

THE STORY OF A MODERN MISSIONARY TO AN ANCIENT PEOPLE

by

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CHAPTER FOUR

THE LORD'S TRIUMPH

The hall was packed and in the middle was a small table at which the rabbi and myself were seated. He began by hurling at me his fiery darts in the shape of hard, puzzling questions and with great triumph ended the first question, turning to the people all around and showing his ability in argument, and that it was a foregone conclusion that this apostate could never answer him.

But trusting in the Lord, I calmly and gently replied, so that disappointment was soon noticed upon his face. The answer was so direct that nearly everyone in the room could understand plainly.

The meeting lasted for two hours, the pride of the rabbi subsiding gradually with every answer to his questions until at last he had no more to ask. Then all went away, disappointed and discouraged, not being willing at the time to admit that this apostate was right in his belief in Jesus, the Messiah. Later on, some of them did acknowledge the truth as it is in Jesus.

A Distressing Silence

In the meantime, the silence of my dear wife caused me great pain.

Not knowing the reason why she did not answer my letters (which as I found afterwards, had not been delivered to her), I suspected that she had given me up as dead on account of my conversion. Although at the time of my baptism I decided to follow the Lord Jesus even at the cost of losing wife and children and everything dear to me in the world, yet while the spirit was willing, the flesh became weak. Every day I looked for a letter from her and so she too was hoping to receive word from me, but both of us were greatly disappointed by hope deferred which made our hearts sick. When I found myself alone I would cry out "Rose darling, are you alive? Why don't you write to me how you are and how our little ones are getting on?"

There would come on me a spasm of terrible pain in the heart so that I thought I could not stand it. But the Lord Jesus to whom I carried all my woes was my strength. After a little talk with Him, my troubled heart was calmed and soothed. But my dear wife's suffering was worse as she did not have the comfort of a personal Saviour.

Communication Established

About the beginning of August, a number of personal Christian friends in Edinburgh began to pray earnestly for a reunion of my family.

Among the many friends the Lord gave me there, the most sympathetic and active, the most prayerful and Christlike, was Miss Catherine G. Douglas, Lord Douglas' daughter, blessed be her memory. As a result of concerted prayers, the Lord began to work mightily. Soon the thought came that something wrong must have been done to our mutual letters, so I cabled my wife and to my great joy received a reply and subsequently arranged a different town from which she should mail and receive letters from me.

Thus were the schemes of our blind enemies defeated and we began to write long and frequent letters. She told all about the news that had come from America, announcing my apostasy which some believed and others did not.

Mission work in that country is not known and no Jew has been converted to Christianity there. Besides, the Jews are superior to the so-called Christians there in civilization, in morality, in commerce and in politics, thus making it impossible to believe that a prominent Jew would stoop so low as to associate with such a degraded class of people. The reason that some believed the report concerning my conversion, was because it came from well-known Jews in America.

My wife could not believe such things and only asked me to tell her what made those Jews in America write such malicious letters about me. I wrote her that I talked too much about the Messiah, and when she came to me personally, I would tell her more fully.

I could not say that the report was true and that I had become a Christian, because in the sense of the word Christian as she knew it, it was not true, and would have killed her affection for me forever.

Thus, she began to think of coming to me. One day she went to a great rabbi, a miracle performer, and asked his advice. He told her not to believe the report but to go to me. Believing that the rabbi spoke through the Holy Spirit, she then and there decided to leave her country and relatives and join her husband in a strange place.

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