

A CHAPTER FROM THE LIFE OF REV.
JOHN WESLEY

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"It shall be seen to, good people. The king will not have the honest folk served so," replied the dignitary. "Go home! go home! and wait until we are able to do what is fitting."

But upon their return journey a fresh mob assaulted the company. A fierce encounter now ensued, in which Wesley was pulled about and roughly handled.

"Knock his brains out! Down with him! Kill him at once!" cried some.

At length he found shelter; after being for five hours in the hands of the unruly savages who raged for his blood like wild beasts.

Several times a man struck at him with a large oaken stick; but without harming him. Another lifted his hand to give Wesley a blow, but for some, to him, inexplicable reason altered his mind, and stroked Wesley's head saying, "What soft hair he has!"

"What looked you for?" asked Wesley of one of his companions, when speaking of their recent ill-treatment.

"To die for Him who died for us," replied the other.

"So did I," answered Wesley. "But God has spared us. Let us seek the salvation of the men who are raging for our blood! Let us pray!"

Upon the floor of the house in which they had taken refuge the two knelt and prayed Stephen like for those who sinned ignorantly, not knowing what they did.

Like scenes were enacted in every place; for the devil, before he went out, did all the injury possible.

Yet, through all opposition and suffering, Wesley preserved his gentle, calm demeanor, and often, by his tact and tenderness, disarmed his enemies. A great love for sinners inspired and sustained him, and, to the glory of God, he found that the world had become his parish.

THE GAZE OF THE QUESTIONER.

"They shall inquire concerning Zion with their faces thitherwards. Jer. 50:5.

The trouble is that so many people inquire about a thing while their faces are set upon something else. They ask about one way but they are looking another. They are interested in theology but not in religion. They will engage in ecclesiastical controversy, but they will not surrender themselves as vital members of the Church of Christ. They will discuss the psychology of conversion, but they will not turn their feet toward home and seek the Lord with all their minds and hearts. They will study the map, but they have no intention of making the journey. They will read the Guide-book, but they are not like travellers whose faces are steadily set to go to Jerusalem. They inquire concerning Zion, but their faces do witness against them.

Now that kind of inquiring is fruitless. What is the good of asking questions in one direction while the soul is looking another? For one thing, such a soul does not bring the needful equipment for the

apprehension of the truth. A mere curious spirit can never know the secrets of the Lord. It is one of the conditions of spiritual discovery that the entire strength of mind and heart be brought to the exploration, and that we ask, and seek, and batter away at the closed doors until they open, and we pass from room to room in the ever-brightening rooms of the temple of truth, which is the home of our God. The secret of the Lord is not revealed to a mere debating society; it is unveiled in the holy place where we have built an altar and offered our entire being in holy sacrifice. The man who is only curious is turned empty away. The seriousness or flippancy of our questions will be seen in the fixed direction of our gaze. Are our faces thitherward?

Every minister is acquainted with the talking inquirers whose souls are looking another way. They will discuss the atonement by the hour, but if we ask, "Do you desire to have your sins forgiven, and to become a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ?"—we speedily find that their faces are not thitherward. They will question through a long night, even to the cock-crow, about the divinity of our Lord, but if we ask them if they are ready to cast their crowns at his feet, we see at a glance that their faces are not thitherward. And therefore all such questioning is a waste of time, for it wastes the powers of the soul in a semblance of earnestness which is only an unreal and painted fire. If there is ever to be a revelation and revolution the asking must be backed by that eager and determined gazing which is the primary secret of triumphant prayer. —J. H. Jowett.

SECRET PRAYER.

A blessed boon the Heart of Heaven
To my unworthy soul has given,
That I may at a throne of prayer,
Find help, for every cross I bear.

The road, sometimes seems dark to me
The pathway dim, I cannot see;
But this I know, if I will pray,
He'll give me strength, for every day.

Then every sorrow, every care,
I'll take to Him and He will share;
And give me grace to forward go,
And lead in paths I did not know.

Sometimes in heart communion sweet
I sit in silence, at His feet,
When faintest whispers seem to mar,
The sacred sweetness of the hour.

Alone with Christ, the world shut out;
His wondrous love dispels each doubt;
Solace for sorrow; rest from care,
Attend my heart, in secret prayer.

—Selected.

Do you know the way to God so well
that you can show it to some one else and
send him away rejoicing? Philip did.
What use in life is so well worth while
as showing a wanderer God's road?—M.D.
Babcock.

"Laying the ax to the branches instead
of 'the root of the tree,' will not keep new
ones from sprouting."

RESTITUTION.

Billy Sunday tells the following story of restitution:

"One day I went to the bank with my check for a month's pay. A man ahead of me tossed a check through the window to the teller and I threw mine in. I received my money and walked out to the street, where I counted it. I found I had \$40 instead of \$25. I told a friend about it. 'Bill,' he said, 'if I had your luck I'd buy a lottery ticket.' I wanted to return the extra money, but my friend said no.

"'Buy a suit of clothes, and you will still have the \$25.' So I did. But years later I was convicted of sin, and when I was praying the Lord told me about the money I owed the bank.

"'But, Lord, the bank doesn't know I owe it,' I said.

"'No,' replied the Lord, 'but you know you owe it.'

"'Right there I began a struggle to be a man or a fool. Every time I'd pray I'd see that \$15 and interest. So I sent the bank a check and explained, and ever since I have felt all right. You owe some merchant a bill. Pay up; don't be a deadbeat.'

No man can be right with God and false to a fellow man. Lots of people get under conviction in Revivals.

Throughout the year, why not keep sweet? No frown ever made a heart glad; no complaint ever made a dark day bright; no bitter word ever lightened a burden or made a rough road smooth; no grumbling ever introduced sunshine into a home. What the world needs is the resolute step, the look of cheer, the smiling countenance, and the kindly word. —Keep sweet! —George L. Perin.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From an aged Sister to the Household of Faith—Greeting in Jesus' Name.

Sixty years ago today God legally adopted me into his family as one of his heirs, sealed the covenant with the precious blood of Jesus. The same day later on gave me the witness of the Spirit. "After that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise."

At times the sailing has been somewhat rough, the captain of our salvation was at the helm, saying, be of good courage, have faith in God and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the wind blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock. Hallelujah!

"No friend like the meek and lowly Jesus, no not one, no not one." Ever mindful of us, "Jesus the same yesterday and today

"All may change but Jesus never." Soon we must change our place, yet we will never cease. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Praise his name! I am in my 80th year. A reader of the Highway and look forward to its coming.

"God does not sanctify us in the sense of devoting us to His service, but He cleanses us from all sin that we may have something worthy of being devoted to Him. He does the cleansing and we do the consecrating."