

Life Lessons

“Is Your Life Controlled by Your Message?”

Solomon wrote: *“He that walks with the wise shall be wise”* (Prov. 13:20).

As you make your way through the everyday life, please let this question linger long on your mind. Let it come before you as often as you come before others. ***“What is the key to truly impacting the lives of others?”***

Turn back the hands of time. Listen to the calm and clear voice of J. D. Jones (1865-1942), for thirty-nine years the Pastor of the Richmond Hill Congregational Church in Bournemouth, England. **“Preaching,”** he said, **“is a man – a real man – speaking real things out of a real experience.”** Isn't that what the world longs to see and hear today, real men and real women living out a real and vibrant relationship with a real and personal God in such a way that it makes a real difference in life? It was said of Jones, ***“Here is a man whose life is controlled by his message!”*** Jones would fit in well today with those who are known to say, **GET REAL!**

What was so real, so compelling about Jones?

Jones cared more about giving Christ to others that getting benefit for himself. He was invited to pastor the most prestigious churches in Europe and America and to become a university President. He was even encouraged to run for a seat in the Parliament. Nevertheless, he was not distracted him from the task of sharing Christ.

Jones didn't just preach for today; he preached for eternity. He often quoted Archbishop Leighton, ***“While so many are preaching to the times, may not one poor brother preach for eternity.”***

Jones did not preach “easy Christianity” but he did preach a positive message of encouragement that equipped believers to be triumphant in the hardships of life. He told the truth and helped people find strength in Christ to deal with it. ***“All the calls of the Gospel are calls to hardship, to sacrifice, to battle. Christ would have no man follow Him under the delusion that he was going to have an easy time of it.”*** However He taught believers how to find strength in Christ both through his messages and through his life.

Jones lived what he believed! He said, ***“The one indispensable condition of our usefulness and success in the work of God is that we should be good men – men of pure and holy lives – men of God.”*** Take this lesson to work with you this week and I guarantee you the world will take notice!