

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: MOODY IN THE WIND (Dwight L. Moody)

A. Moody's Perspective. He chose significance over success.

- "I determined to speak to him about Christ and about his soul...When I was nearly there I began to wonder whether I ought to go in just then during business hours. I thought that possibly my call might embarrass the boy, and that when I went away the other clerks would ask who I was, and taunt him with my efforts in trying to make him a good boy. In the meantime I had passed the store, and, discovering this, I determined to make a dash for it...??
- ...and have it over at once".
- "I found Moody in the back part of the building wrapping up shoes. I went up to him at once, and putting my hand on his shoulder, I made what I afterwards felt was a very weak plea for Christ. I don't know just what words I used, nor could Mr. Moody tell.
- "I simply told him of Christ's love for him and the love Christ wanted in return. That was all there was. It seemed the young man was just ready for the light that then broke upon him, and there, in the back of that store in Boston, he gave himself and his life to Christ."
- "I can truly say, and in saying it I magnify the infinite grace of God as bestowed upon him, that I have seen few persons whose minds were spiritually darker than was his when he came into my Sunday School class; and I think that the committee of the Mount Vernon Church seldom met an applicant for membership more unlikely ever to become a Christian of clear and decided views of Gospel truth, still less to fill any extended sphere of public usefulness."
Edward Kimball
- **Reflection: What's your perspective on life? Significance or Success?**
- *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."* John 14:1-3
- *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . . for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Matthew 6:19-21

B. Moody's Priorities: He chose people over possessions.

- When Mr. Moody pulled that little child out from under the bed by the foot he was pulling a whole family into the Kingdom of God, and eternity alone will reveal how many succeeding generations he was pulling into the Kingdom of God as well." *R.A. Torrey*
- "Mr. Moody, I have not been able to get a good night's sleep since that night you spoke to me under the lamp post. I've realized that I'm not really a Christian and I've come to you at this unearthly hour to find out what I must do to become one." *Unknown*
- *"He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. But Paul shouted to him, 'Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!' The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and asked, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved..."* Acts 16:27-31
- **Reflection: What are your priorities? People or Possessions?**

C. Moody's Power?: He chose the Holy Spirit over his skill.

- "I believe firmly that the moment our hearts are emptied of pride and selfishness and ambition and everything that is contrary to God's law, the Holy Spirit will fill every corner of our hearts. But if we are full of pride and conceit and ambition and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God. We must be emptied before we can be filled. It's not about how much of the Holy Spirit we have. It's about how much the Holy Spirit has us" *D.L. Moody*
- "Moody, the world has yet to see what God will do with a man who is fully devoted to him."
Henry Varley
- "It lies with the man himself whether he will or will not have that full and entire devotion. And by the Holy Spirit in me, I'm going to be that man." *DLM*

- **Reflection: What's your source of power? The Holy Spirit or Your Skill?**

D. Moody's Purpose: He chose to Surrender to God's Will over his self-sufficiency.

- God's Master Plan:
 - In England, Moody spoke at the church of F.B. Meyer and hundreds upon hundreds of people came to faith in Jesus Christ that day from the pews. The Holy Spirit broke through to Meyer; he was convicted and supernaturally changed. For the rest of his life, he preached Jesus to all who would listen. One of those who listened and believed was...
 - J. Wilbur Chapman. Chapman travels to the U.S. He's teaching and preaching and meets this baseball player and a new believer by the name of...
 - Billy Sunday. Chapman says he thinks Sunday is really good at baseball, but he thinks he would be even better at teaching and preaching and that's what happens. Years later, Sunday is speaking and many marketplace leaders come to faith as a result. They decide to pool their resources so that they could have more of these events. But Sunday is booked and can't come back. But he suggests they invite a guy by the name of...
 - Mordecai Ham who is bold, gifted and loves the Word of God. The marketplace leaders invite Mordecai Ham to come and conduct some evangelistic tent meetings. Ham comes and on the second night, a 16 year old farmer's kid named William and his buddy decide to go see what craziness is going on in that tent. Once inside, they see there's no room for them but as they turn to leave, an usher standing there sees them and finds some seats in the back. As Mordecai Ham began to speak, the scales started to fall off this young man's eyes. His heart became quite tender to the grace and the love of God. And at the end of that message, William started walking to the front.
 - William, his friends called him Billy Frank, Billy Frank found Jesus that night, and Billy Franklin Graham went on to take Jesus to the ends of the earth.
 - Sidebar: The actions of this usher should inspire all who serve the Lord in any capacity as a volunteer. That usher could never have known how God was using him that night nor the millions that would be reached through his simple yet faithful service.
- **Reflection: What's your ultimate purpose? Surrender to God's Will or Self-sufficiency?**
 - What if Edward Kimball said no? What if Mordecai Ham said no? What if the usher said no? What if Billy Graham said no?
 - What if you say no?
 - Our community loses. Our church loses. The kingdom of God loses. And you lose out on experiencing the supernatural activity of God.
 - Truth is, you can have those stories too because there's a God with all of this redemptive potential trying to take your own wind out of your sails and replace it with His wind – His Holy Spirit and invite you into the grandest adventure for your life. And all you have to do is just say yes.
- "There's nothing more than this to D.L. Moody except as God uses him." DLM

E. Moody's Pay-Off. He chose Reward over Regret.

- "Some day you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody of East Northfield, is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now; I shall have gone up higher, that is all, out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal- a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned like unto His glorious body." DLM
- *"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me."* Galatians 2:20
- Moses spent his first 40 years thinking he was a somebody. He spent his next 40 years learning he was a nobody. He spent his third 40 years discovering what God can do with a nobody. Dwight L. Moody
- **Reflection: What's going to be your pay-off in the end? Reward or Regret?**