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FESTO KIVENGERE - MOSES ON THE MOUNT - THE SAFE PLAN

..... He never knew what it was. The man came in later through missionary work (laughter). All we knew was that we were coming as they did in the N.T., that's all. And whatever happened in the church, people became awake and there was conviction of sin, some falling under the powerful preaching of the Word. No one <sup>thought</sup> ~~that~~ that was anything extraordinary, but just as we read in the Bible. And if some people had extraordinary visions or dreams -- hundreds of people were converted through dreams -- they <sup>dreamt about hell</sup> ~~were-walking-on-air~~, walked ten miles to the pastor and asked what to do. One must have thought that this was really a "dream revival" but people saw-- we took it, those who were awakened those days, took it as the Spirit of God using the Bible. We had read, but we had not yet found in actual experience. So it was regarded as a normal experience of Xns. The Lord Jesus had become alive in the hearts of believers and the church was becoming alive to His presence. Songs took wings, and the Bible spoke.

I remember being in churches when there was no preaching. You know we Episcopalians have become accustomed to reading first and second lesson on Sunday. I can remember when the first lesson was read and there was no more preaching - people were convicted and they stood up <sup>weeping</sup> ~~repenting~~, people came to the Lord and ~~we~~ we sang and went home. A beautiful thing - ministers had a good time (laughter).

The thing is that it was God. No <sup>much</sup> ~~not~~ interested in giving a special name to this. <sup>People</sup> We were more interested in life, <sup>in</sup> ~~and~~ living and in repentance and rejoicing <sup>fullness and</sup> ~~and~~ sharing. We had so many people wanting to preach that you didn't know what to do. Girls and boys and men and women, wherever they went they <sup>gossiped</sup> ~~talked~~ about Jesus. Every week there were some people who were born again, and we had no big preacher either. You did not know exactly who was preaching - so many were preaching and sharing. It was a normal experience, and I brought- I wanted to say that so you wouldn't think we had some extraordinary sort of movement. It was a very normal movement of God among rather abnormal people. Because we were not normal Christians. We had accepted the faith, the Bible we loved it, we were reasonably conservative, but there was no life. It remained in the Book, we didn't see it moving in the villages, in the homes. We didn't see reconciliation between people who hated each other. We read about it, <sup>in the Bible</sup> ~~but~~ we hadn't seen it, now we saw it, publicly in the church. We saw people weeping as they came to the Holy Communion, and going back from communion and embracing each other and crying to Jesus. So Holy Comm. became alive.

I make people laugh. One day when I had <sup>a</sup> come in --when there is real rejoicing and someone has been born again, they have a custom, they stand in a circle with the fellow in the center and just sing around him, and just love him and sing and clap. Sometimes you may think the whole community has come to Jesus. In your country, I don't know what it is, maybe tradition, but in my

Born again person in Uganda

accepts the Lord Jesus, you think the whole community has been saved - tremendous rejoicing over that man. And of course, in a week you will know that a man was born again in the community. In a week the whole community becomes aware. He leaves no stone unturned. He pays back his debts, asks for forgiveness, goes to his enemy for reconciliation, taxes he had evaded, he pays. It shakes the community. If there are twenty of them, you can imagine what happens.

I owe my own experience to a young man who was born again in a Sunday service and three hours later, he met me on the road. Three hours a convert and he met me, a friend, on the road. He stopped me. We both had bicycles going in opposite directions. He looked me full in the face and gave me the simplest testimony I have ever found. He concluded it by saying,

"Please forgive me. . ." and he was specific asking for forgiveness about things which had broken our relationship. A three-hour Christian! Well, he didn't quite convert me, he just said his piece and went away and left me mouth open in the road. And I couldn't get away from this thing. The impact of reality, the joy in his eyes, the simplicity of his words, the reality of what he said, I went home under conviction of what - I didn't know. And an hour later I opened my miserable heart ~~and~~ to Jesus Christ and He came in. So you see a man brought another man to Jesus within ~~three~~ three hours of his conversion. This was happening everywhere. This is not just an extraordinary case.

*Athanasius Creed  
causes rejoicing*

One day I saw <sup>these men</sup> ~~this man~~ rejoicing, and I looked in. I had already come to the Lord and was excited, and I came to see what it was - what was really exciting. And I found that one of them had a prayer book (Anglican) and he was reading it - the Athanasius creed - can you imagine that? You know what a complicated piece of theology that thing is. And this man was reading the Athan. Creed and people were jumping about the church. You see what happened was that as he read, somehow in an unusual way, the Holy Spirit breathed life on that document. And what they were rejoicing about was what they saw of Christ in it. It is amazing what can happen when the Spirit of God comes.

Now I just want to bring you greetings from Lausanne, where we were conducting a ten days evangelistic mission for the Cathedral of Lau, celebrating its 700 years. What a wonderful experience that was. That cathedral was almost filled every night for ten days, and we had a great time - two of us from Africa were speaking to these lovely, sophisticated Swiss people. There was a good response, a challenge to the church. The main thrust, as we were looking at it was not necessarily to bring in the unchurched. We told them we did not come to evangelize Lausanne for them - that would be very bad planning. But we had come only to share with them, so that those in the churches who had not come alive would come alive and then they could evangelize Lausanne.

This is what we have found, working in my diocese. When I have an evangelistic mission in my diocese, I hardly ever call a preacher from outside. I simply just let loose the congregations on the community, and they are just dying to get to them. So I have got teams ready, men and women and young people. Some give up their jobs for a few days, and we do it in each parish to evangelize the community. At the end of the week, you would be amazed at what you hear - you see hundreds of people coming to Jesus Christ. These little preachers running around with the message of the LJC - normal Christianity.

Before I came we had a gathering. It was after Eurofest - you might have heard of the young people's gathering - 8,000 of them for nearly a week in Brussels - what a time that was! You have hope in Europe when you look at that. <sup>Deep</sup> Bible studies, and you have never seen a more disciplined group of Y.P. - 8,000 seated on the floor more than five days for a presentation of the Bible and deep teaching. Many were coming to Jesus - of course Billy Graham was also preaching every evening, so many of them were stirred. They went to the BG meetings and came back to give their testimonies. It was a beautiful thing.

I left that to go to my home where I had a conference - we call it a convention back there - a spiritual gathering which has occurred every ten years - and this was the fourth. The purpose of it is just to celebrate what God is doing, what God did - and is doing. The purpose of course is to challenge those whom He has blessed that they may catch fresh fire and a deep vision of the LJC, and that then they may move on in the Spirit to share with the community. It was a wonderful thing - this fourth convention - every ten years. We had 30,000 people, that was the climax of the four days - it was 15,000 each day, seated outside - of course we don't have an auditorium, but we have a stadium which we made and we gather under the trees in the tropical sunning - and what a time!

We ended by simply saying, In these days, the Spirit of God must have visited some of you. Some have found Jesus who came out of curiosity, and we want to give you an opportunity to come forward so we may love you in the Lord. And just see what happened. All over the crowd people stood up, some crying, and walked, and when they started, the entire crowd of 30,000 burst into song spontaneously. The effect that it had -- I was standing there watching people coming when this crowd began to praise for those converts, and to see the effect - absolutely electric. Those who were coming were waving and rejoicing - they didn't need any counseling. They were dying to give a testimony. They had just come to the Lord, but the love and the warm welcome - of course there was much Biblical teaching during those days of preaching - from the Bible and very unsophisticated and powerful really. In fact most of those preachers never preach without telling you where they come in. They take the opportunity to tell you that they are not dealing you just lovely theory, but that the message has something to do with them, and that

Brussels  
Conf.

of course rubs it in a little further, makes it a little more alive and personal, human and yet more spiritual.

So it was a joyous meeting - we ended at a very high note and went home to tell the story.

A week later I was <sup>going</sup> around in that area and I found a group of Christians by the road, and stopped to greet them, it was a Sunday afternoon. One of them came running and said, We haven't gone home from the church. We started at ten this morning - and this was four in the afternoon! They had been in the church and I said, What's happened? O, We couldn't get away. People were being reconciled. People were ~~being reconciled~~ coming to Jesus, and we couldn't get away. All the afternoon - k an effect of that convention.

So, brethren, there are things other than what you read about in the famous newspapers - like the famous president of Uganda and East Africa. And of course a lot of those experiences are true - tough! And they can actually lead you into tremendous strain, those who are in positions of leadership.

In Uganda at the present, the only body that can make presentations is the church. No citizen can speak unless you are prepared to speak and lose your head. And it is sometimes not worth it. You could speak if there is someone to listen, but if your speaking has no ear, and it all it does it to get many other people ~~into~~ trouble, then speaking sometimes ~~is~~ no good. However, I am saying that the church of Christ has got a tremendous responsibility. We still can speak. We can go. We have to devise ways and means to speak. What surprises me is that people think you can speak in one particular way by going into the streets. There are conditions where you can't do that. Therefore you have to sometimes risk - you risk to go and speak when you don't expect to get out. That takes much grace, you know - to know that you are going in to speak, and the chances of your coming back are nil. But God does help. And so men ---- God permits situations and Christians can live in those situations, and living, I don't mean sitting passive - live - and take the opportunity. Uganda has never been so open to the Gospel as it is today. We just don't know what is going to happen.

Things are ~~happening~~ happening. I was at the university the other day where students are so alive in the Lord, that there Bible study meetings - the lecture hall where they were gathering every evening was too small - they were everywhere for the Bible study. ~~xxxx~~ On Sunday they put on an open air meeting on the campus - it's a secular university - but it is an evangelistic open air, and when I came to speak for them, there were a thousand students hanging around there outside, and when I had spoken, fifty wanted to come to the Lord Jesus, and they were being counseled. A lecturer with a doctorate in Zoology came to me and said, I came to the Lord Jesus yesterday. And I said to him, How did this happen? He said, In my <sup>hose</sup> ~~hose~~.

I said, Was there an evangelist or someone? "No. My wife came to the Lord last month, and it was my turn." These are the sort of things that are happening, and it is encouraging. It shows that we follow a risen Saviour who has never succumbed to circumstances. This is what we need to learn and re-learn.

Here is a word before I let you go - from Moses. Here is a man, after the terrible catastrophe of the Sinai experience, when God's people turned to the calf, and the ~~leader~~ <sup>was</sup> is absolutely smashed. You don't know what to do. No wonder he <sup>was</sup> smashed. He <sup>was</sup> is a broken-hearted man. The thing has become a failure. God's people have turned away immediately. God's judgment is upon the calf and Moses, first of all, used his temper, then his righteous judgment and it didn't work. He had to do something completely different. He had to go back to the mountain.

Now that's what we need. All our rules, all our standards, all our disciplinary actions of which we are very proud indeed . . . they don't work, and we have to go back to the mountain, with a difference. The mountain ~~xxxx~~ to which you and I are to go back is not Sinai, it is Mt. Calvary. It is a completely new experience. It is where love is the greatest overcomer, the most powerful, holy love - not sentimental. The world like this in 1975 cannot be healed by sentimental love. It needs the kind of determined, holy love such as reaped? the Son of God on that Cross. This kind of love can deal with any situation. It has dealt with the situation.

So Moses went back to the mountain, but this is his prayer, and we need it, I do need it desperately. I refuse to let God go. And Moses said to the Lord,

"See, Thou sayest to me, bring up these people, but thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know you by name and you have also found favor in my sight. Therefore, I pray thee, if I have found favor in thy sight, show me ~~now~~ thy ways." That is a humble man -- a minister's prayer:

"Lord, I've lost the vision - the ~~xxxx~~ vision of the way. I don't understand. Show me thy ways." And you see, that is not as easy as it reads. when a minister stands in his study, when an evangelist stands alone, and says, God, I'm lost! Not salvation-wise, but I don't see the direction for this world, for my congregation, for my diocese, for this <sup>organization</sup> ~~committee~~ of which I am the chairman, ~~but~~ show me thy ways. That is realistic, ~~xxxxxxx~~ Show me thy ways.

For what purpose? "That I may know thee and find grace in thy sight. Consider, too, that this nation is thy people." What! you mean you are challenging God to acknowledge these people who are worshipping idols -- that He should acknowledge them as His people? -----They are my people. Calf or no calf. Moses has caught a new vision -- they are still your people.

Then of course he asks later, Show me thy glory A(v.18) and God said,

show  
you my glory

Yes, I will show you my glory. You know in this verse you find that God is responding to Moses -- almost putting Himself at the disposal of his servant. He said, I will show you my glory, but in a new way - not the Sinai way. This time come along.

According to the O.T., you can only see the back of God, you can't see Him face to face. We wait for that until He comes in Jesus Christ- the N.T. glory -(the glory that my father has given me, I have given to you, said Jesus in chap. 17 of John).

Now, Moses is to see the glory - and be renewed, so that he can lead the people and help them, and catch a fresh vision which they lost. How does he get it? This is a very deep lesson which I need to learn.

near  
me

"Moses, there is a place near me. It is here. There is a place near me. I will make you stand on the rock - & in the cleft of the rock, and I'll put my hand above you, then I let my glory pass by."

place  
no Christ  
pages

I will put you in a safe place. Now most of us ministers have forgotten that it is dangerous to serve in other places. There is a safe place. Even in revival -- revival is dangerous, unless those who are revived are in the safe place. That is why you always find when there is revival there are numerous divisions. Why? Because people are blessed and they don't keep in the safe place, the cleft of the rock, of course, is Jesus Christ. (Rock of Ages, cleft for me - let me safely hide myself in thee, let the water and the blood keep on cleansing me from pride, from spiritual pride, from presumption, from getting hung up on certain gifts which you give.) Many times you see - now the Spirit of God is beginning to move and you may be shocked. We were shocked when God began to move in the Anglican churches, and Presbyterian churches, and Lutheran churches in East Africa, because many times He did things we never expected. You have your orderly prayerbook if you are an Anglican, you have <sup>a nice</sup> ~~your~~ orderly service, and you order it properly and . . . . dropped it. In the middle of the service, somebody shouts out like a mad man. Everything stops and your shaken respectability --- these are things which can shake you. God is not going to ask you permission when He is going to break in. He is sovereign and He is always going to act as a sovereign. He is going to ~~shout~~ bless his people and the mountains shake and the valley rumbles and they come together. Ezekiel did not know where He was going to begin - poor prophet, he just saw those bones becoming an army.

generally  
in your

So I was saved in times of revival, and these wonderful things which take place accompany the Revival. The problem in revivals is that when tears come, people want to make a theology of tears. If there is a partial conviction, then they want to make a theology of conviction. If there is shouting for joy, then they must shout more, and then they fight over shouting and over what - you know what I mean? (laughter) And they say, this is revival! <sup>These are</sup> the accompaniments.

I was in Indonesia, and a man said to me -- we were riding together in a car and he was giving me his lovely testimony, and he said to me,

"When we had a revival . . ." --referring to the time when there were some powerful manifestations in the place where he worked, --When we had a revival . . ." How long ago? Four years ago. You mean it is no longer there now? We talked, and then I showed him how wrong he was. He had thought that unusual manifestations were revival. Those are not revival, they are accompaniments. Revival is the risen Saviour walking among His people. When He is in the center, there is revival. Though, it is blasphemous to talk about "we had a revival." You have it now if He is there. Has he quit it? No-no. He is still there. If manifestations subside, He ~~does not~~<sup>never</sup> subside. God sends them purposely to shake you, to shake the community, make people who wouldn't believe believe. He may sometimes let them subside, so that you may see the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Moses was put in the safe place, and God said, I will show you my glory.

Do you know what we need? It is Christianity which sees the Lord Jesus in His glorious person and work in the center of the church. This will save the church from disintegration. This will save us Christians from beating each other on the head with our theological beliefs, as we center on the person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. And we can never grieve the Holy Sp. if we keep Jesus in the center.

Brethren, pray for us in Uganda. Pray for the growing church, pray for the pangs of growth as well. There are attacks of the enemy, because when God moves, the enemy doubles his steps. I don't expect him to go to sleep. But God is blessing the church. In fact, you are in for some time, you people in America, because if things are beginning to happen, you can be sure you will meet some very stiff opposition of the enemy. Take heart but keep a clear vision in the right place, at the feet of the Master.

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