

## **The Romance of the Doctor's Visits**

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### **THE POLICE OFFICER TOOK THE WRONG HAT**

It is customary for the friends who visit the studios of our radio station to present themselves before the program begins, in order that the speaker may introduce those present. Upon one occasion, after the morning Bible lesson had already begun on the air, a police officer entered the studio. Being a very large man, possibly six foot four inches tall, his uniform accentuated his size. Listening very intently throughout the entire service, he introduced himself at the close as Officer Clark, mentioning that when he was off duty, he enjoyed listening to various radio programs, and particularly the morning Bible lesson.

Shortly after he departed, I approached the rack to get my hat, and noticed that it was gone and another left in its place. It then occurred to me that the officer who was wearing a soft Fedora hat when he came to the studio, had undoubtedly, in his haste, taken mine, which closely resembled his. The hat left for me was much too large for my head, and caused me to present a grotesque appearance as I walked down the street. This aroused not a little curiosity among my friends and drew forth a number of questions.

The following morning, proceeding my Bible lessons on the radio, I requested the police department and the chief of detectives to please institute a search for the officer who took away my hat and left his own, which was much too large for me.

Mr. Clark was at home, listening to the message. At once he called to his wife, and said, "Nellie, will you please go to the hat-rack and see whether I have my own hat or some other? The radio preacher is sending out a call for his hat and I rather think that I am the guilty man."

She soon called back to him, and said, "There is a hat here which does not belong to you. You must have taken it by mistake."

Officer Clark then explained to his wife that all day long this hat felt rather strange on his head, and did not seem to fit as it should. It seemed that he was on night duty, and so during the daytime only he wore his soft hat. He had just returned from his night service, and had sat down to get the morning Bible lesson before retiring for his rest.

The radio message that morning was on the text: "**Thou shalt not steal.**" I sought to impress upon the hearers the fact that we might steal many things from GOD, which in ordinary life are overlooked. The soul that should belong to Him is kept from Him for personal gain and personal pleasure. The life that should be laid at His feet is devoted to a vain and fruitless search for profit and happiness without Him. The talents and gifts which should be used for the glory of GOD are

used to promote personal aims and ends.

As the officer listened, his mind traveled over a life of some fifty-five years spent for the world, the flesh, and the devil. The Lord had received none of his time nor his money. His talents and energies had been expended for personal gain, and he had sought in every way to add to his pleasure and to increase his wealth. None of these plans, however, had been very successful, and now at the age of sixty-five, he found himself with a job, but with very little else.

The next morning, the officer presented himself at the studio rather early. He wanted to hear more of the message which had so deeply touched his heart. The lesson on this occasion concerned the confession of CHRIST before men. I used the illustration of the police officer, who by wearing his uniform and badge was daily confessing his position as a member of the department of justice. Everywhere he went, he was consciously and unconsciously telling the people what his position was and whom he served.

I also used the illustration of the soldier, who in his uniform bearing certain insignia, daily and constantly confessed in that way that he was no longer a free man, but had given himself entirely to the military department of his government. So the Christian, accepting JESUS CHRIST and putting on JESUS CHRIST, takes his place as a lover of the Saviour and one who has abandoned himself to the Son of GOD and to the service of the KING.

This message stirred the heart of Officer Clark, clearing up in his mind some of the things which had been troubling him. He saw that salvation was not a religion, nor a system of good works. He realized for the first time that he was completely outside the family of GOD, as he had never yet confessed his faith and his confidence in JESUS CHRIST.

I sought to lead him to a decision just then in the radio room. It seemed, however, that he was not ready, therefore I seemingly failed in my effort. He left the studio, greatly troubled in soul and with a very heavy heart. Several days later, I rejoiced as I saw the officer entering the studio again, his happy countenance telling the story of a happier heart. After exchanging greetings, he related to me the following experience.

"After leaving you the other morning, I went home, ate breakfast and then went to my room. The Bible was a rather strange book to me, for I had never read it, and I had quite a little difficulty finding the Scriptures you use. I read a great many passages but could get no peace, and finally retired for my sleep. Each morning since that time, I have listened to you, but none of the messages seemed to clear up my soul, nor did they show me how to find CHRIST.

"Your message yesterday morning, however, was exactly suited to my need. When you quoted your text: 'Enter into thy closet and pray,' I saw the mistake I had made and the hindrance. I had been thinking that it was necessary for me to make some show of my decision. I know of no church to which I could go and make such a confession, for I belonged to none. I had been wondering also what the other fellows on the force would think of me if I became a Christian and confessed it to them.

"As these thoughts surged through my heart, I heard you say: 'My friend with a heavy heart, if you are listening this morning, will you not just slip away alone with your Lord, and kneeling before Him, accept Him, and make Him the Lord of your life and the Saviour of your soul?'

Believe in His finished work on Calvary for you and trust the efficacy of His precious blood.'

"I arose at once and went into a large clothes-closet, where I knelt before the Lord and told CHRIST that I did believe in Him, and would just then accept Him for myself. I am sure that He took me, for He gave me the peace that my heart so long desired. I am so glad that He was willing to save me after so many years of indifference to His call. I am so glad that we had the mix-up about the hats, because by this peculiar situation I was led to listen more closely and got to know you more intimately. I am sure that this broke down a little bit of opposition that was in my heart towards you and made it easier for me to believe the Bible."

Officer Clark is now in southern Kansas living for GOD, loving his Bible, and seeking to serve his Lord. We hope and pray that every police officer who reads this story will have a somewhat similar experience. CHRIST JESUS will save each one who seeks Him. Have you knelt at His cross and accepted Him for yourself? He will receive you and will not cast you out.

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