

“The Master is Come and Calleth for Thee”

An Appeal to our Young Lutheran Womanhood for
Missionary Deaconess Work.

By F. W. Herzberger

The Master is Jesus, *your Jesus*, my dear young Lutheran woman. In His great Savior's love He comes to the grave of His friend Lazarus to raise him from the dead. (John 11.) There He meets Lazarus's weeping sister Martha, and at once comforts her with those ever-blessed words of imperishable divine consolation: "I am the Resurrection and the Life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die." Martha is cheered and comforted so wonderfully by these majestic words that she answers His question: "Believest thou this?" with the joyful confession: "Yea, Lord, I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world," and then she can contain herself no longer, but straightway hurries home where she knows her sister Mary is still in tears, and summons her to the Lord with the words: "The Master is come and calleth for thee." Behold the power of true and living faith! How it ever fills the heart with pitying, comforting, saving love! Martha has no express command to call her grief-stricken sister into the Master's presence. But she cannot do otherwise. Her faith impels her to bring her disconsolate sister to the Savior that she also might partake of His divine comfort.

"The Master is come and calleth for thee!" Martha's cheerful message [to Mary] also applies to you, my dear young Lutheran woman. Jesus is still today the same compassionate Savior that He was there at the grave of Lazarus. He alone has power to comfort and to save where grief and sorrow abide. How many homes there are in our towns and villages where grievous want or sickness abounds, and where you could bring the blessed message of Jesus and His saving love, and also relieve the dire want and distress if you were a "Missionary Deaconess," called by the Church of your Savior to look after the poor, the sick, the wayward and forlorn in your appointed field of labor! In our Lutheran Synodical Conference, to which church body you belong, we have 15 hospitals, 9 orphan homes, 13 home-finding societies for dependant children, 9 homes for old folks, one home and school for deaf-mutes, another for feeble-minded and epileptic children all of which annually care for twenty thousand afflicted and needy souls. In addition, think of the countless thousands of souls in the overcrowded districts of our large cities living and dying in great spiritual and bodily misery. Think of the teeming mission-fields your Savior has in foreign and heathen countries. Do you not see how much the Master needs your services in these sad and gloomy Bethanias? Would it not be a blessed thing for you if you could help to bring the sweet Gospel-message and also bodily help to some of these afflicted, mourning, and, perhaps, perishing souls?

Well, my dear young Lutheran women, you can help, help in two different ways. If sacred family ties do not stand in the way and you are in good health, you can enter our "School for Missionary Deaconesses" at Fort Wayne, Ind., and there acquire, *free of charge*, the necessary training for your high and blessed calling. In that case write to

The Rev. Ph. Wambsganss, 2307 Broadway, Fort Wayne, Ind., who will send you all needed information about the school. Surely, the Lord will not let you starve if you labor for Him, will He? If you serve Him, He will provide you with “enough and to spare,” and in feeble old age give you a home in the “Motherhouse” until He takes you into His everlasting home above. If you decided to serve Him as a deaconess only until you establish your own home, think of the lasting benefits your training at the school will furnish you for the better discharge of your duties at your own dear fireside.

However, it may be impossible for you to take up the calling of a missionary deaconess, much as you would like to. Family-ties or other valid reasons prevent it. But then there is another way in which you can help this blessed work of your Lord along. You can support it by your prayers and your gifts. You can take out a membership card at one dollar a year, send in occasional contributions of thank-offerings, and persuade others to do likewise. Can't you do that for your Lord? Will you not at least do that much for Him who has done so much for you? You pledged Him your faith and love in your Baptism, and renewed the sacred pledge on the day of your Confirmation. What will you do now that you hear the master's call? How much of your heart and life will you give, are you giving, to Jesus, your blessed, blessed Jesus, my dear young Lutheran woman? Ponder the message well: “The Master is come and calleth for thee!”

This copy of this tract by Herzberger is located at Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, Missouri.