

A WORD OF INSPIRATION

Would you ever consider that “*NOTHING*” and “*SOMETHING*” could have anything in common to speak about?

Consider the following story that reminds us that when we have nothing to say or something to say, we can be very positive and Biblically accurate with either one.

David Marks, a fifteen year old, left home with tears in his eyes and a dollar in his pocket to preach the gospel. The “boy preacher” soon created a stir in the American northeast, and he kept going for the next 25 years. He rode one horse 19,000 miles, preached to thousands, organized churches throughout New England, published books, wrote articles, taught school, and worked diligently in opposition to slavery and in support of foreign missions. Then he died from sheer exhaustion at age 40.

Just before sunset on May 13, 1828, Marks rode into the little town of Ancaster, Ontario, announcing he would preach in seven minutes in the park. A small crowd gathered, and he asked if anyone had a text he would like to hear preached. A man mockingly said, “*Nothing!*”

Marks immediately began preaching on “*nothing.*” God created the world from “*nothing,*” he said. God gave us laws in which there is “*nothing*” unjust. But, Marks continued, we have broken God’s law and there is “*nothing*” in us to justify us. There will be “*nothing*” to comfort sinners in death or hell. But, while Christians have “*nothing*” of their own in which to boast, we have Christ. And in Him, we have “*nothing*” to cause us grief, “*nothing*” to disturb our peace, and “*nothing*” to fear in eternity.

Finishing his sermon, Marks mounted his horse and traveled to the next village. But some time later he returned to Ancaster. This time a larger group assembled, and the meeting house was opened to him. David preached “*something*” to them. He said there is “*something*” above all things. There is “*something*” in man designed to live forever, but there is also “*something*” in us that makes us unhappy. There is “*something*” about the gospel that reverses our unhappiness, “*something*” that gives us hope. There is “*something*” that will disturb the impenitent in death, but “*something*” resides in Christians that the world can’t understand, and “*something*” in eternity to give us everlasting joy.

All that from an uneducated young circuit rider, his mind filled with Scripture and his heart full of Christ, who had “*something*” to say – and “*nothing*” to fear.

This is true of every believer who loves Christ and His Word. He has a message to share and a future worth living for.

And by the way, the Apostle Paul said a mouthful about “nothing” in Romans 8:38-39. Look it up. In simple terms he states that, “nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God.” Now that’s a “nothing” I like to hear about. Don’t you?

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