

LIFE PROBLEMS

A Leading Man

There are all kinds of leaders. Some leaders are of greater importance than others. They command more, and they are because they are capable of doing so. There is personality about them. The leader's first duty is to lead himself. Then he becomes a guide to others, and may grow in power and usefulness.

Joshua is looked upon as a typical leader. He was charged to be "strong and of a good courage." He was to observe the Book of the Law. He was a man of the spirit. Character gets its cohesive principle from religion, religion gets its power from loftiness of its aim and its purity. I have noticed that leaders are all of Joshua for type. The power resides within. That is where the "pull" is. Look after the inner springs and the rest will follow.

A New Era

It is quite common to hear our leading men to-day speak of Canada entering upon a new era. The great war has shaken the world from its lethargy and selfishness. There is more practical brotherhood than there was a few months ago. The fight in the cause of humanity has led us to see that moral causes are the ones worth living for. We see the need of applying ethics in every department of activity, personal, national, and international.

This new era, like some of old that meant the progress of mankind, will have its blood sprinkling at the very beginning. Life is shallow and will without sacrifice. The new age promises well when those who take part in it stand with lives pledged for the freedom of the world. This is no time for pessimism. When was life more worth living? Now could one life tell for more than when? But that life must follow the cross.

Our Problems—Practical

While examining the issues of *World Wide*, to get a bird's-eye view of the leading events of 1914, I was rather amused to note the first article mentioned in the first issue of the year. It was entitled, "How Many Stars are there in the Milky Way?" The atmosphere changed very decidedly in the course of a few months. The war reminded us that we lived in a very real world. By the close of the year we had quite forgotten about the starry heavens and were more concerned with the number of men there were available for the fighting line.

Still, we have no quarrel with those who look up, who give place to the aesthetic, and otherwise try to nourish the imagination, and find larger spheres for their ideals. The point is that we are not to forget that we are in a real world where there is sin and struggle. Soar all you can, but keep your feet; give room for your possibilities, but remember your limitations. Do not lumber yourself with unworkable theories.

The Problem of Giving

The art of giving is about as hard to learn as some other arts. Few understand it. Giving is not simply handing out something. That is doing. Giving is sharing. Like divine love or charity, it imparts itself, sympathizes, uplifts. It seeks to give right ideals of life as well as other good.

A Good Character

There is no force in the world with greater power for good than a good character. It is a pure fountain, a perennial light, an unquenchable fire. In a community it cannot be hidden. It sheds lustre on a home, a village, a town, a city, a country. The memory of the just is blessed, but the memory of the wicked shall rot. No one wants to keep it alive. Match your character against the world of evil. Fear not. That is the divine method of redeeming and cleansing humanity.

Choices

In a world of good and evil we must, while we have understanding, make a choice. Neutrality is an impossibility. A gentleman who was running for some civic position in a town where there was

MANITOBA! TAKE NOTICE!

The Executive of the Manitoba Conference Epworth League decided at its recently held meeting not to hold the Annual Convention in 1915.

It was expected this would have been held in Wesley Church, Winnipeg, in February, but unforeseen conditions following directly or indirectly from the war have made the holding of the Convention, in the judgment of the Executive, extremely inadvisable. Extra emphasis will be placed on the District Conventions with the giving of particular attention to Missions and Evangelism in Epworth League and Sunday School Work.

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a Local Option fight, was asked where he stood. "I am absolutely neutral," was his reply. "That won't do!" said the man who enquired. He was right. He knew where the man stood at once. Did not the Master say that if a man was not for Him he was against Him?

Youth should keep the fact of choice in mind. You cannot take in everything. We cannot be friends with everybody. Choose the best. Follow the highest. Do not be led about by the nose! Do not listen to every voice that calls. Know your master.

The Simple Life

A few years ago a certain Pastor Wagner proclaimed the need of a simpler life for the people of this generation. His voice was not very generally heeded. He was as one crying in the wilderness. Those who do not heed the still, small voice of the Spirit may have to take their lessons in tones of earthquake and thunder. It is almost impossible from a material standpoint to live in luxury to-day. It is impossible from a moral standpoint. The men who go out to fight the battles of freedom and humanity for us must be disciplined, must endure hard-

ness. If their cause is ours, and it is, why should we not share this life with them? Then, wherever our post of duty is, we ought to put the standard of life so high that all self-indulgence will be shunned. This will make for efficiency on the part of all.

The simple life, too, is the efficient life. The simple life follows the direction of the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount. The task of life demands the best we can give, and the most that we can do.

Companions

The more I see life the more important, I think, is the formation of friendships. That is more important than the game or the amusement. If the companions are of low aim they will drag us down. I have seen it. There is that silly girl I saw giggling and pantomiming with some rowdy of a boy. She soon comes to know more than her parents or her teachers. The next thing is an early marriage or a disgrace of some sort. It all started in the questionable companions. There is the boy who is allowed and the young man who allows himself to follow his inclinations about making companions. He consorts with the profane, the Sabbath breakers, the winkers, the irreverent. Soon the lustre of his life is tarnished. He loses vision and respect. Look out for the kind of company you choose for yourself.

Pointers

Just a few words tell all we know directly about the youth of Jesus; the keywords are: Growth, subjection, the Father's blessing.

The Ten Commandments mark ten danger points for human lives.

A Christian is never more like his Lord than when he takes up his cross and lives in its spirit.

Secluded spots in this world are becoming scarcer each year.

The nation of high moral ideals will walk the "high places" of the earth.

The success that is won by patient toil is most enjoyed.

The Judgment Day will bring an examination of deeds, not creeds.

Spirituality is sanctified personality.

Any teaching that is not drawn from example and experience will fail in fruitfulness.

Find Your Sphere

A friend of mine makes use of the illustration of a round peg in a square hole to show the impossibility of trying to do something for which you were not intended. There is work for all and a place for all. Find your bent. Don't get out of patience looking for it. Keep busy all the time, and you will the quicker find it. It never pays to wait for your job. Work away at the task nearest.

Why They Failed

I would sooner have some men's failures than other men's successes. Why? Because some men set themselves so little to do. They succeeded early, at least to their own satisfaction. Others map out such a programme that they are kept busy till life's latest hour trying to finish it. Their failure is in not being able to do all they planned. You will be surprised at the number of great men who have "failed." After all the only real failure is loss of character and being discouraged.

Credo