

Sermon Outlines

Opportunity or Failure?

“Bring them hither to Me.” (Matthew 14:18)

“Bring him hither to Me.” (Matthew 17:17)

CHRISTIANITY may be defined as the full contact of the soul and Christ. Look at it now as illustrated by two episodes:

- a) The disciples face to face with a great work
- b) The disciples face to face with a great failure.

When we are confronted with either opportunity or failure, Christ says: “Bring . . . to Me.”

I. Our Opportunities

1. The Great Need - The People
 - (a) Hunger and fatigue - want and weakness
 - (b) No supply at hand
2. The Small Store - The Disciples
 - (a) Limited
 - (b) Insufficient
3. The Full Supply
 - (a) Brought
 - (b) Blessed

N.B. - The secret of today in the means of today for the task of today in that service is not measured by our ability but by His power.

II. Our Failures

1. The World - The Father and the Multitude
 - (a) Disappointed
 - (b) Distressed
2. The Church - The Disciples
 - (a) Utter failure - no need for it
 - (b) Unwarranted faithlessness - no right to it
3. The Master
 - (a) Overruling
 - (b) Explaining

N.B. - The task of today is great; the means of today are ample; the secret of today is faithfulness.

Conclusion

1. Christianity does not give inherent ability.
2. But, it does ask for maintained dependence - the secret of salvation first, and then of holiness and power. This is the great safeguard against a danger.

I take, He undertakes

I have faith, He is faithful

I trust, He is trustworthy

. . . . *W.H. Griffith Thomas, D.D.*