

# WHEN GOD SAYS 'NO'

And Other Radio Addresses

by  
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## CHAPTER TEN

### BORROWED GRAVE

HE HAD been a secret disciple, heretofore, this wealthy senator from the Jewish city of Arimathaea: wealthy, influential, righteous and good, but a secret disciple for fear of the Jews. There were two of them in the senate Joseph himself and Nicodemus - disciples of the Master, yet still mastered by timidity.

Today, however, things were to be changed. Timidity was to find a conqueror.

Today the city was in a frenzy. The Man who had said, "**Destroy this temple (his body) and in three days I will build it again,**" was being crucified upon a Roman cross yonder upon a cranial-shaped little hillock above the tombs.

The man Joseph - the wealthy, the influential, the righteous, - witnessed it all, heard the curses and jibes and hisses. It seemed as if all Jerusalem were here today, Pharisees, Sadducees, even the priests and the high priest. For this MAN who had saved others, had claimed to be the Son of GOD! Could there have been greater blasphemy if it were not so!

And if he were the Son of GOD, the Messiah Himself, then certain Scriptures, prophesying of Him, would be fulfilled immediately. "**Not a bone of Him should be broken,**" yet how could he die so soon when it required sometimes many days for a crucified one to succumb, and He would have to die, for the Law of Moses decreed that anyone hanging thus upon a tree must be buried the same day! Also tomorrow was the Sabbath, and He would not be allowed to hang there tomorrow. The Roman soldiers might have to break the legs in order to hasten his death. But the Scriptures! They must not be broken! GOD's Word and His works must harmonize.

And they, the Scriptures, declared also, "**Neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption.**"

There would be corruption if the Roman law should have its way. How many times he had seen things like this under the Roman rule.

Weathered old crosses, battered and bloody, standing all over the Calvary - the skull, and, upon them, dead and dying malefactors, with life still pulsing after days of hanging there; some, long since dead, and already half-eaten by vultures, as was the Roman custom. Death and horror and decay . . . **WE MUST NOT LET THIS HAPPEN TO HIM!**

But where should He be buried? **WHERE?** In a common tomb? If so, would the entrance be properly closed? For if not, the jackals and other wild beasts of prey from the mountains and the wilderness would come . . .

At the foot of this knoll, in a garden there, was his own newly hewn-out tomb. But no, he could not permit that! Not - not in my own tomb!

Cries jeers . . . cursings . . . shrieks of the dying thieves The face of the **MAN!** He had never seen a crucified man's face so marred. It was black and bloody under the blazing sun, with deep wounds in the once beautiful forehead. This, **THIS** is the "Man of whom I have learned so much, secretly: And He is dying for me . . . publicly!"

At the foot of this knoll . . . He could not dismiss the thought. It is a new tomb, and it is near by. Why not? **WHY NOT?** Had He not said He would rise again in three days? Joseph of Arimathea, senator, in strong and robust health, would not need his tomb for himself before that time? . . .

He must hurry away to Pilate the very moment the Man should die. For the bodies of crucified criminals - criminals! - belonged to Rome, and he would have to beg him for it - this body which above all others was the peculiar possession of the Eternal **GOD**. Is this Man the very Son of **GOD?**

Loud and clear above the tumultuous clamorings of the mob - milling, jostling, motley multitudes - there came from the Master's lips, like the cry of a conqueror, "**IT IS FINISHED!**" And then, prayerfully, "**Father, into Thy hands, I commend my spirit.**"

In another second, the body of **JESUS** slumped upon the nails, and the Roman centurion, standing close by, cried out like a new-born babe, "**Surely this was the Son of God!**"

The earth trembles, reels and staggers like a drunken man, the rocks and caves about Calvary are cleft asunder, the graves there are opened. A strange darkness settles over the land - three hours of it. . . .

Hurry, Joseph! Ask Pilate for the body.

What matter if participation in the interment cost you seven days of "defilement!" Cost also exclusion from the Passover festivities of the coming week! What matter anything your fellow senators may say in derision? What matter even what your family may say to lending the tomb for such a purpose! Lending! . . . "**For He shall make his grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death.**"

You here, Nicodemus!

Nicodemus was there, with materials for embalming the body. The Son of Man had been lifted up like the serpent in the wilderness, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish . . .

**"So they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths as the custom of the Jews is to bury."**

**"Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb (Joseph's) wherein was man never yet laid. There, then, because of the Jews' Preparation, they laid Jesus."**

**"UNTIL . . . THE THIRD DAY!!" . . .**

And hear me, radio listener! We have a living Lord to-day; One who is able to save to the uttermost all who come unto GOD by Him. Neither is there salvation in any other. Him hath GOD raised up. According to Acts 17:31, **"God hath appointed a Day in the which He will judge the world by that Man whom He hath ordained" - "judge the world in righteousness; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men in that He hath raised Him from the dead."**

This living, loving, gracious Saviour, is waiting now to hear the voice of your heart saying,

"Lord JESUS, I do believe Thou didst die for Me, and I now - now - NOW, trust in Thee alone for my salvation. Not in self or goodness or works, or church or forms or ceremonies or angels or pastor or priest or prayer or rosary or anything - but only in Thee, a PERSON, for my eternal salvation. I trust Thee' now. NOW!

And now that I have trusted Thee, I believe Thy Word which declares, **"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting Life - EVERLASTING LIFE."**

I believe it now, that I HAVE it NOW, in thy name and forever. Give me grace and strength to live a faithful Christian Life."

Listen! Are you saying that to Him?

~ end of chapter 10 ~

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