

The Romance of the Doctor's Visits

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SINGING AT EIGHTY

One afternoon, as I was busy at my desk, an old gentleman entered the office, walking with a cane, and carrying a derby hat in the other hand. It could be seen that the storms of many winters had injured his frail old body and that some heavy burden was crushing the heart.

After extending a cordial invitation to be seated, he did so. "I am glad to meet you, sin. What is your name?" I inquired.

"My name is B--," he said. "For quite some time I have been wanting to see you, because I have no joy in my life nor peace in my heart, and I am sure that the reason for this is that I am not a saved man. For many years I have been in the church. In fact, I became a member when I was about twenty years old. My life has been one of 'ups and downs' with a lot of trouble and plenty of sins."

The old gentleman was very calm, but it was quite apparent that in his heart there was a great anxiety over his condition and his future. He looked at me very closely after telling his story and seemed to wait for a reply, which I was slow to give until I should know more about his need. Because of my hesitation, he continued: "I have been listening to your morning Bible lessons on the radio for some years. I did not know what was wrong with my soul until one day you explained the need of the lost sinner for eternal life. I knew I did not have this gift and sought opportunity since then to see you and find out how to obtain this gift from GOD."

"Are you a lost sinner?" I inquired. "You see, the Saviour came to save lost men, and my experience is that He does not come to those who have no need of Him, and who, therefore, are quite satisfied without Him. If you are a helpless sinner, needing the Saviour to deliver you, I am quite sure He will do it."

"I am lost," he said, "and that is the reason I came down to have this visit. My life has been spent in disobedience and rebellion, and I know I deserve to be punished and shall be, unless GOD will forgive. Do you think He will?"

"Let us turn to the Scripture and see what we may find in GOD's own Word," I answered. My Bible was at hand, lying on the desk, and we soon found I Peter 2:24. "Please listen to this message, Mr. B--. I will read it to you slowly, for I want you to get every word of it and to understand what it says." He was a little hard of hearing, so I read loudly and clearly these words: "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree."

"Wait a moment," he interrupted. "Will you please read those words to me again?"

It is indeed a blessed sight to see the Word of GOD taking hold of a human heart, bringing conviction and then turning that heart to JESUS CHRIST. This aged friend was grasping for salvation and peace, and was only waiting until he would clearly know from the Scriptures GOD's wonderful remedy. I complied with his request and read the passage again. It was indeed a pleasure to witness his facial expression, as the words reached his ears. He was in a deep study, listening most attentively, and as I finished the words, again he leaned forward and said most anxiously: "Please do not be impatient with me; I am not trifling at all with this matter. Will you please be so good as to read those words to me again the third time?"

The Word of GOD tells the Truth of GOD, and does the Work of GOD. I repeated the passage to him, emphasizing the different words, and again intently watching his face. I could see that the truth of the portion was penetrating his heart and was being received by him gladly. His thoughtful expression revealed the fact that he was studying the statement of the Word of GOD, without a question or a doubt.

"The One this passage is referring to, Mr. B--, is the Lord JESUS," I explained. "He came to bear your sins away and to blot them out, because you could not pay the price, and He did not you to be lost." Mr. B-- listened to this message and then slowly arose, took his cane and derby, and started away.

"Wait a moment, Mr. B--," I cried. "Do remain a little and let me help you to see the Saviour and His work for you. Please do not go away without finding CHRIST and having your soul saved by Him."

My friend paused a moment, removed his hat again, and said very earnestly and happily: "I do not need to wait any longer; I am going home to praise the Saviour because He took all of my sins away and they are gone. The Bible say, 'He bore my sins,' and I believe He did. I can sing now; my heart is glad, for the load is gone." He replaced his hat and slowly made his way to the door, going home to sing at eighty.

Let me urge the reader of this story to settle the matter in early life. Give our Lord not only your soul to save and keep, but your life to preserve and make fruitful. He loves to redeem and He loves to enrich. Will you let Him have all of yourself just now?
