

# **DR. WILSON'S STORIES OF SOUL-WINNING**

by

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## **CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE**

### **THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER NEARLY MISSED IT**

A union service was being held in the old brick church in Southern Springs, a small southern village where the folks made their living largely by entertaining tourists and those who came for the benefit of the waters. Several churches joined together in this effort for our Lord. I had the privilege of bringing the addresses, morning and evening, in the central church, and the meetings were well attended by the various pastors and the members of their flock. The morning services were for teaching the Christians, and the evening services were for soul-winning messages.

Because of the fine attendance Sunday morning of those who were not church members, I decided to use a gospel message instead of a teaching message. The portion chosen for the sermon was Luke 16, beginning at verse 19, where we read the story of Lazarus, the beggar, and the wealthy man who was lost.

In this story, I called attention to the fact that no good actions were recorded about Lazarus, and no bad actions in regard to the rich man. The case was one of character, and not of conduct. The story reveals that which happens after death. I explained to the audience that because of who he was, Lazarus went to be with Abraham, who was with God. The rich man because of who he was descended into hell immediately after death. Lazarus was a believer in God, as Abraham was.

The rich man rejected the Word of God, and had no interest in God's claims. The story reveals that there is not a second chance to be saved after death. We also learn from the passage that there is a life after death, and there is a place of bliss and comfort, as well as a place of sorrow and suffering. The Saviour reveals to us also that we will know each other after death, but will not be able to extend any help of any kind to those who die unsaved.

The audience was very attentive. They listened eagerly, and evidently were applying the message to their own hearts. An invitation was extended for those who would like to be saved to make their way to the platform where there was a place to kneel and pray. I saw in the audience one pastor whom I knew more intimately than the others, and I called on him to come and help the daughter of the mayor of the city as she knelt at the platform. Quite a few others had come also, for her example had encouraged others to seek the Lord.

This servant of God did come with his Bible and kneeled beside Miss Betty to read to her the Word of God. I could hear what he was saying to this young lady, and was surprised to notice that he was reading to her passages that referred only to Christians. The verses he used had no gospel in them, but did have very sweet comfort for sorrowing saints. While he was trying to help her, I was busy helping others who had come forward.

After some minutes, my pastor friend came to me and said, "This young lady has some sin in her life which she is not willing to give up. She will not tell me what it is, and so I suggest that you have someone else talk with her."

Of course, I knew her trouble, for she had not been given the way of salvation, nor had my brother explained to her the Person and the work of the Lord Jesus. I went right to her and laid my open Bible on the railing in front of her, and had her read John 1:12: "**But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them who believe on His Name.**"

I did not explain the verse to her, but said, "Put your finger on this verse, Miss Betty, read it slowly, carefully and prayerfully at least twenty times. When you have finished reading it twenty times, I will be glad to come and help you understand the verse."

I left her with the passage before her, and went away to help others. Of course, I kept watching her to see what evidence there might be in her countenance as she read the passage. It was only a few moments until I saw the light of heaven shine in her face, and I knew that something had happened. Immediately I went to her, and she exclaimed with joy, "I have taken Him; I see that He came to save me, and God gave Him to me. I have never known that before."

Tears of joy filled her eyes as she hurried away to tell her father and mother that Christ Jesus had saved her, and blotted out her sins. This example of her conversion had a blessed effect upon many in that city, and she began to "blaze it abroad." Her life was changed and she became a missionary to those around her as she told of the saving grace of God.

~ end of chapter 23 ~

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