

I WILL BLESS THEM THAT BLESS THEE

Genesis 12: 3 and 27: 28

By ZELLA REYNOLDS MUSSEN

It was some years ago, after returning to China from furlough, that I was talking with a Shanghai missionary concerning the blessing that had been following her work, both spiritually and temporally. She made the following comment: "Yes, the Lord has blessed us, and I believe it is because we have for years made it a habit in our Chinese Church to give the entire offering on the first of each month toward Christian work among the Jews. Our Chinese have this vision and give liberally toward this, and frequently this offering exceeds that of others were the money is used for our own Chinese work."

Here was an entirely new thought to me. I had given a dollar here or there toward this purpose and once in a while two dollars and at the very most, once or twice, five dollars toward work among the Jews, but never had the thought of systematic giving in this direction crossed my mind. The thought came, "If this is something that so pleases the Lord I want to adopt it also." So then and there the solution was made that the entire tithe of the first month of the year would be given for Christian work amongst His Chosen people.

Before returning to China I had undertaken some heavy obligations and, upon reaching Shanghai, found that exchange had become so unfavorable that one American dollar required

about three of our Shanghai dollars, and payments in gold back home at the above rate gave me a vision of months of “grinding out” money. It loomed large in the horizon. However, the very first time I made the offering for the Gospel among the Jews — that month word came that some funds which had been tied up for years were available to me. It was some hundreds of dollars, and it very materially helped the financial burden at that time I was duly impressed.

The next year, January and February passed and it was not until March that the Jewish offering was sent. In May I received notification that the Home Office of the British and Foreign Bible Society had given authority for an increase of my salary. Good news to me, coming unexpectedly as it did, but only thought of it as beginning with that month. However, when the extra amount came for March and onward — again the very month I had kept my word to the Lord concerning this matter. Again I was impressed.

The third year there was some delay, due to lack of understanding on the part of others about passing the money on, and a necessary month or two went by before the money reached its destination. About the very day it was started on its way a dear one in California sent me a special personal gift of money which came at a most opportune time.

To be sure, one does not follow methods simply for the blessing they bring, knowing in such ways as these how He rewards our gifts (so much so that He loves to bless in return) how good it is to have intimation of something which specially pleases Him!

SILVER AND GOLD ARE HIS

The friend who had opened my eyes to this matter had, because of this extreme in exchange — which came about the

time I returned to China — been puzzled about using so much Shanghai money to exchange for so few gold dollars to send to Jewish work, and in this perplexity of mind, with the feeling it would be wrong to waste the Lord's money, had, with the other workers of her mission, hesitated and delayed for some time about the Jewish offerings, hoping for a more favorable exchange condition. In the meantime, the financial wheels have been dragging heavily, money difficulties had come. While wondering if the Lord was satisfied with this delay, they heard my story, and the Lord arrested them and they saw that He was calling them definitely to return to their former practice in spite of conditions, for the silver and gold were His. Immediately the Lord began to work; money came in; blessing was felt, and at the end of the year, in every branch of the accounts, there was a favourable balance. The year ended triumphantly.

A family of six in Shanghai had recently adopted systematic giving for Jewish work. One of the number, being employed in a Publishing House, after making her first special gift toward this purpose was later called in by her employer and informed that her salary had been increased. It was a liberal increase and in those times of depression she could hardly fail to recognize God's blessing and connected it with her decision on this point. Other members of the family have also experienced special financial blessing.

Here in Shanghai, in the absence of my husband, on a long missionary trip, a serious mission difficulty arose in one of the small chapels. A very bad Chinese bent on troubling and hindering the Lord's work, did everything possible to make it hard for us. He had been reproved for his bad and unsavory life and because of the "loss of face" (reputation) no rent would he pay (he occupied rooms upstairs in the chapel building). His very presence in the building was a dishonour to the name of

Christ among the surrounding unbelievers. Even the officers and police seemed afraid to do anything drastic for he was a man to be feared.

Rents could not be paid; meetings could not be held; collections would not be taken; others, who would have taken over the building and altered it for another character of Christian work, could not gain access because this man still held sway in his room and resisted everyone.

In January the tithe was again sent to Jewish work. A few days after that a dear Chinese brother (one of our Christians) after another conference with the owner of the building (a Chinese) came back and said, "Mrs. Mussen, the Lord has certainly favoured you for the owner says that if you find it necessary to move from the chapel you have his permission to go ahead and take out all the benches, the pulpit stand and other belongings, and he will forget all the past rent that is due." This in the intervening months, had climbed up to about two hundred dollars. I wondered at the gracious consideration of an unconverted Chinese; my heart was made very tender toward the Lord, and tears of gratitude flowed. Again, His special blessing had been given in this first month of the year. Quietly, the Lord brought to my remembrance. Psalm 122:6; Malachi 3:9-1 1.

GOD BLESSES AS PROMISED

Need such instances be multiplied? It is certain that "He who keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep," and His heart is set upon the fulfillment of all His great promises to the Chosen People. He who overrules disasters and used the Great World War to accomplish His first great step toward their restoration, is watchful of each of our small contributions (whether by prayer or by gift) toward that great purpose established in the Heavens.

For months the Spirit of the Lord has urged me to write about this matter. So I am passing it on for the consideration of others. Perhaps we have unconsciously reversed the Scriptures, making them read, "To the Greek first and also to the Jews." Perhaps much may hinge upon our timely response to that which may be one of His last pressing thoughts — the spread of the Gospel among the Jews. May He lead us to pray and consider Esther 4: 14.

Presented by BERT HYDE CLARK

READER, ARE YOU A PROFITABLE OR AN UNPROFITABLE SERVANT OF THE MASTER?

It has been nearly two thousand years since He said, "After a LONG TIME the Lord of those servants cometh again and reckoneth with them." Matt. 25: 19.

It is indeed high time each person who has been baptized in His Name, was taking an invoice of himself, to determine which one of the TWO classes of servants he is. Whether profitable or unprofitable, for that reckoning day is indeed very near. Yes, even at the very door. The Master has given every person a talent to use for His glory during his or her life. If they have buried their life in the world, and the temporal things of earth, they are classed as SERVANT but are UNPROFITABLE to be cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matt. 25: 30. One Tenth of Our Life Is Not Our Own.

The heavenly Father has arranged for every one of His children to give one tenth of his life into His work, the work of saving people with the gospel message.

He says, "Bring ye all the tithe into the storehouse, that there shall be meat in mine house and prove me now herewith saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven

and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” Malachi 3: 10.

“And all the tithe of the land... is the Lord's IT IS HOLY UNTO THE LORD, and if any man will redeem (use for himself) any of the tithe he shall add there to the fifth part thereof.” Leviticus 27: 30-31.

The tithe is one tenth of one's income, which is “Holy unto the Lord,” and represents that part of his or her life to be spent in the same work for which the Saviour gave His whole life, and for which He shed His blood. It is to save others. If we save our life we will lose it, but if we give it we save it. How true this is, for only that portion invested in the work of the Lord will remain after we are gone. The Saviour commands us too in this way. Lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, and not on the earth; then He adds, “Where your treasure is there will your heart be also.” Matt. 6: 19 to 21.

The Lord says people and nations are cursed with a curse because they have robbed Him of the tithe. Malachi 3: 8-11. Christ tells us of the tithe, not to leave tithe paying undone. Matt. 23: 23.

In speaking of the way the ancient ministers were supported in the service of the tabernacle which was by the tithe of the people, Paul says, “EVEN SO, hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel shall live of the gospel.” 1 Cor. 9:13-14.

Even so, means “in the same way,” and great blessings await those who thus dedicate one tenth of his or her life to the Father's business and work. We are all His disciples, and His servants, and there is a work for each to do, in whatever station it has pleased the Father to call us. If not into the mission fields ourselves, we can send part of our life there, one tenth of our earnings, where it will bear fruit for His glory, in winning souls

for the kingdom... Then when the Master comes, to reckon with us, which is now very near, we will be found PROFITABLE servants, and hear the words, “Enter thou into the joys of the Lord.”

There is not a more fertile field in all the world than Israel, where the people are really hungry for the Bible, and want to please the Lord.

Scriptures

Luke 12: 8 to 21. St. John 15: 1 to 8. Matthew 25: 14 to 30. Acts 10: 3 to 4.

SEND FOR THE “MOUNT ZION REPORTER”

The “Mount Zion Reporter” is a monthly magazine, in colors, printed in the English. It contains general news from Israel much that you do not get anywhere else: Also Archaeological discoveries, where they are constantly digging: A department of natural living to avoid sickness and live long happy lives: Questions and Answers: Articles on the prophecies of the Bible fulfilled in Israel, also on Daniel and Revelation Reports, testimonies from readers, and many beautiful pictures of Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

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There will be no charges for their subscription. Each one must write themselves and request it. Send no money. Print name and address plainly to avoid mistakes. We do not believe in selling the Bible or the truth. It is forbidden. Proverbs 23: 23.

If the Lord should lay it upon your heart to send your tithes or offerings here for His work, it will be much appreciated, and used for His glory. You will be blessed. There is not another field in all the world so needy or fertile as this one.

“Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined... Gather My saints unto me; those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.” Psalms 50: 2, 5.

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OUT OF THIS LIFE

Out of this life I shall never take
Things of silver and gold I make
All that I cherish and hoard away
After I leave, on earth must stay.

Though I call it mine, and boast it's worth
I must give it up when I quit the earth
All that I gather and all that I keep
I must leave behind when I fall asleep.

I wonder often just what I shall own
In that other life when I pass alone
What shall He find and what shall He see
In the soul that answers the call for me.

Shall the great judge learn when my life is thru
That my life has gathered some riches too?
Or shall at the last it be mine to find
That all I had worked for I had left behind?