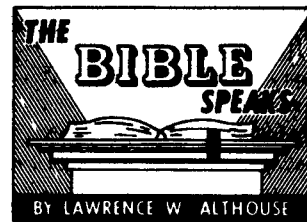


NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent
Phone 717-394-6851



WHO'S AT THE DOOR?
January 19, 1986

to "the least of these"—the people in need whom we encounter in our daily lives.

One of the things that makes Jesus' parable so effective is the element of surprise on the part of both those who are accepted into and rejected from the kingdom. The latter, for example, express their surprise in words with which all of us can identify: "Lord, when did we see the hungry or thirsty or a stranger or sick or in prison and not minister to thee?" (25:44). After all, when was the last time Jesus appeared to you? Probably never, right?

But, although most of us have never had a vision of the Christ, that does not mean he has never come to us. It only means that we have failed to recognize his presence in the need of one of our fellow human beings. We have heard the knock at the door and looked through the curtains to see an old man, a tramp in tatters, or a stranger whom we decide will remain a stranger to us. **YOU DID IT NOT!**

One of the other salient features of this parable is the emphasis it places upon judgement for what is not done, rather than for what is done. Usually, when we contemplate God's judgement, we think of sins committed, but Jesus is emphasizing here the importance of good deeds not committed. Presumably the people in the parable have not murdered, stolen, slandered or cheated. Well and good, but there is more to God's judgement. Refraining from evil is only a part of what he expects from us. Doing good is equally important: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and the prisoners.

When the knock comes to your door, be careful, lest you turn away the Christ who is always present in our needy neighbor.

Background Scripture:

Matthew 25:31-46.

Devotional Reading:

Matthew 18:10-14.

There have been many stories—parables actually—about people who have been confronted with Christ without recognizing him. Usually, Christ has come to them in the form of someone needing their help—a beggar seeking a crust of bread, a victim needing shelter, a victim of injustice asking for help. Most often in these stories there has been a later recognition that it was none other than Christ himself who came to them in disguise.

Each of these stories has probably been inspired by the brilliant parable Jesus gave to his disciples in Matthew 25:31-46. For, the meaning of the story is that when we serve others, it counts as service to Christ himself. Correspondingly, when we fail to meet the needs of others, it is also Christ who we fail.

WHEN, LORD?

How many times I've read this parable—as you probably have too. Yet, no matter how familiar it is to me, each time I read it I am amazed with how simply and forcefully Jesus puts across one of the great teachings of Christianity: if we would serve Christ as Lord, we must minister

time to become acquainted with the meetings of interest to you and your operation.

Some meetings are designed to reach certain production groups such as Dairy Days, March 4 and 11; Cattle Feeders Day, Jan. 31; Crops and Soils Day, Feb. 18 and Poultry Day on March 6; but, others are programmed to reach all farmers and agri-business people like the Estate Planning and Farm Transfer arrangement meetings.

Also, many agri-business and lending institutions conduct meetings to keep you abreast of the changes in their organizations. We urge you to mark your calendar as these meetings are announced and attend as many as possible.

To Be Aware Of Child Labor Laws

If you have boys or girls between the ages of 14 and 16 that plan to operate a farm tractor or machinery on a farm, other than your own farm, be sure they have the proper certificate. Under the child labor regulations, the law requires that those boys or girls between 14 and 16 years of age, be certified and carry a certification card before they are permitted to operate hazardous equipment.

Some equipment listed under the law as hazardous is: a tractor with over 20 PTO horsepower, corn

picker, hay baler, feed grinder, fork lift and many more. Again on your own farm, your children can operate any equipment that you feel is safe for them.

The certification process in most areas is through the Vocational Agricultural Department in the schools or through the 4-H Tractor Clubs. Contact either for more information.

To Preserve The Top Soil

The spring of the year is an excellent time to develop some soil conservation practices on the land. Contour strips, terraces and diversion ditches can all be established before the 1986 crops are planted. These various methods of controlling water will not only prevent soil losses but will help hold more water on the higher slopes and fields.

Good topsoil is a precious natural resource, and every land owner should make an effort to keep it from eroding. Farmers who are growing continuous corn should be very careful to keep their soil from washing away. In these cases terraces can be established to help slow down the loss of both water and soil. Addition of extra organic matter in the form of crop residues, green cover crops and livestock manure will help keep the soil loose with a higher water holding capacity.

To Recognize Fertilizer Values

Since the cost of commercial fertilizer continues high, we should take a look at other sources of plant food; I am referring to farm manures and legume sods in the crop rotation.

The 1985-86 Agronomy Guide gives a very good comparison of these fertilizer values on page fifteen. With the amount of manure that is being applied to some of our livestock and poultry farms, it is quite possible that very little commercial fertilizer will be needed.

Alfalfa sod can add as much as 75 pounds of nitrogen per acre. This is one advantage to having legumes in the crop rotation.

A complete soil test will reveal the needs to each field. Then the need can be met by using farm manures, legume sods, or commercial fertilizer. Careful handling and storage of manure will preserve many of these valuable fertilizer elements.

To Attend Winter Meetings

This is a time of year that a lot of educational meetings are held. And, they're held during the season of the year for a good reason — you have more time to attend meetings. During the spring, the summer and into the fall, there's just too much field work that must be done. Take the

1986 PA Holstein Convention Ticket Order Form

(Welcome Reception - 10:00 p.m. _____ No Charge
(needed for purpose of refreshments)

Friday, February 21

Breakfast on your own -	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
Ladies Program and Luncheon - 11:00 a.m.	_____	Tickets @ \$10.00 \$	_____
Bus Tour of Pittsburgh - 2:00 p.m.	_____	Tickets @ \$ 7.00 \$	_____
Buhl Science Center	_____		
Miniature Railroad Show	_____		
Sale Buffet - 5:00 p.m.	_____	Tickets @ \$18.00 \$	_____
Convention Sale - 7:00 p.m.	_____		
Riverboat Cruise - 10:00 p.m.	_____		
Round and Square Dance on Board	_____	Tickets @ \$ 5.00 \$	_____
Junior Pizza and Pool Party - 10:00 p.m.	_____	Tickets @ \$ 2.00 \$	_____

Saturday, February 22

Breakfast on your own -	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
Adult & Junior Luncheon - 1:00 p.m.	_____	Tickets @ \$10.00 \$	_____
Convention Banquet and Reception	_____	Tickets @ \$20.00 \$	_____
Reception - 6:30 p.m.	_____		
Banquet - 7:30 p.m.	_____		

TOTAL \$ _____

Name _____

(Please list all names as they should appear on name tags)

Address _____

Phone (____) _____ County _____

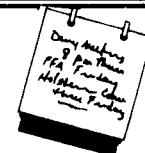
Send Your Order with Check Payable To: "1986 PA Holstein Convention"
Lewis Berkley, Treasurer
RD #3, Box 57, Berlin, PA 15530

TICKET ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 5, 1986. For Lodging Reservations Contact: Sheraton Hotel at Station Square, Carson and Smithfield Streets, Pittsburgh, PA 15219, (412) 261-2000. Be sure to mention it is a Holstein Convention Reservation. "Deadline to Assure Room - February 5, 1986."

Lodging Room Rates: Single, one person \$50 Double, two persons \$60 Triple (3 over 18 yrs.) or Quadruple (4 over 18 yrs.) \$65

Children 17 and under stay free in same room with adult. Credit card number or deposit of one night's lodging is necessary to hold a room for arrival after 6:00 p.m.

Farm Calendar



Monday, January 20

Eastern Pa. Turf Conference and Trade Show, Pa. Turfgrass Council, Valley Forge Convention Center; contact Tom Watshke at 814-863-1613; continues through Wednesday

Tuesday, January 21

Sire Power's 1986 annual meeting, 10 a.m., Sheraton-Harrisburg West, New Cumberland. Lime, Fertilizer and Pesticide Conference, Sheraton Penn State, State College; continues through Thursday. Franklin County Holstein Club Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet, Kauffman's Community Center, Kauffman Station, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, January 22

Winter Beef Meeting, York 4-H Center, 7:30 p.m. Annual Convention, Pa. State Association of County Fairs, Host Farm, Lancaster. Contact E. Neal Mack at 717-297-3638.

Thursday, January 23

Interstate Milk Producers Annual Banquet, District 11, Cochranville Fire Hall, 11 45 a.m.

Saturday, January 25

Witmer Fire Company Turkey Supper, Witmer Fire Hall, noon - 2 Contact Jay Hershey, 291-9897, or 392-0804

Tuesday, January 28

Fa Vegetable Conference and Trade Show, Hershey Convention Center; continues through Thursday. Manure storage and handling systems, Ephrata Senior High School Ag Department, 7 45 p.m.

Dairy Economics Meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wednesday, January 29

Pa Farm Builders Conference, Holiday Inn, Chambersburg; continues through Thursday. Contact: Dan Meyer, 814-865-7685.

York County Corn Clinic, York 4-H Center, Bair, 8-30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mt. Joy Farmer Co-op Annual Meeting, noon, Hostetter's in Mt. Joy

Lebanon Valley National Bank luncheon seminar, Prescott Fire Co., Prescott, 9 a.m. to 2 15 p.m.

Thursday, January 30

Southeast Beef Feeder Meetings, Risser's Restaurant, Stouchsburg (Rt. 422), 10 30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting, Montgomery-Bucks Farm Bureau Cooperative Association, Christopher Dock High School, Kulpville; contact Michael Zapach at 215-723-4355

Annual Meeting, Lancaster County Farm and Home Foundation, 6:30 p.m., Farm and Home Center

Saturday, February 1

York County Sheep and Wool Producers Annual Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at St. John's United Church of Christ



SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT...

LOW CLASSIFIED RATES WITH EXCELLENT RESULTS!