

The Romance of the Doctor's Visits

by Dr. Walter L. Wilson

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JACK WAS SAVED BUT DIED

Outdoor shows are divided roughly into Circuses, Tent Dramatic Shows, Carnivals and Rides. Many excellent people are found in these various enterprises -- men and women who would be saved if someone cared for their souls. Usually, Christians do not attempt to reach these people with the Gospel. Because of the worldly character of the amusement business, Christians give both it and them a wide berth. Very few really care for the souls of show-folk.

Jack was in the show business. He owned four dramatic shows, travelling through the states of the middle west. He was known as a "clean" showman. He did not use tobacco, nor did he ever swear or take the name of the Lord in vain. He had a reputation of being unusually kind to His employees and absolutely honest with the patrons who attended his shows. No lewd performance was permitted by him, nor suggestive jokes. Jack took special pride in the high caliber of his actors and the attractive plays which he produced.

One day Jack found it necessary to come to my office on business. A friendship began that day which lasted until Jack died. After transacting our business affairs, I talked with him about the Lord JESUS. He was quick to tell me how clean his business was and how good his own life was. I congratulated him on this, but assured him that it would not save his soul, nor put away a single sin.

"Jack," I said, "although you do not have as many sins as others, you have some, and those you have will shut you out of Heaven and will send you to the lake of fire. I like your honesty; I believe you have a true heart. Do let me tell you that the Lord JESUS came to save you and to make you a true Christian. Only CHRIST can give you eternal life. Only He can blot out your sins. He alone can bring you to GOD in peace."

I gave Jack some Gospel tracts to read and he promised to return. Our business together made it necessary for him to return rather often for a while.

After several visits together, and these were two or three weeks apart, Jack entered the office one day to tell me that he was leaving the city. "I have four shows out," he said, "and they are scattered around in four states. I find it necessary to visit each one of them and check them up. I probably will not get back for two or three months, for I shall stay a while on each show and see how they are being handled."

I had bought a little New Testament to give to my friend. It was beautifully bound. Some of the principal Gospel verses I had marked with a lead pencil, and had slipped bits of paper in between

the leaves, so that Jack could easily find these particular portions. Handing it to my friend, I said, "Jack, I want to present to you this lovely little Testament. You will find in its pages the story I have been telling you during our visits. Before you go I would like to read with you John 3:16."

Opening to the passage, I read it slowly and distinctly -- "**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**" Jack listened with respectful attention. Taking him by the hand, I said, "Jack, CHRIST JESUS wants you. He is today sitting at GOD's right hand waiting to save you, to forgive you, and to make you a true child of GOD. Will you accept Him today before you leave?"

He pressed my hand firmly, and said "I will take Him, doctor; I need Him. I know there are sins in my life, and I know that I am not a Christian."

"Thank you, Jack," I said; "there is joy in Heaven over your decision and I know you have received a welcome, for He said, **"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out"** (John 6:37).

After a few more quotations, I bade my friend good-bye, and said, "I do not know, Jack, that you will ever return. Life is full of accidents, as you know; but I shall have the joy of knowing that you have trusted the Saviour and that we shall be together throughout eternity. Good-bye."

A week or ten days had passed, when a letter was received from a minister in Louisiana. The news it contained was a shock to my heart. The story was that Jack was riding along on the train in a Pullman berth. A flood had loosened the supports under the trestle, so that when the train struck it the trestle gave away, and the cars were piled up in the river and on the bank. The car in which Jack was sleeping was crushed in such a way that Jack's legs were pinned in between the slashed woodwork and he could not move. The car caught fire at the opposite end from the one in which Jack was held fast. The loud noise of the accident aroused the people in the village nearby, and among those who rushed to the scene to give aid and relief was this minister. He hurried along among the cars of the wreckage, when his attention was attracted by the cries of a man caught in the burning car. He hurried to the window, broke the glass and saw my friend pinned in the bed helpless. Jack was lying there with my little Testament in his hand reading John 3:16. He had gone to sleep with it during the night and still had it when he was aroused by the wreck. The pastor saw that there was no way to deliver him and at once asked him if he knew the Lord.

"Yes," he said, "CHRIST JESUS saved me ten days ago in the office of my friend in Kansas City. Here is the Testament he gave me. I shall soon be burned to death by this fire. I want you to take the Testament and send word to my friend that Jack died trusting in JESUS CHRIST. You may keep the Testament for your trouble, but be sure to send word to the doctor. He will be glad to know."

Jack did die that morning. Frantic efforts were made to save him, but the fire spread too rapidly, and he was caught too firmly beneath the wreck. Jack died but he was saved, saved just in time. Friend, will you be caught unprepared and die lost? Or, will you accept JESUS CHRIST as your Lord and Saviour just now and die saved?