

The Romance of the Doctor's Visits

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ARE YOU BAD ENOUGH TO GO TO HELL?

On the particular morning when the events of this story transpired, my heart was unusually happy because of a new revelation which the HOLY SPIRIT had given me of Himself on the previous evening. Upon leaving home for the office, I asked the HOLY SPIRIT for the privilege of being His channel that day, so that some heart might be reached by His message and brought to the Lord JESUS CHRIST.

About ten o'clock, two young ladies entered the office, soliciting advertising for a national magazine. I have often given these friends some business and was now ready for another contract, as they knew. At my invitation, they seated themselves at my desk, one just across the table from me, and the other at my left. Having transacted our business with regard to the advertising contract, and having closed the arrangement, I said to them: "Girls, are you both saved, or are you lost girls on the way to a lost eternity?"

This unusual question greatly surprised both of them. The one sitting opposite me, Miss D--, became quite serious at once. Her sister, at my left, though it was a great joke, and expressed her feelings by a rather loud outburst of laughter, which was heard throughout the office.

Miss S--, who was seated at my left, was quite sure that someone had been telling me wrong things about herself and her sister. She hastened to assure me that they were both very lovely girls. They taught Sunday school classes in the same church, were raised by a good Christian mother, and never did anything wrong. The older girl, Miss D--, was not quite so sure. She said: "Doctor, I was up last evening until quite late, reading my Bible and wondering if I had everything for salvation that I should have. I do not feel at all happy about my condition and would be so glad if you could give me any help."

Opening my Bible to John 3:16, I handed it to Miss D--, and said: "Will you please read this verse slowly and aloud?"

She did so, and added: "I know this verse well and have always believed it."

"But you still feel, do you not, Miss D--, that you are perishing and are still lost?"

"Yes, I do," she answered, "and yet I do not understand why, when I believe all of the Bible."

"It is because you have believed the facts, but this belief has not led you to accept GOD's gift of His Son. Why do you not take CHRIST just now? He is the one who will save you from

perishing. He will save you this moment, if you will take Him and make Him, just now, your own Lord and Saviour. Will you trust Him with your soul?"

The heart of the young lady responded immediately to the call and with a glad heart she accepted the Saviour, offering her hand to me across the desk in evidence of her sincerity.

Turning to her sister, I said, "Miss S--, it is quite evident that you do not believe the Bible."

"I certainly do," she replied, "every word of it."

"I want you to read this passage in Romans three, from verse 9 to verse 19, and tell me whether this description is true of you."

"What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes."

She read it clear through from my Bible which I had handed her, and said emphatically, "No, sir, indeed it is not true of me; I am not that kind of a woman."

"Very well," said I, "take these scissors (and I handed her mine) and cut this passage out of the Bible, for I do not want anything in my Bible that is not true."

Miss D--, who had trusted the Saviour, spoke to her sister and said, "Sister, you know that you are as bad as that. GOD always speaks the truth, and you should acknowledge it."

"I know better," she replied, "I have not lived that kind of a life at all."

Interposing in the conversation, I said to Miss S--, "This is not a description of your deeds, it is a record of what GOD sees in your heart."

"I reject it," she answered, "and will not believe that I am as bad as that. I will not cut it out of the Bible, however, for it certainly is true of some folks that I know."

"Perhaps, Miss S--, we can find some other passage in the Bible that is true of you. Please read this portion in Mark 7:21-23, and tell me whether you think those thirteen things describe your heart correctly."

"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: . . ."

When she came to verse 23, and read ". . . **All these evil things come from within, and defile the man,**" she spoke rather forcefully, and said, "No sir, most of these things are not true of me, but the last two things are, for I know that both pride and foolishness are often in my life."

Upon hearing this partial confession, I handed Miss S-- a lead pencil, and said, "Will you please write at the end of verse 23, 'All but Miss S--?' since you say that all of these things do not come out of your heart, we should revise the bible to make it tell the truth. If you wish, you can write in the margin of my Bible, 'Only the last two things come out of my heart'."

This suggestion did not please Miss S-- at all. She rather resented it, and said, "GOD wrote the bible the way He wanted it. I certainly will not presume to add any words to it. These verses may be true of many wicked people, but I tell you again that I do not like that kind of a wicked life."

It was quite evident now that the passages concerning outrageous sins would not appeal to her at all, so I suggest that we turn to another passage and see whether this one might fit her case. The portion turned to was Matthew 13:18-23, with verses 36 to 42.

"Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty . . . Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

She read the passages aloud and I asked her whether she belonged to the wheat or to the tares. "The tares," I explained, "are plants which look very much like the wheat, resemble the wheat in every respect, grow right in with the wheat, and yet they are not wheat at all, but only hypocrites. No wheat grains are found in the pods on the bearded head. The ordinary person thinks that the tares are wheat, but the expert farmer knows that the tares are only fit for the burning. Which of these are you, Miss S--?"

Lying on her lap was a large brown fur-piece, upon which I saw beaded tears drop. Her head was bowed so that her face could not be seen, but the tears told the story of a heart touched by the

power of GOD and convicted of its need.

"That is a picture of me," she finally said, with sobs. "I have kept up this hypocrisy long enough. I might as well confess what I know to be true in my heart. I have been religious, but I have never been saved. I have been active in the church, but never had peace in my soul. GOD ought to punish me, for I have been such a hypocrite."

Conviction of sin, when it is of this character, is soon followed by salvation when the Gospel is properly presented. Miss D-- saw the sorrow of heart which Miss S-- exhibited, and said to her, "Sister, why do you not accept the Lord JESUS as I have? I know He has saved me, for He died for me and I have trusted Him. Will you not trust Him as I have?"

"Yes, Miss S--," I added, "He calls you and says: '**Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest**' (Matthew 11:28). He said to one woman, '**Thy sins are forgiven**' (Luke 7:48). He will give you that assurance too, Miss S--, if you will just now acknowledge your need and accept Him and His finished work on the cross. He died for you there, paid the price, bore your sins, took your punishment, and now wants to give you Himself and all the blessed fruits of that wonderful work of Calvary."

"I believe it," she said. "I do accept Him. All along I thought it was religion that I needed, but I never could get any peace in my Christian work and religious services. Of course I could not. I see clearly now that what I needed was the Lord JESUS, and I am so glad I can take Him and know that He blots out all of my sins today."

The two sisters left the office with happy hearts. They were now sisters in the faith, as well as sisters in the flesh. They followed the Lord in baptism shortly afterwards, that they might go all the way with Him.

Are you only a professing Christian, or have you accepted the Saviour and received from Him the gift of eternal life? Do not let Satan deceive you. Do not miss a meeting with the Lord JESUS CHRIST.
