

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

THE CALL FROM CHRIST to spread the Good News, to proclaim the Gospel in practice as well as in theory, is clearly and directly stated in many passages of the New Testament. *What I tell you in darkness, speak in the light. What you hear in private, proclaim from the housetops.* Jesus must have spent much time in private discussion with the men He selected as His special disciples. Such conversations "in darkness" were needed for their instruction; thereafter, however, the word was to be proclaimed in the fullness of light for all to hear and believe.

This obligation to speak the message of Christ is a grave responsibility for each disciple — whether he lives in the year 50 A.D. or 1972 A.D. Often Jesus expressed it with a warning: those who deny Him will be denied hereafter; those who affirm their faith in Him regardless of circumstances will be acknowledged by Him.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Once we begin to refrain from expressing our true convictions, we begin to lose our effectiveness as missionaries of the Good News. Sometimes we excuse ourselves because of a supposed reluctance to offend another person; sometimes we simply don't want to start an argument. In most cases the real reason for not taking a stand is that we don't want to get involved. We prefer to play it "cool," which really means we do nothing.

Each of us is extremely important in the eyes of God. We may find this difficult to believe, but we have Jesus' testimony of it: every one of the hairs on our head has been counted. What we have to contribute toward the proclamation of the Gospel is important as well. This too may be difficult to believe. What do I know? What can I do? Who could I influence?

Remember that it is not in the unusual events of life that our discipleship is carried out, but in the usual, everyday routine. That may be another "hard saying." Yet this would seem to be the message of the Bible: in *all things* give glory to God. Those "little things" may be our way of shouting from the housetops.

ABOUT THE COVER: *The Christian disciple must be a living example of the Lord through a life of faith, hope, and charity.*



THE PEOPLE
OF GOD SPREAD ABROAD
A LIVING WITNESS
TO CHRIST



Jesus said to his apostles: "Do not let men intimidate you. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing hidden that will not become known. What I tell you in darkness, speak in the light. What you hear in private, proclaim from the housetops."

Twelfth Sunday of the Year

JUNE 25, 1972