

"HEAR YE HIM"

A Devotional Series For Radio

This sermon script is furnished with
the good wishes of the Reorganized Church
of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
World Headquarters: The Auditorium, Independence, Missouri

Program Number 233
Evan A. Fry, Radio Minister
All Rights Reserved

The Sermon: HE DENIETH NONE THAT COME UNTO HIM

Scripture: Book of Mormon, II Nephi 11:95-105.

For behold, my beloved brethren, I say unto you that the Lord worketh not in darkness. He doeth not anything save it be for the benefit of the world; for he loveth the world, even that he layeth down his own life, that he may draw all men unto him. Wherefore, he commandeth none that they shall not partake of his salvation. Behold, doth he cry unto any, saying, Depart from me? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but he saith, Come unto me all ye ends of the earth, buy milk and honey, without money and without price Hath he commanded any that they should not partake of his salvation? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but he hath given it free for all men; and he hath commanded his people that they should persuade all men to repentance. Behold, hath the Lord commanded any that they should not partake of his goodness? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but all men are privileged the one like unto the other, and none are forbidden.

He inviteth all to come unto him and partake of his goodness;
and he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond
and free, male and female.

One of man's basic psychological needs is his need for self-respect, for a feeling that he is important, needed, and wanted. It is because of this need to preserve our own egos that we fly so quickly to the defense of our opinions, our choices, our religion, our way of life, our prejudices. Who has not been amused by the efforts of some poor but proud owner of an automobile in the low price brackets to convince everyone else that it is better than a car costing twice as much? If we make a deliberate choice we will defend our choice sometimes with a quite violent prejudice, even though we know we chose something decidedly less than the best. To admit that our choice had been stupid, foolish, and wrong, would be to admit to ourselves that we lacked good sense or good judgment, and one simply cannot do that violence to his ego.

In the matter of group loyalties we manifest the same kind of prejudice. We know without thinking or reasoning that the group we belong to, whether it be a religious group, a social group, a labor union, a club or professional group, is the best, that it is superior in every way to all other groups simply because it is ours. Mature, thinking people of course know that this is not so, but many of us think with our feelings and emotions, and refuse to be changed by any amount of reason.

Nowhere is this human tendency to regard one's own group as superior more manifest than in the matter of race relations. It is the basis for all race prejudices. My race, my culture, my skin color are categorically and obviously best (my emotions tell me) because they are mine, and to admit that they are not superior to every other race, culture, and skin color is to admit that I am inferior, which few of us egotistical humans are prepared to do.

How does God view the question of race? With him there is no necessity of defending one choice because one race is peculiarly his, while other races are the choice or the creation of some other god. There is only one God. All races belong to him. He is the Father and Creator of all men. He has no reason to prefer one race above another; therefore he is never faced with the necessity of defending his choice to preserve his ego.

What is "race" anyway? The Bible teaches us that all men descended from a common ancestry. A modern scientist, Henry Pratt Fairchild, says in HARPER'S for October, 1944: "Practically all scientific students agree that all the men who live, or ever have lived, were derived from some very early common ancestral stock, and that the different types were developed by successive branchings.."
All races had a common beginning, and each

race is related to every other race.

Some of us are proud to belong to what we call a "pure" race, but the simple facts are that there is no such thing as a "pure" race. Such a conception is a mathematical absurdity. Each of us had two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, sixteen great-great-grandparents, etc. Continue this progression back to the year 1215, when the Magna Carta was signed in England, and if the race were pure -- if there had been no intermingling with any other family line or any other race, each one of us would have had 265 trillion, 890 billion, 889 million, 94 thousand, 649 ancestors. Today's world population is estimated at two and a half billion. It was less in the year 1215, but two and a half billion is a far cry from 265 trillion. Carry this mathematical progression back to 4000 B.C. instead of 1215 A.D., and the results would be still more fantastic. Mathematically, there can be no doubt of it; I am related to every man who lives, and every man who ever did live on this earth! Modern blood chemistry proves the same thing, that God hath made of one blood all nations. Science and medicine can find no racial differences in the human blood stream.

Science and religion are agreed on another thing. There is one God. His laws are dependable, unchangeable. They apply everywhere in the universe. The Book of Mormon says, "There is one God and Shepherd over all the earth," that he created all flesh, and that one being is as precious in his sight as another. If there is only one God, there is only one Judge of human conduct, and there is only one standard for human conduct. That standard applies to men of every race, every color, every social status, every nation, every degree of wealth. God is impartial, eternal, unchangeable. He plays no favorites. He is no respecter of persons, but "in every nation he that feareth him and worketh righteousness is accepted with him." (Acts 10:35)

Jesus' invitation was "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden. The great commission was to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. There is no hint anywhere in scripture that any man is excluded from Christ's salvation because of race. The Book of Mormon repeatedly stresses the universality of Jesus' mission and of his

gospel evangel. The Book of Mormon records another invitation of Christ, spoken to the people of the American continent: "Repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, and have faith in me, that ye may be saved." In the reading heard earlier in this service it is said that "he commandeth none that they shall not partake of his salvation," that his salvation is free to all without money and without price, that all men are privileged, the one like unto the other, and none are forbidden. "He inviteth all to come unto him, and partake of his goodness, and he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female."

God's justice is absolute, unchangeable, incorruptible. Ezekiel lays down this principle of that justice: "The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him." (18:20) No man will ever be saved because his father was righteous, and no man will ever be condemned simply because his father was wicked. No man can ever be saved by his race, and no man can ever be condemned, in God's justice, because of his race. God judges solely by the individual heart, by the inner values of mind and spirit, by personal, not racial righteousness. "Man looketh upon the outward appearances, but the Lord looketh on the heart." Sometimes the outside of a cup or platter is clean, while the inside is still filthy.

Some nations and some races have been blessed with greater wealth and greater opportunity than other nations. When such blessings come, they do not prove racial superiority, but racial responsibility. To whom much is given, of him shall much be required. He who knows a higher law will be held accountable to a higher standard.

Today the people of America who have been blessed so abundantly need to examine their feelings of racial and national superiority, and to remember that unless they repent and come to God as little children, they may discover in the day of judgment that in the light from God's throne the skins and the sins of the so-called "inferior" races are whiter than our own.