

WHERE IS THE FLOCK THAT WAS GIVEN TO YOU?

Text: Jeremiah 13:20

INTRO: Jehoiachin was 18 years old in 597 B.C. when he reigned as king over Judah. His rule lasted only 3 months & 10 days. The Babylonians came from the north, took the young king, his mother & all the royal family into captivity & placed his uncle Zedekiah on the throne.

In his short reign, Jehoiachin did evil in the sight of the Lord as his father had done before him. Even at that late date in Judah's history, things might have been different. If Jehoiachin's 3 months & 10 days had been different, perhaps Judah's fate--the fate of Jehoiachin's flock, might have been different. But the king did evil. Now, where is his flock?

We want to make a modern-day application of this principle.

I. ELDERS. Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4.

Obey those who rule over you, & be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. (Heb 13:17)

READ 3 JOHN 1-4

II. PREACHERS. Not lose interest after baptizing.

Take heed to yourself & to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself & those who hear you. (1 Tim. 4:16).

I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain. (Gal 4:11)

READ I THESS 2:19-20; 1 COR. 3:5-15

III. BIBLE CLASS TEACHERS.

- A. Do you remember some of your own teachers?
- B. Are you faithful in attendance & in life?
- C. Do you emphasize the Bible instead of fun & games?
- D. Do you pray, individually, for those you teach, that they might be brought to the Lord?

IV. PARENTS. Importance of team work, train, mold, show them. READ EPHESIANS 6:1-4

Show your children the importance of God, His word, His church. Don't let spiritual needs get lost in the shuffle of homework, extracurricular activities, hobbies, travel, etc. Teach them. Pray for them. Live right in their presence.

NOTE: Our greatest opportunity is often right at home. Sometime back, an elder talked with me about some ladies. They meant well. They wanted to find someone to baby sit their children while they went out to try to teach others. Most likely, their greatest & most rewarding challenge was right at home with their own children. Of course, it is not wrong to teach & reach as far as our influence will allow us--but our most obvious duty & greatest opportunity is often right at our own doorstep.

I think oft'times as the night draws nigh
Of an old house on the hill,
Of a yard all wide & blossom-starred
Where the children played at will.
And when the night at last came down,
Hushing the merry din,
Mother would look around and ask,

"Are all the children in?"

'Tis many and many a year since then,
And the old house on the hill
No longer echoes to childish feet,
And the yard is still, so still.
But I see it all, as the shadows creep,
And though many the years have been
It seems I still hear Mother ask,
"Are all the children in?"

I wonder if when the shadows fall
On the last short, earthly day,
When we say good-bye to the world outside,
All tired, from our childish play,
When we step out into that other land
Where Mother so long has been,
Will we hear her ask just one last time,
"Are all the children in?"

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