

The Romance of the Doctor's Visits

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A GIANT LEARNED WHAT LOVE IS

A very tall young man worked in the shops in the city of P--. He was a giant. He stood head and shoulders above all his fellows, was splendidly formed, and had a handsome appearance. His friends loved him. He was kind and gentle in his actions and life, but he was an unbeliever. He seemed to take great delight in finding fault with GOD. Those who knew him best and loved him most were Christian friends. His attitude toward the Lord was a burden on their hearts. Often they prayed for his conversion.

Mr. H--, our young giant friend, rarely entered the doors of a church. He had no interest in religion, except to make it the butt of his jokes. He was a well educated boy and had learned many clever arguments against Christianity and in favor of his atheism.

It happened to be my lot, through the kindness of the Lord, to spend a Sunday in this city of P--, and was requested to give a message Sunday evening in the church where the friends of the giant attended. Word was sent to Mr. H-- that a physician would give a message on "The Love of GOD," and he was requested to attend. To the great surprise of those who asked him, he readily consented, feeling that he would rather listen to a doctor than to a preacher.

The presence of this friend and his attitude of mind were unknown to me at the time, but the HOLY SPIRIT knew and led me to select for my text I John 4:16 -- "**God is love.**" The subject interested Mr. H-- very much, for he had often said that if GOD is love then there could be no hell, nor will a GOD of love ever punish sinful men. He could not reconcile the love of GOD with the judgments of GOD and therefore rejected both.

The subject was developed along a threefold line: GOD's love for His Son, His love for the Christians, and His love for the lost world. I sought to show that if GOD loved His Son, then He must punish the enemies of His Son; and the punishment that GOD would give the enemies of CHRIST would prove conclusively the love of GOD for His Son. I used an incident that occurred in another city to illustrate the point.

A prominent business man in that city had turned his back on the faith of his fathers and embraced the atheistic position that a loving GOD will not punish sinners. Hearing of this decision, I went to the office of my friend and said to him, "J--, you have a little daughter, have you not?"

"Yes," he said, "and I love her dearly."

"How old is she now?" I inquired.

"Just twelve," he answered.

"Do you love her, J--?"

"Do I?" he said, "I live for her. My life is planned for her enjoyment."

"Well, J--," I said, "suppose when you go home tonight you find a brute of a man with your little girl among the trees surrounding your home. He is beating her, attacking her, crushing her very life out. Suppose I am watching you to see what you will do. How can you best prove to me that you love your little daughter?"

I saw J--'s face redden; his lips tightened; his teeth were grinding together; his fists were clenched; rage was in his eyes.

"Walter," he said, "that man wouldn't need an undertaker when I got through with him. I would tear him to pieces."

I could see his deep emotion; my point had been gained.

"Jim--," I said, looking him right in the eye, "what makes you think that the GOD who loves His own Son will not punish terribly those who hate His Son and speak evil of Him?"

"Thank you, Walter," he said, "I see how foolish I have been. I will burn that literature tonight in my furnace and return to the faith of my mother."

As I told the story in the pulpit at P--, the giant leaned forward, gazing intently and listening with all his powers. It was a new thought to him that justice and judgment proved love. I continued with the sermon and asked, "How can GOD better show His love for the Christians than by separating them forever from those who hate them, and by judging and punishing those who have persecuted and injured the people of GOD? GOD will separate them as the sheep from the goats, as the tares from the wheat, as the leaven from the meal, as the false from the true. He will certainly punish the enemies of His dear people."

"GOD has said that He loves the world. He will prove that love by giving them what they want. Their desire is to shut out GOD. They want the blessings of GOD but not the person of GOD. They want the gifts of the Lord but not the presence of the Lord. Since they want to get rid of GOD, He can do nothing else than to send them into the outer darkness where neither He nor His blessings can be reached. The ungodly would be wretched and miserable if they were taken to Heaven; therefore, GOD will send them away where there is no Heaven."

The sermon was concluded. Our giant friend made for the door and hurried home. He did not want to talk with anyone; he did not wish to visit. He slipped away to his room and there during the hours of night, he cried to GOD for mercy. There alone he accepted the Saviour.

The following morning found Mr. H-- at the phone calling up his friends. "I believe that GOD is love," he said. "I know He is, and instead of sending me to hell, He sent His Son to save me."

GOD is right and I was wrong. Oh, how good He has been to accept me, when I was His enemy, and to save my soul! I am anxious to see you and to tell you all about it."

The giant became small; his pride was humbled; his self-sufficiency was brought down. He fell at the feet of JESUS CHRIST and became a lowly servant in the Master's service.

Perhaps you who read this story may have the same hallucination from Satan about GOD's judgments. Let reason prevail in your mind. Do you not see that love defends the one loved by judgment, and that GOD's love is expressed in the giving of His Son and in His judgment of sin?
