

DR. WILSON'S STORIES OF SOUL-WINNING

by

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CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE QUESTION OF THE ENGINEER WAS ANSWERED

A telephone call was received in my office by my secretary. The gentleman calling requested an interview with the doctor. After consulting the schedule, the doctor informed his secretary to tell the gentleman that he could call the next day at 1:00 o'clock. The friend came, according to the arrangement, and I found myself face to face with a very fine-looking young man who apparently was quite disturbed in his mind about some important matter.

He introduced himself by saying, "I am Mr. F____ I am engaged as a tool and die engineer, and have a splendid position. I have been distressed, however, as to whether I am engaged in the right business. I like my work very much. I have a mind that loves mechanics, and am succeeding at my work. There is, however, a strong urge in my mind to enter the Christian ministry. I have tried to shake it off. I have tried to think that it is just a spirit of unrest of some kind, and yet the idea persists that I should be a preacher. I expressed my desire to my mother, and she suggested that I interview one or more preachers and get their opinion of the course I should pursue. She gave me the names of three preachers that she thought would give me good counsel. The first one I called was too busy to see me, and I could not make a date with him. The second one I called was out of the city. You are the third one on the list, and I am glad to find you willing to listen to my story."

While Mr. F____ was giving me this information I was watching him closely to see whether this was a passing fancy, or whether the conviction had really taken hold of his heart. It did not take long to see that he was intensely in earnest. I said to him, "Do you really want to be a preacher?"

He answered firmly, "Yes, I do. I think I could influence people to be good, and I believe that I would be a blessing to the community by my Christian activities."

I replied, "Mr. F____ let me inquire whether you want to be a saved preacher, or a lost preacher. Do you want to help the people to be good, as a means of happiness and salvation, or do you really want to know your Bible and your Saviour, so that you can win people for Christ, and talk to them intelligently about God?"

It was easy to see that he was quite surprised at my question. He expressed this by his answer. He said, "I do not really understand what you mean by being saved or lost. I have never lived a wicked life, and I am a member in good standing of church here in the city. I teach a class of boys, and sponsor one of the young people's groups in my church. The pastor thinks I am quite a valuable member of his congregation. Is that not enough to answer your question?"

The reply made by Mr. F_____ revealed his ignorance of God's Word and of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. He, like so many others, had the idea that religious exercises, and association with Christians established relationship with God. He had not been sitting under the teaching of a man of God who himself was born again.

I said to him, "Mr. F_____, what would you say to a person who wanted to be saved and become a Christian? What do you tell the boys in your class? How do you instruct the young people with whom you work?"

He answered, "I tell them to be good, to come to church, to read their Bibles, to obey their parents, and to be honest in all their dealings."

He made this statement to me confident that he was doing the right thing. I could see that he was satisfied with his program, and yet wanted a more intelligent approach to these young people, and wanted a wider sphere of service in which his whole time would be devoted to church life.

My next question was more personal, as I asked, "Mr. F_____, why do you wish to go into the ministry?"

He answered quickly, "I want to be of greater service to more people, and I want to learn how to study the Bible, and how to understand it, so that I can really preach with conviction and see people become Christians."

"That is a splendid desire that you have," I said, "and I commend you for it. However, you will need to know how to be saved yourself before you can tell another how to be saved. When did you meet the Lord Jesus; when did He give you eternal life; and when did you realize that you had passed out of death into life? Tell me the story of your conversion."

My friend was quite perplexed by that question, and did not know how to answer. I was surprised to see tears appear in his eyes, and this made it clear that he was deeply in earnest about his own personal condition. I felt that now it was time to change the subject from preaching to his personal salvation.

Mr. F_____ was sitting across from me at my desk, with his elbows on top, and his face in his hands. The tears by this time were flowing rather freely. He was not looking at me, but was engaged in thought as he searched his own heart to see what was wrong there. I then asked Mr. F_____ if he knew any verse in the Bible. He replied that he had learned a verse some years before, but did not altogether understand it. "Tell me the verse, Mr. F_____, and perhaps I can explain it to you."

He quoted John 3:16 clearly 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.”**

Then looking him right in the face, I said, “Mr. F____, who did God give Jesus Christ to? God had to give Him to some person. He could not give Him to animals, or trees, or mountains. God gave His Son, the Saviour, to some person to save him. Who do you think it might be?”

He did not reply at once, and then said, “I do not know who God gave Him to.”

“Do you think, Mr. F____, that God might have given the Lord Jesus to George Washington or to Abraham Lincoln, or to the Queen of England?”

“Yes,” he replied, “no doubt He did.”

“Very well,” I said, “I have named three persons that perhaps God gave His Son to; now you tell me one person to whom you think God might have given His Son.”

No answer came at once from my friend. He thought for quite a few minutes silently, weeping. Suddenly he looked up at me and said, “Doctor, God gave Jesus Christ to me, He is mine. I have taken Him just now.”

He was unable to speak for a while, his heart was too full, the tears were flowing too freely. He was overwhelmed with the truth that God had given Jesus Christ to him to save his soul. He was filled with the joy of it. He cried and laughed at the same time. Just at this juncture, my Associate Pastor entered the room, and I introduced him to his new brother. Mr. F____ made reply. “Jesus Christ is mine; He took me today, and I took Him. We belong to each other. I never realized before that God had given Jesus to me.”

As we left my office, and entered the outer office, he greeted my secretary and with deep emotion, “Lady, I met God today; I never knew God before; He gave me Jesus Christ today; He saved me today; I am His child.”

He then made his way to the outer door and stood in the doorway silently weeping, with his face in his hands. He was really speechless with the joy of it. He walked slowly down the steps to the sidewalk and across the church yard to his car. He carried the message back to his church, and his classes, and became at once a very blessed and successful soul winner. He is now preparing for the ministry, studying the Word of God and practicing what he finds in that blessed Book.

~ end of chapter 11 ~

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