

## The Romance of the Doctor's Visits

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### "GEE! WOULD YOU SAVE ME?"

Good language and poor language, smooth words and rough words, correct grammar and incorrect, all reach the ears of GOD. Some approach Him with culture and refinement, the evident marks of education. Others are uncouth in their manner and illiterate in their conversation. All of these, however, find a quick response from the Saviour, when once they seek His face and kneel at His feet as suppliants for mercy.

It was my privilege to visit a sanitarium in the West recently, wherein were a number of unhappy hearts in distress of soul. One of these was the secretary to the Chief of staff. She related a very sad story concerning the suicide of her father. She had been a careless girl, giving little attention to religious matters and had occupied herself with the work in the hospital. It was a joy to my heart to bring before her the invitation of Isaiah 53:1, 3-- **"Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. . . . Incline your ear, and come unto me; hear, and your soul shall live."**

The secretary turned from her typewriter and listened closely to the explanation of this passage of Scripture. It was a call to her own heart, for she had been wondering where her father had gone. Her soul was perplexed about her own future, and whether she would ever see her father again. She had avoided meeting with ministers, for religion had been distasteful to her; but she did, however, want the peace of mind and rest of heart which she knew could only be found in the faith of JESUS CHRIST.

As she spoke to me of her dislike for religion, I explained that I would not bring any matter of religion before her, but did wish to tell her of a Saviour and a burden bearer. **"The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world"** (I John 4:14), "He it is who is calling you to come to Him and find that which will satisfy the hunger and thirst of your heart."

Some hope had been aroused in her heart by the word "come." She had not thought before that the Lord wanted her, or that the Lord would give her the blessing that her heart desired.

"I am a sinner," she confessed; "how can I come? He will only accept good people; He does not want sinners."

"Yes, He does want sinners," I assured her, **"for He said, 'I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance'** (Mark 2:17). Even the enemies of CHRIST said: **"This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them"** (Luke 15:2). He wants you to come to Him just as you are. Do

not the patients come to this hospital just as they are? Do they wait until they feel better, or until they are on the road to recovery before they consult the doctor?"

"Certainly not," she replied. "The worse the disease, the more quickly they come."

This argument was so plain and the logic so reasonable, that Mrs. W-- was moved at once to take JESUS CHRIST for herself. She bowed her head over the typewriter weeping, and at once accepted the Saviour and gave herself unreservedly to Him. We were alone in the office, and therefore I suggested that we pray together and thank the Lord JESUS CHRIST for His saving power and His wonderful welcome for another sinner. My friend did so, pouring out her heart in gratitude to CHRIST.

Just as we closed our prayer, the doctor arrived and took me away to show me through the building, and to introduce me to some of his patients. As I left the office, George, the young man who had charge of the mail and other activities about the sanitarium, entered the office for instructions and to obtain the outgoing mail. I did not see Mrs. W-- again until late in the evening, when she informed me that she had told George of the wonderful experience which had been hers that day. He could easily see the joy that had come into her life and the confidence with which she spoke about the Saviour.

"I believe that George would like to have you talk to him about his soul," she said to me, "but he is afraid to tell you. Can you not make it easy for him to approach you on the subject? He needs the Saviour just as I did."

Of course this was good news to me, and so I sought for him in the building, but found he had gone to the city for supplies some miles away.

That evening, I retired early in the room assigned me, for I was weary with the long drive which I had made in the morning. As I was making preparations to retire, there came a knock at the door. Upon opening it, I saw my friend, George, standing there with his hat in his hand, seeking an interview. I invited him into the room, and said: "George, what is on your heart tonight? Let me help you with it."

This young man had been deprived of the benefits of a good education. His language was quite typical of the back woods. He used many slang expressions and words that we could not ordinarily use in our daily conversation. The reply he made to my inquiry was typical of his manner of life.

"Gee, doctor, I'm sure glad that you asked me in, 'cause I believe I need JESUS. I've been a terrible wicked boy, and never did nothin' for GOD or religion. Gee! I wonder if JESUS would save me?"

"What kind of patients does Dr. Shanklin take in this hospital?" I inquired.

"Why, anybody that comes," he answered. "We don't care how bad they be in here; we take 'em all, and I tell ya, doc, they sure get well when they come here."

"I am glad to hear that, George; I felt that it was so, for I have only heart good reports of the

work of the surgeons in this place. Why not apply the same rule to your own self? You say you are very bad, and no doubt you are; but CHRIST JESUS came to save very wicked people. The worse the case, the more glory the Saviour gets when He saves that one."

"Gee! That's wonderful," he exclaimed. "Gee! I wonder if He would take me and make me a Christian? Gee! doc, I've sure been a bad one, but I sure don't want to go to hell. Gee! I wish I was saved."

His was a very real and deep interest. Although his language was so peculiar, his heart was ready for business. He really wanted peace in his soul. We knelt together beside my bed, opened the Bible, and I read I Timothy 1:15 these words: "**This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.**"

"Gee! how can he be the chief when I'm so bad? Was he worse than me? If JESUS could save him, sure He can save me."

"Well, let us read what the Scripture says about it, George. Put your finger on this verse again. Does it not say that He came to save sinners? That includes all kinds of sinners, just as the doctor takes all kinds of cases. Do the patients who come here help the doctor to operate on themselves?"

"No, sir, they do not," he answered quite emphatically. "Sometimes they try to help the doctor, so he gives 'em chloroform and puts 'em to sleep, so they can't help him."

"George," I answered, "that is just like the Lord JESUS, He wants to save you tonight all by Himself. Your case is a bad one, your sins are many, your guilt is written against you in Heaven, but CHRIST has come to save you from it all."

I urged George as we knelt together to believe GOD's Word. I pointed out to him from Isaiah 53:5, that the Saviour had come to be punished for his sake and for his sins.

"If you will tell Him just now that you believe in Him, and will trust Him with your soul, you will become His patient at once and He will save you from your sins."

"Gee! I wish He would," he said. "Do you think He would listen to a sinner like me? Gee! I'm bad."

"Yes, He will hear you, George. Will you tell Him right now that you want Him and that you trust Him with your soul?"

He did not answer my question at once, but after remaining silent a few moments, he said: "Gee! JESUS, I'm coming to you right now. I'm awful bad and you ought to kick me out; but gee! I believe what the Bible says about you, that you take in sinners and forgive 'em and same 'em, and here I am, JESUS; will you save me?"

I whispered quietly in his ear: "Yes, He will save you, George, right now, if you will tell Him that you take Him and that you turn yourself and your sins over to Him."

He responded to this invitation and again said: "JESUS, would you save me if I would trust you? Gee! would you save me? I believe you will. I'll trust you. I believe you will save me right now, and gee! I thank you for it."

He remained bowed in silence for a few moments, and then turning to me, he said: "Gee! what wonderful peace I have in my heart. I believe all my sins are taken away. Gee! but I feel happy. Won't Mrs. W-- be glad when I tell her? Gee! I'll sure be glad to tell her, too."

He left me to go to his own room with a happy heart, while I knelt with deep thanksgiving because my Lord had found two more hearts in that sanitarium to worship Him.

You may come with any language -- just in your own words, and tell the Saviour that you want Him, that you take Him, that you trust Him, and then believe that He takes you. GOD bless you!

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