

Our Father's have Told Us – 12/17/23

TEXT- Psalms 78:1-7 Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears
1 John 1:1-3 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard,
which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our
hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2 (For the life was manifested

INTRO –Jeremiah 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and
see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and
ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. . . .

Esther “For such a time as this” Esther 4:14

I. The Things We Have Heard

The great revival in Nineveh during the timer of Jonah.

The revival led by Josiah, much of which was superficial.

The preaching of John the Baptist

The preaching and ministry of Jesus Christ.

The day of Pentecost and the early church.

The Reformation period. – 1500's – 1600's

The Great Awakening. - George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, Gilbert Tennent 1730

The haystack revival. - Williamstown, Massachusetts, in August 1806

The Fulton street revival. Jeremiah Lanphier – 1857-58

The Welch revival. - Evan Roberts 1904-05

The Asbury revival. - 1970

Whitefield comes to Middletown

II. The Things We Observed

While in Bible college I saw over 200 souls saved in one week.

I returned home for the summer and I saw rough men of the coal mine
get saved and weep as they testified of God's saving grace. I saw men
throw away their vices and openly confess their faults seeking God's
forgiveness.

I saw youth spending much time in prayer and responding to the
invitation and weeping over lost and backslidden souls.

Young men and women surrender to the will of God and full-time
service.

I saw a country preacher crawl on his hands and knees through the
pews of the church begging God to bring revival.

I saw a little country church reach 24 young souls for Christ in a four-
day meeting with the church packed and people standing outside.

Some of you have seen similar things during your time in the ministry.
How many young men have only heard but never seen?

III. The Things We Experienced

Churches planted where no one asked for the church.

Big cities and rural communities have been a part of church planting.

I have seen hard cases repent and trust Christ.

God has answered prayer at times in miraculous ways.

How many young men have never seen any of this?

IV. The Things Needed Today

We can't compare our time to others. We live in a different culture.

However, our task is equally great and important. Can souls be saved
today?

Can churches get started?

Does God still call young men and women into the ministry?

We must see the opportunity before us. We live in an empty sad world
for many people. Many are fearful because we are seeing the violence of
the last days. Now is a great opportunity to reach souls.

What are you doing to see people saved?

CONCL – Now it pleased God to send Mr. Whitefield into this land; and
my hearing of his preaching at Philadelphia, like one of the Old apostles, and
many thousands flocking to hear him preach the Gospel, and great numbers
were converted to Christ; I felt the Spirit of God drawing me by conviction,
longed to see and hear him, and wished he would come this way. And I soon
heard he was come to New York and the Jerseys and great multitudes
flocking after him under great concern for their Souls and many converted
which brought on my concern more and more hoping soon to see him but
next I heard he was at Long Island, then at Boston, and next at Northampton.

Then one morning all on a Sudden, about 8 or 9 o'clock there came a
messenger and said Mr. Whitefield preached at Hartford and Weathersfield
yesterday and is to preach at Middletown this morning [October 23, 1740] at
ten of the Clock. I was in my field at Work. I dropt my tool that I had in my
hand and ran home and run through my house and bade my wife get ready
quick to go and hear Mr. Whitefield preach at Middletown, and run to my
pasture for my horse with all my might fearing that I should be too late to
hear him. I brought my horse home and soon mounted and took my wife up
and went forward as fast as I thought the horse could bear, and when my
horse began to be out of breath, I would get down and put my wife on the
Saddle and bid her ride as fast as she could and not Stop or Slack for me
except I bad her, and so I would run until I was much out of breath, and then
mount my horse again, and so I did several times to favour my horse, we
improved every moment to get along as if we were fleeing for our lives, all
the while fearing we should be too late to hear the Sermon, for we had

twelve miles to ride double in little more than an hour and we went round by the upper housen parish.

And when we came within about half a mile of the road that comes down from Hartford Weathersfield and Stepney to Middletown; on high land I saw before me a Cloud or fogg rising. I first thought it came from the great river [Connecticut River], but as I came nearer the Road, I heard a noise something like a low rumbling thunder and presently found it was the noise of horses feet coming down the road and this Cloud was a Cloud of dust made by the Horses feet. It arose some Rods into the air over the tops of the hills and trees and when I came within about 20 rods of the Road, I could see men and horses Sliping along in the Cloud like shadows, and as I drew nearer it seemed like a steady stream of horses and their riders, scarcely a horse more than his length behind another, all of a lather and foam with sweat, their breath rolling out of their nostrils in the cloud of dust every jump; every horse seemed to go with all his might to carry his rider to hear news from heaven for the saving of Souls. It made me tremble to see the Sight, how the world was in a Struggle, I found a vacance between two horses to Slip in my horse; and my wife said law our cloaths will be all spoiled see how they look, for they were so covered with dust, that they looked almost all of a colour coats, hats, and shirts and horses.

We went down in the Stream; I heard no man speak a word all the way three miles but every one pressing forward in great haste and when we got to the old meeting house there was a great multitude; it was said to be 3 or 4000 of people assembled together, we got off from our horses and shook off the dust, and the ministers were then coming to the meeting house. I turned and looked towards the great river and saw the ferry boats running swift forward and forward bringing over loads of people; the oars rowed nimble and quick, every thing men horses and boats seemed to be struggling for life; the land and banks over the river looked black with people and horses all along the 12 miles. I saw no man at work in his field, but all seemed to be gone.

When I saw Mr. Whitefield come upon the Scaffold he looked almost angelical, a young, slim slender youth before some thousands of people with a bold undaunted countenance, and my hearing how God was with him every where as he came along it solumnized my mind, and put me into a trembling fear before he began to preach; for he looked as if he was Cloathed with authority from the Great God, and a sweet solemn solemnity sat upon his brow. And my hearing him preach gave me a heart wound; by Gods blessing my old foundation was broken up, and I saw that my righteousness would not save me;