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WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?
BY
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INTRO.: REV. SHAVERS, MRS. SHAVERS, MEMBERS AND GUESTS OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

I SHALL BEGIN BY REPEATING THE TRADITIONAL BUT I HOPE NOT WORN OUT STATEMENT, "THAT IT IS A PRIVILEGE AND AN HONOR TO HAVE BEEN ASKED TO BE THE SPEAKER FOR OUR LAYMAN'S SERVICE TODAY. HOWEVER, IT IS WELL RECOGNIZED THAT IT IS MORE DIFFICULT TO SELL A PRODUCT TO A FRIEND THAN TO A STRANGER AS JESUS PREACHED GOD'S WORD, HE FOUND MORE BELIEF AND ACCEPTANCE IN TOWNS OTHER THAN HIS HOME-TOWN. THIS IS PART OF THE BEHAVIOR OF MAN AND THE EXPLANATION IS FAR TOO COMPLEX TO DISCUSS AT THIS TIME. (ESPECIALLY SINCE I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT ANYHOW) WHAT A CHORE!. TO STAND BEFORE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WHO ARE AWARE OF YOUR HUMAN WEAKNESSES AS YOU ARE AWARE OF THEIRS - AND TRY TO DELIVER A MESSAGE OF MEANING TO THEM. BUT SOMEHOW WE MUST AND DO TRANSCEND THIS OBSTACLE OF BEING HUMAN, AND OBJECTIVE COMMUNICATION FLOWS BACK AND FORTH.

II MY MESSAGE TO YOU THIS MORNING CARRIES WITH IT A SPECIFIC GOAL. THAT GOAL IS TO MAKE AN EVANGELIST OUT OF EACH AND EVERYONE HERE. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN EVANGELIST? IT SIMPLY MEANS THAT IN ITS BROADER INTERPRETATION WE WILL CARRY OUR BELIEF IN GOD AND THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST TO OTHERS.

JAIL INCIDENT - READ LETTER

BEING AN EVANGELIST MEANS THAT IF WE SINCERELY BELIEVE IN TRYING TO LIVE A CHRISTIAN LIFE AS WE KNOW IT THROUGH THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST, THEN WE DO HAV E THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CARRYING THE MESSAGE TO OTHERS. AND THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE HAVE TO CARRY A BIBLE WITH US ALL THROUGHOUT THE DAY, READING IT TO OTHERS. IT MEANS THAT WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF CHRISTIANITY, AND INTERPRETE IT WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IT MEANS TO OUR EVERYDAY LIVES. AND WHEN WE UNDERSTAND WHAT CHRISTIANITY MEANS TO OUR EVERYDAY LIVES WE RECOGNIZE THE BROAD INTERPRETATION AND NOT THE NARROW ONE USED BY A LOT OF OUR MINISTERS

WHO PREACH WHAT I CALL "SUNDAY CHRISTIANITY" - SELDON IF EVER REFLECTING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING THE CONCEPT OF CHRISTIANITY WORK FOR YOU IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE. MORE MUST BE DONE THAN QUOTING FROM THE BIBLE AND YELLING AND SCREAMING FOR AN EMOTIONAL RESPONSE FROM THE CONGREGATION. CHRISTIANITY IS A WAY OF LIFE AND WHEN THAT WAY OF LIFE DOES NOT AFFORD TO EVERYONE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES, THEN CHRISTIANITY IS NOT BEING PRACTICED. MOST ALL OF US WANT TO LIVE; AND BE HAPPY - AS HAPPY AS OUR CAPABILITIES CAN MAKE US. WE DON'T WANT ANYONE TAKING OUR LIVES OR ROBBING US OF OUR CHANCES TO BE HAPPY. AND IF THEY DO , THEY HAVE COMMITTED AN UNCHRISTIAN ACT.

III

I MENTIONED EARLIER ABOUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH OF US IF WE SINCERELY BELIEVE IN CHRISTIANITY. OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO CARRY THE MESSAGE TO OTHERS. OUR JOB IS TO BE THE BEST CHRISTIAN WE KNOW HOW TO BE - AND TO POINT OUR TO OTHERS, WHO CLAIM OR DISCLAIM CHRISTIANITY AS A WAY OF LIFE, THAT UNCHRISTIAN ACTS ARE DETRIMENTAL TO ALL OF MANKIND

IV

I CHOSE, AS PART OF MY RESPONSIBILITY, TO JOIN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. AND WHEN I BECAME A MEMBER OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, SOME SAN DIEGANS WERE SURPRISED AND I WAS ASKED BY A TELEVISION NEWSMAN IF I HAD BEEN AN ATHEIST PRIOR TO JOINING THIS CHURCH. THIS QUESTION STUNNED ME BECAUSE I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AN ATTENDER OR A MEMBER OF A CHURCH SINCE I WAS A CHILD WHICH INCLUDES THE TIME I HAVE BEEN IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. BUT I HAD THE AUDACITY TO EXPRESS MY RIGHT AND MY RRSPONSIBILITY TO CRITICIZE CHRISTIANTTY AND PREACHERS WHO DID NOTHING BUT ADD TO THE UN - CHRISTIAN ACT OF OPPRESSING ME AND MY PEOPLE. AND AFTER I JOINED THE CIVIL RIGHTS FIGHT I VOWED TO FIGHY UP TO SACRIFIVING MY LIFE IF NECESSARY. BECAUSE I KNEW IT WAS THE CHRISTIAN THING TO DO. TO PREACH THE ELIMINATION OF SLAVERY AND OPPRESSION IS TO PREACH FOD'S WORD. TO PREACH THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IS TO PREACH THE*THE* TEACHING OF JESUS CHRIST. AND TO FIGHT FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR THE NEGRO, A LIFE THAT PROVIDES ALL THE PRIVILEGES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT ANY OTHER CITIZEN HAS, IS PUTTING CHRISTIANITY TO WORK IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES.

THEN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND CHRISTIANITY ARE TALKING ABOUT THE SAME THINGS AREN'T THET? TREATING ANOTHER HUMAN BEING AS YOU WANT TO BE TREATED - IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT. TO BE FREE TO SECCEED OR FAIR ACCORDING TO AN INDIVIDUAL'S CAPABILITIES. TO BE FREE TO FEEL FREE.

V.

BUT WHAT PRICE FREEDOM? AND THIS MY FRIENDS I FEEL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF MY MESSAGE TO YOU THIS MORNING -WHAT PRICE FREEDOM.

IN 1965 THE S.C.L.C. SPENT 1,429,787.27 ON THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. ADD TO THIS WHAT CORE NAACP, SNCC, AND THE URBAN LEAGUE SPENT AND YOU CAN SEE WHAT THE MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS ALONE SPENT ON FREEDOM. FREEDOM IS A HIGH PRICED COMMODITY. NO! IT'S MORE THAN THAT. IT IS PRICELESS. IT IS NOT FOR SALE - YOU CAN'T BUY IT AND NO ONE CAN GIVE IT TO YOU BECAUSE IT IS THERE FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY AND FOR NO ONE TO EXPLOIT. AND NO ONE EXCEPT GOD HAS THE IGHT TO DETERMINE WHO SHALL BE FREE, WHENHE SHALL BE FREE AND TO WHAT DEGREE HE SHALL BE FREE. BECAUSE WE ARE ALL FREE. WE WERE BORN FREE,BUT THE EXPRESSION OF THAT FREEDOM WAS STRIPPED AWAY FROM US BY THOSE IN POWER. THEREFORE FREEDOM IS SOMETHING FOR WHICH MANY NEGROES DIED AND FOUGHT - THEREFORE OUR FREEDOM SHALL BE WON - AND NEVER BOUGHT. THE MONEY SPENT IN CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVITIES ONLY PERMITS US TO DO THE WORK THAT IS NEEDED. BUT THE KEY TO FREEDOM IS SACRIFICE. WE MUST SACRIFICE MANY THINGS NOW - TO BE FREE LATER. WE MAY HAVE TO BY PASS THE CLOSEST STORE AND GO TO ONE A LITTLE FARTHER DOWN THE ROAD IN ORDER TO BREAKDOWN RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SPREAD A LITTLE CHRISTIANITY AROUND. WE MAY HAVE TO INCONVENIENCE OURSELVES IN ORDER FOR IT TO BE CONVIENT FOR OUR CHILDREN.

VI

YES, THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT AND THE CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT NOT ONLY PARALLEL EACH OTHER BUT ARE PART OF EACH OTHER.

AS I CONCLUDE LET ME EXPLAIN WHAT I MEAN. THE WEAPON USED IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, THE ONE THING ON WHICH THE CIVIL RIGHYS MOVEMENT IS BASED - THE CONSCIENCE OF WHITE AMERICA. WHAT IS THE CONSCIENCE OF WHITE AMERICA? IT IS THE VOID BETWEEN WHAT A CHRISTIAN NATION ~~DOES~~ BELIEVES AND WHAT A CHRISTIAN NATION DOES. TO PRICK THE CON-

SCIENCE OF WHITE AMERICA IS THE OBJECTIVE OF EVERY CIVIL RIGHTS DEMONSTRATION HELD IN THIS COUNTRY. WE KNOW THAT THIS COUNTRY CANNOT BE A CHRISTIAN COUNTRY AND PRACTICE OR PERPETUATE THE EVILS OF RACISM. SO THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT MEANS THAT THOSE INVOLVED IN IT ARE CHRIST'S EVANGELISTS, CARRYING THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTIANITY. MANY HAVE DIED FOR THE CAUSE AS DID JESUS CHRIST. AND THEY ALSO DIED SO THAT WE MAY LIVE.

CONCLUSION:

WHAT I HAVE SAID HERE TODAY I AM SURE MANY OF YOU HAVE HEARD BEFORE. BUT I HOPE THAT YOU ARE A LITTLE FURTHER ALONG IN CARRYING CHRIST'S MESSAGE TO OTHERS. IF EACH ONE OF YOUACCEPTS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING AN EVANGELIST, THEN OUR WONDERFUL CHURCH HERE AT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIO WILL GROW AND WE WILL BECOME MORE WONDERFUL.

AGAIN I AM GRATEFUL FOR HAVING BEEN GIVEN THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU THIS MORNING, AND I ASK GOD'S BLESSING ON ALL THAT I HAVE SAID.