

The Quiet Hour.

The Death of Moses.

S. S. LESSON, DEUT. 34: 1-12.
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Golden Text—Ex. 33: 11. The Lord spake unto Moses face to face.

Connection—We now come to the last days of Moses. He had given his farewell address to the people, and his charge to Joshua, 31: 1-8. We have his parting songs in parts of chapters 32 and 33; and then the final scene which closes the earthly life of one who was poet, historian, warrior, law-giver, statesman, ruler, servant of God.

1. The plains of Moab; on the east bank of the Jordan, where they were encamped, Num. 22: 1. The mountain of Nebo; the highest peak of Mount Pisgah, a ridge of the Abarim range, 35: 49. Jericho; a city six miles to the west of the Jordan. The land of Gilead; the mountainous regions on the east of Jordan, extending sixty miles, from the Dead Sea to the Sea of Galilee. Dan; a city near the foot of Mt. Hermon. It is not visible from Pisgah, but Hermon is.

2. 3. Naphtali; in the far north of Palestine. Ephraim and Manasseh; in the centre. Judah; in the south. The utmost sea; the Mediterranean, 50 miles distant. The city of palm trees; so called because situated near a great forest of palms. Zoar. See Gen. 29: 23.

4. Unto Abraham, etc. See Gen. 18: 7; 26: 3; 28: 16. I have caused thee to see it. His undimmed eyes (v. 7), in the clear atmosphere of the East, could see a long way, but, if necessary, God could miraculously increase his vision. Thou shalt not go over; because of his sin at Kadesh, Num. 20: 11-13. "The Lord hath put away thy sin," said Nathan to the royal transgressor; but 'thy child shall die, and the sword shall not depart from thy house.' The dying thief was pardoned, but he suffered in body the extreme penalty of his sin. Though the prodigal sits at his father's board, he can never be in health or vigor or overflowing joy."

5. 6. Moses... died there; in mount Nebo. The word of the Lord; the command of the Lord. 32: 49. 50. He buried him; that is, God buried him. How simply told, yet how sublime! Bethpeor; the "house of Peor," a Moabite idol. The place is not known. No man knoweth his sepulchre. Probably his burial place was kept a secret by God, that the people might not be tempted to worship their great leader. "Such a life as Moses lived must precede such a death as Moses died."

7. A hundred and twenty years old. He was forty years at Pharaoh's court, forty years in Arabia with Jethro, and forty years leading the people to the land of Canaan. And all the years were good years.

8. Wept for Moses. Now that he was gone, they saw how great he was, and how ungrateful they had been to him. Thirty days. The usual period of mourning was seven days (Gen. 50: 10), but for a person of rank the time was longer, Num. 20: 29.

9. Joshua the son of Nun; who had been appointed Moses' successor, Deut. 31: 23. The spirit of wisdom; insight, shrewdness, piety—qualities necessary for practical leadership. Laid his hands; to represent the communication of divine gifts, Num. 27:

19 23. Harkened unto him; as their leader in place of Moses.

10 12. Not a prophet... like unto Moses. Only Christ was greater than he, Heb. 3: 2 6. Whom the Lord knew face to face. God talked with him directly and not through the medium of any messenger, Exod. 33: 11. In all the signs and wonders, etc.; referring to the miracle which he wrought in delivering Israel from Pharaoh. That mighty hand, etc.; as seen in the history of the wilderness journey with its wonderful provinces.

The Joy of Contest.

It is of great assistance to our cheerfulness under the trials and difficulties of life to reflect that these experiences are testing the real quality of our inner life, and that we are showing how much genuine man or woman there is in us by the way we resist the temptation to moroseness, impatience or murmuring. A commander of a ship in a perilous storm feels the staying power of the conviction that he is at his post to conquer the storm and to bring his vessel safe to her port. Of course there is something objective and tangible about waging a contest with winds and waves. But that does not alter the real conditions of the problem. The contest that everyone has to carry on with untoward circumstances, with disappointment in those whom we had trusted, in the failure of cherished plans, and sometimes with the suffering and death of those we love, appeals to the motives that inspire the commander to show himself adequate to the emergency. And strangely enough you seldom find a man who is carrying on a contest and asserting himself against a storm of wind or a storm of trouble who is unhappy. There is a deep joy in the strife. As long as you preserve the aggressive militant temper you are not unhappy.—The Watchman.

Let Good Decide.

BY REV. JOSEPH PARKER, D.D.

Is there to be no self-care? Not a whit. I have never undertaken my own care without getting wrong; and I have never given myself absolutely over to the divine will without proving it to be right. I have to say "No" to my own sagacity every day; I have to hunger my own cleverness into submission. To my own mind it is clear that this might be done, that the other is possible, and that if certain events supervene then the issue would be solid and even glorious. But this is atheistic talk; I must take it, as it were in writing, to heaven's court, and say, "Lord, this is what I have written; nevertheless, not my will, but Thine be done. If Thou dost say to me, 'Burn that paper,' I shall be sore of heart; it looks to me so well done, I have thought about it so much and so long; but if Thou dost bid me burn it, it shall be burned." Then I am a Christian man. But if I persist in carrying out my own programme and policy, see it all torn to pieces by the retributive events, and then go wretchedly to God with a sort of nominal and external penitence, I may expect to be driven from His throne.

Maintain Individuality.

Be yourself. Thank God for your individuality. If you have but one talent, do not be ashamed of it. Do not hide it. Do not neglect it. Double it. Make it go as far as you can. Do not envy the man who has greater ability than you have. You possess enough to be responsible for. Cultivate loyally what you do possess. Do not try to take another man's place. Fill well your own.

The late Dr. Broadus said: "The broad and busy field of human endeavor may be equally filled by successive generations, though no two individuals successively occupy the same space. Every one must strive, in simplicity and humility, and by the help of God's grace, to develop his individuality, to make the most of his inherited possibilities and providential opportunities."

It may be true, in the sphere of religious or political activity, that the present workers comprise no man equal to the great leaders of a former time. But let every man simply and faithfully do his best, and by God's blessing the world's work will still go on.

There is ripe wisdom in these words. The great trouble with many Christians is, they are not doing their best with the individuality they have. They are sighing for some other sort of individuality, and because they can't have it they will not use and glorify their own.

Prayer.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honor and glory, world without end.—Amen.—Book of Common Prayer.

Prayer For Martinique.

When our Lord stepped from the boat on the desert side of the sea, "seeing the multitude, He was moved with compassion, because they fainted and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd."

Where can we find just now such "multitudes, fainting and scattering abroad" as in the volcano region in the West Indies? Surely, if the Spirit of Jesus Christ is in us, we shall be moved with compassion toward them, and we shall hear the Master's voice saying, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest." Martinique needs that prayer.

There is a promise that fits Martinique, and will sustain prayer. When Thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. God's judgments are now in Martinique, now is the time, her inhabitants will learn righteousness.

—HOPE.