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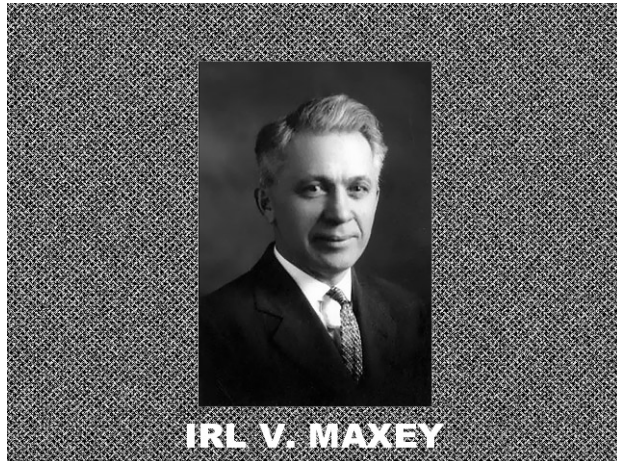
**SINGLE IDEA MEN
A Sermon By Irl V. Maxey**

**Digitized and Edited
By Duane V. Maxey**

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INTRODUCTION TO THIS FILE

This sermon was written on December 15, 1917, and the title is papa's own. No location is given for where the sermon was written. However, my brother Parker states the following in his sketch of papa's life: -- "My earliest recollection was while Father was pastoring in Ashton, Idaho near Yellowstone National Park where we had moved in 1916. While pastoring in Ashton Father added to his duties that of editor of the 'Pocatello District League.' Being true to the doctrine of heart holiness obtained in two definite works of grace, Father eventually found himself without a place to preach among the Methodists who no longer held to that doctrine. Anxious to keep busy in the work of the Lord, he moved on west to Port Angeles, Washington where he was ordained into the First Baptist Church March 24, 1918." Thus, it seems possible that the family may have relocated in Port Angeles,

Washington when this sermon was written, the date given being only about three months before Parker says that papa was ordained into the First Baptist Church in Port Angeles.

As I recall, my mother told me that papa preached Second Blessing Holiness to his Baptist congregation there in Port Angeles and that it was one of his best churches. However, if I recall correctly, eventually opposition from leadership in the Baptist Church finally made it necessary for him to resign.

This one, I consider to be among the best of papa's sermons that I have now digitized. It was preached during World War One, and one of the illustrations in the message is drawn from that then-ongoing conflict. Papa was 35 years old, to turn 36 the following March 12th when the sermon was written. -- Duane V. Maxey, (Ahwatukee) Phoenix, Arizona, February 15, 2006.

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You will find our text for this night in the 35th verse of the 8th chapter of Acts.

SERMON TEXT:

Acts 8:35 -- "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus."

* * *

The influence of Israel's king Solomon reached to many of the surrounding nations and often people of other countries came to Jerusalem to worship. Also, Jews as they were scattered to the various corners of the globe came to Jerusalem to worship.

In our context, we find that Candace, queen of Ethiopia, had sent a servant of hers up to Jerusalem to worship, and possibly also to find out what he could of this new religion and the teaching of those who followed it. The Ethiopian undoubtedly knew the Septuagint version of the Old Testament which was written in Greek, for this man was reading probably from this very document and read in Isaiah as he passed along the road.

The Holy Spirit is no respecter of persons, so He was in his way leading the eunuch to the very thing he was seeking. Philip, one of the deacons appointed for ministrations for the church at Jerusalem, or the apostle Philip, was directed by the Spirit to go near and find out what the man was doing. When Philip came and found him reading part of Isaiah the prophet's writings. He asked the eunuch, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" (Acts 8:30). "And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?" (Acts 8:34). He was reading of the Suffering Servant and how He

would sprinkle many nations, etc. "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus: (Acts 8:35).

For the thought, I am indebted to Rev. Frank Bristol. I want to hold before your minds and hearts the thought of "Single Idea Men."

No man can do two things well. "Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). A man cannot master more than one trade. We have found in the business world that a man can only do one thing well. We have been dividing our labor of late years and coming nearer to one man doing one thing only.

In shoe manufacture for instance, one man makes heels, another cuts the upper, another sews, another polishes, and so on. As in this, so in other lines of labor we have found the way to raise efficiency it to have a man do one thing. Our professional life has caught the idea, so now one profession does not do all, but specializes on some one line. No longer does one physician treat all ills or all parts of the ailing body. One specializes on the ear and another on the eyes, nose and throat. This helps efficiency.

God has made this very plain in the ministry, for He calls some preachers, some teachers, and some evangelists to the work of the ministry. The transportation world is called upon now to examine the monorail car, secured by the gyrostat as a means of carrying on the traffic. The conductor who manages his time should think of nothing else.

I asked Ira Chaffin how he was so successful as an engineer. He said, "I throw away all orders and keep only one in mind:-- the last one given. The men who have accomplished great things in this world have been men who have been imbued with the one idea paramount to all others.

Unless Lincoln had gotten this idea of freeing the slaves uppermost in his mind, and felt it was his way of being a blessing to the world, probably it would not have been done today.

Cyrus Field* was imbued with the one idea of laying the Atlantic Cable while folks were saying it was not feasible. Nevertheless, possessed of the one idea and ambition, it was done.

["Born in 1819, Cyrus West Field began work at age fifteen as an office boy for A. T. Stewart & Co., New York City's first department store. By age twenty, he was a partner in a paper manufacturing company, and at thirty-three he retired from business a wealthy man. In 1854 Field began the quest to lay a telegraphic cable across the Atlantic Ocean. After several failed attempts, in August 1858 Field arranged for Queen Victoria to send the first transatlantic message to President James Buchanan, and New York erupted in celebrations, lauding Field, telegraph inventor Samuel F. B. Morse, modern technology, and American ingenuity in

general. But the cable broke after just three weeks, and Field did not complete his project until 1866." -- From an online site]

Madam Curie was all absorbed with the idea of radium till she could do without food and live in a garret and wear scanty clothes -- that the world know the value of radium.

We might go on further:-- Wilberforce had the one idea of freeing England of slaves -- Livingstone, opening the heart of Africa -- the Wright brothers bringing the aeroplane -- Columbus discovering America in the one idea of finding a new route to India. There was one idea filling their minds till folks said they were crazy or foolish.

Ah, folks, do not forget the world must ever learn again that people who are thus caught in the terrific maelstrom of a single idea are the ones who left the most to the world.

[Next, papa quotes one stanza from "The March of Truth" by Lowell Style.]

"Count me o'er earth's chosen heroes,—they were souls that stood alone,
While the men they agonized for hurled the contumelious stone,
Stood serene, and down the future saw the golden beam incline
To the side of perfect justice, mastered by their faith divine,
By one man's plain truth to manhood and to God's supreme design."

So the disciples, when they lived three years with Jesus saw His wonderful acts to the children of men, watched His daily life and walk, heard Him pray, and as they hung on His words as they fell from His lips, were caught by His One Idea. When they saw his cruel mocking, heard of His awful agony on the cross, and then knew He arose from the dead, saw Him and heard Him tell the old story, they were thrilled with Him.

Then they stayed in Jerusalem till the Holy Spirit came upon them as Jesus had said He would. The Holy Spirit went in the storehouse of their memory and brought out the past. They recalled His teaching -- those wonderful hours of healing the sick, His last hours, His crucifixion, and His resurrection -- and it was made so real to them. They saw Him so clearly taught in the Scriptures, and the idea of Him being God in the flesh completely possessed them! How could they do otherwise than preach Him all the time:-- as the as the One in Whom to have faith -- the One to believe upon and worship.

I have heard that when you go from Italy to France yo must through the Mt. Cenis Tunnel," 7.6 miles long. [Actually 8.5 miles long -- See Below]

[*"Mount Cenis Tunnel -- first great Alpine tunnel to be completed. It lies under the Fréjus Pass, from Modane, France, to Bardonecchia, Italy. The 8.5-mile

rail tunnel, driven from two headings from 1857 to 1871, was constructed under the direction of Germain Sommeiller." -- From an online site]

The first thing that confronts you on the French side, completely filling your view is Mont Blanc. All day you ride, and still the greatest sight is Mont Blanc. The evening shades darken the valleys and creep up the mountain-side -- still the sunlight rest on Mont Blanc. The greatest thing in the sunset and twilight is Mont Blanc. We go to our train-berth, and when we awaken in the morning we rush to the observation car. There, as light gathers and bursts upon the valley, stands Mont Blanc, so beautiful and bold, still the greatest of all things in sight.*

[*"Mont Blanc -- French: 'White Mountain' or Italian: 'Monte Bianco,' same meaning, also known as La Dame Blanche the 'White Lady,' in the Alps, is the highest mountain in western Europe. Its height is about 15,780 feet. -- From an online site]

Oh, to the disciples Jesus was the very Center and Power of the Scripture, and anywhere you might be reading they would begin and preach Jesus. No wonder, then, Philip never forgot that Beautiful Life! No wonder his though-life was crowded full of Him! No wonder, then, as he began to teach the eunuch the Scripture he preached Jesus!

Oh, it was their meat and drink to talk of Him and tell of His wonderful life! Oh, I tell you, we must live that way today! Christians, we should do other things to pay expenses, but we must make the chief thing to tell of Jesus. Everything should tell of Him. Why should we not? Think of Him coming to earth to redeem men. Hold it before you, men!

Oh earth! Hold it before you! Let every bird and bee tell us of Jesus -- every moving tree, every moving cloud, and the falling rain, tell His story! When this old earth is passing away, still it must be Jesus, and the Great One on the Throne will be JESUS!

They preached HIM. It was HIM as the object of faith they preached, not as a good man -- Oh NO! -- but they preached HIM AS THE ONLY MEANS OF SALVATION! "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Philip probably said, "I tell you, if you but take His life for yours, His blood for your sins, and just that, you may live forever." Oh! I can hear the eunuch say, "I BELIEVE!"

I imagine Philip said to himself, "I believe I should baptize him as John did Jesus. The eunuch said, "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" So "And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him" (Acts 8:36, 38). Both while

they were in and out of the water, Jesus filled their minds and hearts. He preached Jesus in the baptism and baptized him in Jesus' Name.*

[*This part of papa's message makes me think all the more that he may have been preaching this sermon in that Baptist Church in Port Angeles, Washington.]

They left all and followed Him. This idea possessed them! They preached Jesus.

Last, I want to say, they preached Him as He was -- not as the Jews thought of Him, and they told the whole story. They said He lived such a holy life, died such an awful death on the cross, but He arose from the dead. Peter says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). GLORY TO GOD!

Now think of it -- only telling part of the Christ life. A call comes to your section for men to go to France to defend the colors.*

[World War I was still being fought in 1917. The fighting ended on November 11, 1918 -- about 11 months after papa delivered this message.]

President Woodrow Wilson calls: "We need men," he says. Jim volunteers. He fought bravely, but at the Battle of Cambrai* he is shot down and killed as he leads his regiment to victory.

[*"The Battle of Cambrai, fought in November/December 1917, proved to be a significant event in World War One. Cambrai was the first battle in which tanks were used en masse. In fact, Cambrai saw a mixture of tanks being used, heavy artillery and air power." -- From an online site]

His body is brought back and buried in our cemetery. Then, the papers tell the story of his life:-- "Born of good parents, reared in a godly home, and lost his life by a piece of shrapnel."

Oh, just think of it! Would any editor dare do such a thing!?*

[*Yes, they probably would -- today! -- in the U.S.A. of 2006. :o[]

No! Never! The paper would tell of his birth and boyhood, of his schooling -- of the great cause of freedom which Jim volunteered to defend -- of his bravery in the battle, and end with a great paragraph about how he shed his blood for future generations. His parents would be praised, etc. Yes, his brothers would tell of Jim tearfully and say he gave his life that we might be free.

Then think of merely saying:-- Jesus was born of Jewish parents, lived a holy life, and died of crucifixion at the hands of Roman soldiers.

Oh No! They preached Jesus -- how He was born of good parents, how He lived a holy life, how He gave His life a ransom for us all, how He was resurrected, and how He will come again.

Oh, tell it ALL, friends, TELL IT ALL!

Philip preached Jesus. When I am coming into this world, my spirit cries: "Preach Jesus to me!" In my boyhood I say, "Preach Jesus to me!" When I am a young man, I say "Preach Jesus to me!" When I have children by my side, I feel the responsibility and I say, "Preach Jesus to me!" When my head is stooped in old age with one foot in the grave, I say, "Preach Jesus to me!" Then when earth is passing and eternity drawing near, my soul cries out, PREACH JESUS TO ME!"

Tell the same old story. Amen.

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THE END OF THIS SERMON