

# The King's Highway.

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness.

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness.—Isa. 35-8

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## TRAGEDY OF DOUBT

(Rev. C. F. Wimberly, D.D. Broadcasted from WLW, Cincinnati, Ohio)

Lesson: John 14:1-13.

It has been said that Shakespeare created the greatest villain in literature in the person of Iago. In the tragedy of Othello, the base treachery and inhuman cruelty are portrayed. He looked upon the beautiful and happy romance of Othello and Desdemona, and his evil soul quietly, but diligently, sought their ruin. At no time did he speak of Desdemona's infidelity to her husband, but by suggestion he planted a seed of doubt in Othello's heart. How did he do it? Very cautiously, and with a show of seriousness would say, "Watch Cassio." Oh, the power of suggestion! Every opportunity—"Watch Cassio." The arched eyebrow, the shrug of shoulders, may often carry more weight than spoken words. The seed of doubt germinated rapidly in the troubled man's heart, until the green monster of jealousy drove him to a maniac, and the climax was reached when the enraged husband strangled his beautiful, virtuous wife to death in her bed-chamber.

The Bible clothes its messages in the most beautiful figures and parables. The Kingdom is like a marriage—a wedding. Nothing in all the world is so attractive as the marriage ceremony—when two happy young hearts are united at the sacred altar as one in the divine passion of romance. Our relation to Jesus Christ is that of a divine romance; he and the church are united as husband and wife. He is the Bridegroom of the soul; those who are his by faith in his precious blood are called the Bride. The church is the "Lamb's Wife," declared so, as she prepares herself for "the marriage supper of the Lamb." I repeat, the soul's relation to our Divine Lord is that of a love affair; it becomes so through faith in his substitutionary death on the cross for us. It begins by faith, and the word declares "the just shall live by faith," and "without faith it is impossible to please God."

It is evident that, in exactly the same manner, human romances, if they reach the happy consummation of marriage and home, are impossible without faith. Faith is the golden cord that unites the hearts in love, and the beautiful relationship of marriage and home must live by faith. For this there is no duplicate. The moment faith is shattered, all happiness is wrecked. The husband cannot atone by smiles and costly gifts, once the wife doubts his fidelity, and

*vice versa.* Making the home attractive, delicately prepared meals, cannot erase the seed of doubt that is growing in the companion's heart.

Now what do we have in all this faith superstructure called our religion—God, Christ, Heaven, Hell, Eternity, Rewards and Punishments? Upon what is it all based? How do we know that it is real? We build churches, support the institutions of righteousness, and we do it gladly, and with the whole heart, or we should. Why do we all these things? Christ lived nearly two thousand years ago, and what evidence have we that the things we believe are not all a myth? The foundation of it all is the Record we have—the precious Bible; when the Bible as God's revealed message is destroyed, or even weakened, doubts at once arise. Think of the wrong one might easily commit against the home of any one by evil suggestion touching the loyalty or chastity of the one you love. It would bury the



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happiness in that home forever. One vile enough to do such a thing would do that home an irreparable wrong.

In exactly the same way, whoever by inference, suggestion, or doubtful look, implies that our Record is not authentic, or it doubtful, has done the soul faith of those affected a wrong that cannot be redeemed in time or eternity. When we are dealing in things that pertain to our faith in God, we are on holy ground. Woe be to any one, whether he stand in the sacred desk in God's church, or in the intellectual sanctum teaching of the plastic minds of youth, whoever, or wherever, by word, or cynical look, or a lofty attitude, casts a reflection on the founda-

tion of human faith, has wrought an evil comparable in comparison only to the villainy of Iago, the destroyer of Othello's happy home. Far greater is the sin, if it be directed against our faith, than against human relationship.

The Master has given out some very pointed and pertinent statements dealing with this proposition. "Whosoever shall offend one of these little ones (and this may not necessarily mean children) who believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone be tied about his neck and he be cast into the sea." Christ knew and said so, through His inspired apostles that, in the last days there would arise scoffers, walking after their own lusts. What comfort would there be in a message from an absent companion if there was doubt as to genuineness of its statement; such a letter would be empty mockery and, instead of giving joy, would add to the mental torture. Just so, our Bible must be God's revealed Word—His divinely inspired message—guarded and preserved through the centuries, for our every spiritual need, or else the whole religious scheme, the church's world-wide aspirations, are but a gigantic delusion, a humbug, a "pious fraud." But over against the skeptical views of many, using ruthlessly their scientific scalpel on the precious Word, our sure foundation, we read: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Tim. 3:16, 17). Again, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

We insist therefore that upon the veracity of our Record, rests the end of our spiritual ideals and dreams. The seed of doubt will destroy the relationship of human love; it will also undermine the settled faith and, with it the hopes of all who are seeking the ultimate of soul longings—"The city that hath foundation, whose builder and maker is God." Religion that is not supported by reason is in the crucible of unfriendly investigation. We must see, feel, taste and handle all truth. Not so with the romance of the soul; it is all predicated of faith in One, "Whom having not seen we love."

Domestic life faces no tragedy greater than destroyed faith; our religion may face the same tragedy—the tragedy of doubt. "He who steals my purse," says the great Shakespeare, "steals trash," but he who steals my good faith, steals away something that cannot be computed in earthly values, and something that cannot be restored. May I say this again with emphasis: Once our Bible becomes only a human book,

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Riverside Camp Meeting, Robinson, Me., Aug. 5-14, Rev. L. E. Williams, Wilmore, Ky., Evangelist