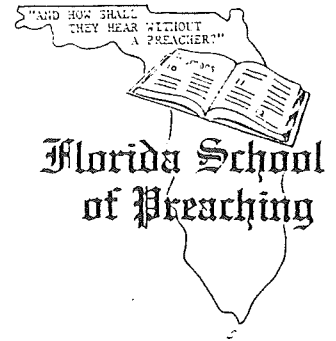


# THE HARVESTERS



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## EXCEPT SOME MAN GUIDE ME

By  
Jackie M. Stearsman

The caption for these thoughts is from the reply of the Ethiopian nobleman who urged Philip to give him direction in the way of salvation (Acts 8:31). I use it to focus our attention on the need for proper leadership.

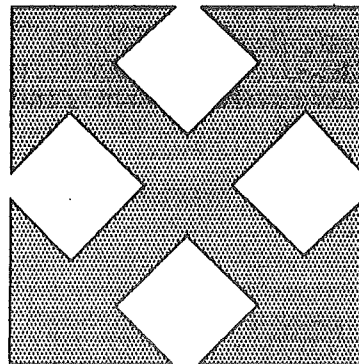
### God Is Looking For Leaders

Faithful and true guides of men were needed before the flood, after the flood, during the days of Israel, and in the New Testament era. With our minds focused upon the Bible we may be impressed with how important leadership was, and is. Consider the good leadership qualities of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, David, Daniel, Ezekiel, Elijah, et al.

The need for leadership is intensified due to the influence of evil leaders. Let your mind travel through the Bible pausing to consider the impact of evil leaders such as: Cain, Pharaoh (of Moses day), Baalim, Korah, Jezebel, Ahab, Jeroboam (who made Israel to sin), Herod, Herodias, et al.

Jesus focuses our attention on God's search for

leaders of men as he directed the apostles to this very point prior to sending them on the limited commission. *"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:36-38).*



### Men Are Looking For Leaders

That men are looking for direction in ultimate issues of life is a truth evident to all. That men often follow

the wrong guide is likewise known. For every proper guide there are legions of improper. In the words of Jesus they are as sheep without a shepherd. They fainted, and are scattered abroad.

God impressed upon the mind of the Apostle Paul this truth by a vision of a man saying: *"Come over into Macedonia, and help us" (Acts 16:9)*. While God does not provide us with special visions today, he does call upon us to see the need of men for the gospel and to respond to that need by proper application of the truth.

### The Church Is Looking For Leaders

In any congregation of the Lord's people there is a continual search for those to teach classes and to teach individuals. There is a perpetual need for faithful men to serve as Elders and Deacons.

The church of the Lord is in need of faithful, older women who will be able to teach the younger women. Churches are continually in need of preachers.

The Church is often victi-

mized by poor leadership. Improper leadership makes it all the more important that we prepare men for leadership.

### You Are A Leader

The fact of leadership can not be avoided. Someone is taking direction from you. It may be your child, your mate, your neighbor, a friend, a school mate, or even an enemy.

Each of us is either a great light, providing direction to those in darkness, or a light placed under cover enabling those who look to us for light to continue in darkness.

Because someone is taking direction from us it is all the more important that we follow the proper guide ourselves.

### Good Leaders Are Not Born

Leaders must be trained. Jesus knew this and trained men to be leaders in His Kingdom. He intended for these leaders to train others like them to do their task of leading men to Him (II Tim. 2:2; I Tim. 3; Tit. 1).

One of the indispensable ingredients of leadership is knowledge. Poor leaders are often uninformed or misinformed, and it may be willful or due to the lack of training (II Pet. 3:14-18).

While facts are being gathered God intended that we in the development of leadership skills have opportunity to prove ourselves in leadership skills. Biblically qualified elders have passed the tests of knowledge and application of that the truth to themselves, their families, and it is known to the community about them. Deacons are to have shown some skill in directing their affairs of

life under the knowledge of Biblical truth.

We never know the true strength of leaders until a trial tests their character and courage. When we pass such testing we are maturing under the hand of the Master of Souls (James 1:2-8).

### Training For Leadership

With the above facts in mind let each one be impressed of the need for leadership. Let each understand the great potential for leadership awaiting those who are trained and equipped for it. Let us not forget the sure disaster when uninformed or misinformed leaders guide.

Do you need spiritual training in leadership? Will you prepare to guide yourself and others in the truth of the gospel? Do you know of those who could be helped by being properly trained for leadership? Will you help us find and train men to preach and be leaders in the Lord's cause?

## Comments

*I was born in Brooklyn, New York. My religious background was Roman Catholic. I worked for a major airline for twenty years. I have been married to Eddie for 29 years.*

*While visiting Lakeland in December 1987, we were invited by a friend to the church of Christ and since then we were baptized. We are happy to be a part of the South Florida Avenue Congregation. It is here that we learned of the availability of the Florida School of Preaching being open to everyone, not just for those preparing to become preachers.*

*I am grateful for this opportunity. I have come to*

*realize the value of such an education. I am learning so much about the scriptures. A new world has opened up for us and we are growing individually as well as together in our Christian walk.*

*The care and concern of each instructor adds to the enthusiasm to learn. I highly recommend the Florida School of Preaching to anyone interested in gaining a richer, fulfilling life. For those women who are going to teach our children, and for those who have husbands preparing to become preachers, the school has all that you need.*

--Florence Duffy

*I was brought up in a Catholic family and went into the military at the age of seventeen. After the service I married Florence and became a correction officer in New York City. I have since retired from the job and last fall we moved to Florida.*

*I decided to attend The Florida School of Preaching so that I could learn the Word of God and try to become a better Christian. This is my first year in*

### The Harvesters

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(813) 683-4043

Editor: Jackie M. Stearsman

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

school.

I have found by attending the school that my knowledge of the Word of God is increasing and that it has shown me the importance of Bible study.

I am honored that they allow me to sit in the classes with men that are going to become preachers of God's Word.

I could never say enough for the teachers at this school who have already shown me the importance of living a Christian life. My only regret is that my physical condition will not allow me to go on a full time basis and become a preacher.

I would recommend this school to any person who has a desire to preach or who would like to gain knowledge of the Word of God.

--Edward P. Duffy



Robert Lupo Family

May 17, 1989

B. C. Carr and Staff  
Florida School of Preaching  
Lakeland, Florida 33803

Dear Brother Carr and Staff:

I thank God every day that I received my training at the Florida School of Preaching. I am proud to tell people that I graduated from this fine school. Those I have met

that know of the school, praise it and those who do not, I gladly tell them what the Florida School of Preaching stands for, believes in, and teaches the truth with no compromises.

The reason for writing this is because of the difficulty I am having in trying to find full-time work as a preacher of the Gospel of Christ. One of the problems I am encountering is with my age: Most congregations want a young man with fifteen years experience, but that doesn't happen. The reason for the fifteen years experience may vary from place to place, but I have found that the main reason for this is because the chances of the young preacher (who is not rooted and grounded in the truth and may not have received proper training), giving in to false doctrine is greater than the preacher who has preached the truth for many years. I realize that older preachers have gone astray also, but the chances of the young preacher doing so is greater.

I believe the difficulty I am having in locating work (besides the size of my family), is due to the fact that there are a lot of young preachers who have listened to false teachings and have since compromised the truth, splitting churches right down the middle and who are causing men to lose their souls, not to mention their own.

This is unfortunate for those of us who have made up our minds that we will not compromise the truth, because it causes churches to be afraid of young preachers.

Still, I press on! I keep in mind what Paul wrote to Timothy, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou and ensample to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity (II Timothy 4:12).

In Christian Love and in His Service,

--Robert C. Lupo

[Robert may be reached by writing: Robert C. Lupo, 307 Ariana Avenue, Auburndale, FL. 33823, or by calling (813) 967-9731, Editor]

WHO HAS A RIGHT  
TO MARRY  
WITHOUT SINNING?

By  
Clifford Newell, Jr.

Our day is one that is filled with sin and debauchery, compromise and corruption, fragrance and fragmentation. These attitudes have had an impact and continue to influence the church of our Lord. Hence, one of the burning issues that confront God's people is "Marriage-Divorce-Remarriage". Our study will be an appeal to the pages of Holy Writ for an understanding of His revealed truth.

#### Marriage Is Honorable

"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled; but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Heb. 13:4). Our text challenges us about marriage, in that it is ordained of God and must be held in honor. This is the piercing and penetrating truth of 13:4! Not only does Jesus speak of honor in marriages, He points out that when this ingredient is left out fornication and adultery will fill that void. Marriage is not only to be honorable, the bed is to be undefiled. The word for "bed" literally means "a place for lying down" and the word for "undefiled" means "without contamination" according to W. E. Vine, in *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*. Hence, the bed refers to the physical intimacy within the marriage, and

thus, when a man and a woman enter the marriage bond and become intimate with each other, they are not contaminated but pure and without condemnation.

#### Who Has A Right To Marry?

It is the case that God has legislated (through His word) regarding marriage and hence, He gives us the answer to our most perplexing problems. Further, it must be recognized that His legislation is to be accepted and applied to all (everyone is amenable to the law of Christ). Although this legislation on divorce and remarriage involves the deepest emotions of the heart, yet we must be guided by the Sacred Scriptures.

In the first place, the Bible teaches that those who have never been married before, may do so, as long as they marry one who is eligible to be married. *"Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband" (I Cor. 7:2). "I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain (literally control themselves), let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn" (I Cor. 7:8-9; Emphasis mine CEN).*

Secondly, the Bible teaches that those who have been previously married, but

whose mate has physically expired (died) have the right to marry. The peerless Paul, inspired of God, said, *"Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man" (Rom. 7:1-3).*

Thirdly, the Bible teaches that those who have been married, but, because their spouse committed fornication (unfaithfulness) and they put away the fornicator, have the right to marry. *"And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" (Matt. 19:9).* The literal teaching here is whosoever (that applies to all) putteth away (that is be released or divorced) the wife of him, except (the exception to the rule), for fornication (because of fornication) marry another committeth adultery (keeps on committing adul-

tery): and who marrieth her (a having been put away one) doth commit adultery (keeps on committing adultery). Hence this passage says in principle form: All persons who shall put away their mate and shall marry another mate, except upon the grounds of fornication upon the part of the mate put away are persons who keep on committing adultery. As well as all persons who have married a having been put away mate are persons who keep on committing adultery. If not, why, Why, WHY NOT?

Dr. A. T. Robertson says, *"Those who deny Matthew's report are those who are opposed to remarriage at all. Jesus by implication, as in 5:31, does allow remarriage of the innocent party, but not of the guilty one" (A. T. Robertson, *Word Pictures In The New Testament*, p. 155).*

#### Conclusion

Dear reader, we have discussed what the Bible reveals regarding those who have the right to marry without sinning. And though the saying of Jehovah is hard, it must be respected. In short, these three classes of people have the right to marry, if they desire, without sinning or being condemned by God or man!

**STUDENTS  
DEPART FOR JAMAICA  
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FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING  
1807 SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE  
LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33803

Director: B. C. Carr  
Phone: (813) 683-4043