

The Romance of the Doctor's Visits

by Dr. Walter L. Wilson

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HIS ONLY "FORGOTTEN" SON

The HOLY SPIRIT wonderfully overrules mistakes when He is dealing with hearts and souls. This was remarkably demonstrated in a meeting which I held in southern Missouri.

At the close of the afternoon service, a young woman with her two children remained seated, waiting for someone to help her in her personal soul-problem. I approached her with the question: "Would you like some help from the Scriptures? Did you understand the message of the afternoon?"

"I would like to be helped," she said; "I remained for that purpose. I do not understand the Bible, and do not know how to be a Christian. Have you time to show me?"

This cordial invitation convinced me that the Lord was dealing with the heart of this young mother, so I sat down beside her with my Bible, and asked, "Is there any part of the Scripture that you can quote?"

"Yes," she said, "I can quote John 3:16, for I learned it in Sunday school."

"Do you understand the meaning of that precious verse?" I inquired.

"No, I really do not. Will you please explain it to me?"

"Yes," I replied, "if you will first quote it."

The quotation which she gave was as follows: **"For God so loved the world, that he gave His only 'forgotten' Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."**

Noticing that she had used the word "forgotten" instead of the word "begotten," I took advantage of the thought in the word, and said: "Do you know why GOD 'forgot' His Son?"

"No, I do not," she answered. "I have often wondered why."

"It was because the Lord wanted to remember you," I answered. "GOD in Heaven was willing to part with His Son for a little while, so that He might have you forever. He let His Son be enveloped in terrible darkness, so that He might give you a crown of light. He let JESUS die, so that He could give you eternal life. It was for you, my friend, that GOD 'forgot' His Son."

One could plainly observe that this answer had brought an entirely new thought to the mind and heart of this inquirer. She seemed puzzled for a while. The wonderful truth of the substitution of CHRIST for her seemed more than she could grasp or accept. We remained quiet for a little while, as she was thinking the matter through, and then she broke the silence by asking: "How do I know that He was doing that for me?"

This question puzzles many hearts. It is a stumbling block to many who attend revival meetings, who have their hearts stirred, and then fail to personally appropriate the Lord and Saviour for themselves. The devil usually suggests to the troubled heart that the gospel is for someone else, and that the Saviour is not particularly for him or her.

I replied to her inquiry by reading Romans 5:6 -- "**For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.**" "If you feel and realize that you are among the ungodly, then you may appropriate this remedy for yourself, just as you appropriated this seat for yourself when you entered the church. When you enter a drug store, you realize that the remedies there are for everyone; your own need leads you to take some of it for yourself. When you enter a grocery store, you realize that the food which is there is for everyone; but your hunger leads you to purchase some for yourself. At the street corner, you wait for the bus, realizing that the bus is for every one; but it will only take you down town if you appropriate the bus and a seat for yourself."

These illustrations seemed to clear up her question as to whether CHRIST was for her alone. I could see that the truth was dawning on her heart and that she was now ready to make Him her own.

"Have you ever noticed, my friend, that it takes two to make a gift?" I asked. "There must be the giver, and there must also be the one who accepts the gift. GOD has given His Son to you. Now he waits for you to receive His Son. Notice this verse: John 1:12 -- '**But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.**' He wants you to accept that blessed gift right now where you are sitting. When you take Him, He takes you; He becomes your Lord and Saviour, and you become His child and His servant."

Eagerly she leaned forward, and said, "Doctor, I will take Him; I want Him. I do take Him just now, and I am sure that He takes me."

The surge of the new-found joy overcame her composure, and she bent her head while she wept quietly a few moments in the presence of her Lord. Then we kneeled together as we poured out our hearts in thanksgiving to the GOD of Love who gave her everlasting life.

At the evening service she returned and brought her husband, who was an atheist, scoffer and an enemy of the truth. Her testimony to him, and the great change in her attitude toward him, had deeply impressed his heart, and so he came, willing to listen to the message himself.

You, too, will be a soul winner and a blessed example to others, if you will accept JESUS CHRIST and let Him be the Lord of your life and the Saviour of your soul.