

SEE THE GLORY

by

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CHAPTER NINETEEN

BLIND BODIES LIKE US

“IT DOESN’T SEEM RIGHT that a dear sweet girl like you should have so much trouble.” This word came in a letter from one very dear to Adelaide. Similar sighs of deep sympathy followed her during the days of heavy pain that dragged into months. Even when the first news of her illness was received, her college friends eyed one another and asked, “Why should this happen to Adelaide Locher? Adelaide!”

Who can account for God’s purposes in the woes of such a girl? Witnesses all agree that she glorified God in her suffering. Many testify that by her victory their own defeat became apparent and that by her yieldedness their own rebellion was rebuked. Adelaide’s influence extended far beyond her personal acquaintances, for her friends told their friends of her, as a spectacle of God’s grace. No one can now know how far her influence may yet extend nor how many young people, moved by her suffering, may present their strong bodies to the Lord and may be permitted to be Adelaide’s substitute on some mission field.

In addition to these aspects is one less tangible, but wholly possible: God may have been preparing her to better “**serve him in his temple**” (Revelation 7:15) and may have been training her for a far wider heavenly ministry than if she personally had been permitted to go to China.

When these attempted explanations are presented, their inadequacy is recognized. How impossible it is for midget minds to encompass the workings of the Infinite God!

“My shallow and ebb-thought are not the compass Christ sails by. I leave His ways to Himself, for they are far, far above me There are windings and to’s and fro’s in His ways, which blind bodies like us cannot see.”

So wrote Samuel Rutherford three hundred years ago.

As for Adelaide herself, she also felt it entirely unnecessary to search out a reason for her tribulation. It positively seemed to hurt her to have anyone raise a question about God’s way with her. She emphatically had no argument with Him. A friend perceived this while visiting her and wrote, “Adelaide received much joy and consolation during the last months in the reading of *Rose from Briar* by Amy Wilson Carmichael. The following quotation from that book is by Frank Houghton, General Director of the China Inland Mission:

Many of our friends in their letters of sympathy speak of “God’s mysterious ways,” and I know there is an element of mystery. But I shrink from the suggestion that our Father has done anything which needs to be explained. What He has done is the best, because He has done it; and I pray that as a family we may not cast about for explanations of the mystery, but exult in the Holy Spirit, and say, “I thank Thee, Father . . . Even so, Father.”

Adelaide read this to me on my last visit with her while I sat on the chair, at her insistence, and she sat huddled on the floor, her head resting on her arm on a stool.

Without suffering, Adelaide’s life would have had far less significance. Through her triumph over trials she stepped out of the ranks of the ordinary into an honored company of those who have made their greatest world contribution through suffering.

- Without Job’s festering calamities there never would have been his grand assertion, “**I know that my Redeemer liveth.**”
- Without David’s miserable exile many of the choicest Psalms would never have been written or sung for three millenniums.
- Up from the foul dungeon of Jeremiah came the majestic testimony, “**Great is thy faithfulness.**”
- Paul’s beatings and imprisonments gave significance to his invaluable epistles; in all these sufferings “**the Lord stood by me,**” he affirmed.

Only God’s records show the myriad saints, ancient and modern, whose names may now be added to the list in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, those of whom Reginald Heber wrote:

A noble army, men and boys,
The matron and the maid,
Around the Saviour’s throne rejoice
In robes of light arrayed.
They climbed the steep ascent of heaven
Through peril, toil, and pain;
O God, to us may grace be given
To follow in their train.

Although “blind bodies like us” do not understand these things, relief of mind comes in the same way Adelaide obtained it, submitting the will to Christ, trustfully exulting in Him and agreeing that His way is perfect. After all, it was He Himself, stricken, “**smitten of God and afflicted,**” that taught us to say, “**I thank Thee, Father . . . Even so, Father . . . Thy will be done.**”

~ end of chapter 19 ~

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