

DR. WILSON'S STORIES OF SOUL-WINNING

by

Dr. Walter L. Wilson

Copyright © 1959

CHAPTER TWENTY

THE BARN WAS A POOR HIDING PLACE

Some folks are really afraid that God will give them a blessing, enrich their lives, and make them fit for heaven. They try to hide from God, and to avoid meeting those who love them, and would like to help them.

Such was the case with young Mr. Lee. He was an industrious boy, always working at something, and could adapt himself to most any mechanical work. He was not an artist, but he loved to sing, and loved to be with those who were educated and cultured. He had some very fine friends who were Christians, but he preferred the company of others.

Mr. Lee was not a bad person, as the world calls badness. He went to church on Sundays, if it was convenient. He was not a scoffer. He was just one of those ordinary young men who wanted a religious flavor to a worldly life. He had heard the gospel from some of his friends who really knew the Lord, but the call of the world was stronger than the call of the Saviour.

Two of his friends decided one day to hunt up this young man and see if they could not persuade him to come over the line to Jesus Christ. They knew he was not an enemy of God, but they also knew that the world, and worldly ways, were quite attractive and held a strong influence over his life.

Mr. Lee lived on a little farm outside of the city. I happened to be one of the two friends who decided to call on him, and we drove out together to see this prospect. The house in which he lived was on a prominent place by the side of the road, and he enjoyed sitting on the porch when there was no necessary work to do, and watch the cars go by. On this particular afternoon, he was sitting on the front porch enjoying his after-dinner smoke. We did not notice him on the porch, but he detected us as we came down the road, and he quickly disappeared from the scene. When we arrived at the house, he was nowhere to be found. His wife was busily engaged in the kitchen, and when we inquired of her concerning his whereabouts, she remarked rather casually, "You will probably find him down behind the barn."

We made our way down to the barn, and around at the rear we found our friend sitting on an old box, smoking his cigarette, and hoping we would not find him.

He looked up as though he was greatly surprised, and greeted us with a very pleasant smile. He was naturally a jovial person, with a very gracious spirit, and he made friends easily. His was a real friendship, for he was no hypocrite. My friend and I soon found a place to sit down behind the barn in order to have some conversation with him about the purpose of our visit. I said to him, "Mr. Lee, I am not sure that you are glad to have us come to see you."

He broke into the conversation at this point to assure us that he was very glad we had come. "However," he said, "when I saw you fellows coming down the road, I was still at my after-dinner smoke, and I didn't want you to see it. That's the reason I hid out down here. I suppose my wife told you where I was." I assured him that we were not there to find fault with his smoking, but only to encourage him to give his life to the Lord Jesus and to the Holy Spirit, so that his days would count for God.

My friend who was with me quoted to him Romans 12:1-2, which read, "**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**"

Mr. Lee listened attentively because he had a reverence for the Bible. He had some years previous to this attended an evangelistic service at which he professedly gave himself to the Lord. The Word of God appealed to him as being absolutely true and binding on men.

It seemed to be the right thing to do to explain the verse in detail to our friend, and so I reminded him that the man who enlists in the army gives himself fully to his government. The man who marries a wife gives himself fully to her. That one who gives himself to his employer does so without reservation. So those who trust Jesus Christ give themselves to God the Father, they yield obedience to the Holy Spirit, with no mortgage on themselves.

He answered rather emphatically, "I know that all this is true. I have been fighting it in my own conscience, and have really been trying to run away from God. I am glad you fellows came after me. I want you to help me to get back to God."

We could see that he meant this with his whole heart, and so we prayed together behind the barn, and committed him to the care of the great Shepherd of the sheep, and to the ministry of the Holy Spirit through His Word. Mr. Lee was in the church the following Sunday and has since become an elder in the church, and an example to God's people of a devoted follower of the Saviour.

~ end of chapter 20 ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>
