles from my home in Korea is a region of large villages where Jesus had not been known. A little over a year ago we heard that a young man, baptized only a year himself, had begun to preach in that region and had 300 people meeting, half of them in the Sunday School. We went out and had our first meeting in the open air, and received ~~xxx~~ about 40 as catechumens in preparation for church membership. So God's power worked through this new convert to begin a new church.

With men many things are impossible, but with God all things are possible. Let me close by quoting from one of our missionaries to Brazil: "May God help us to get off our cushioned pews and out of our airconditioned temples into the jungle of the hearts of men where the war is being fought and begin really fighting the fight, living for Christ, lest we be caught napping and without oil in our lamps; or found wanting when the Master

returns to complete His work on earth. He will either come to receive us or to judge us. Our earnest prayer is that when He returns it will be to receive us and the multitude that we, His Church, might yet win in the twilight of His coming."