

## A SOUL'S TRAGEDY

My spirit shall not always strive with man (Gen. 6:3).

Richard Weaver tells how in the south of England he was holding an evangelistic campaign and a young school teacher became anxious about her soul's salvation. Worker after worker dealt with her in vain, and then Mr. Weaver himself tried to lead her to Christ. Tears flowed down her cheeks and deepening anxiety seemed to settle upon her as he pleaded, but there was no decision.

One night while sitting in his lodgings, a deep impression came upon Mr. Weaver that he should go once more to plead with this young woman. When he knocked at the door, her mother opened it, and said:

"Mr. Weaver, this is of God; I have been praying as Mary has been walking up and down the room crying with her anxiety, I have been praying God to send you or someone."

Mr. Weaver went in and pleaded and prayed until early morning.

At last the girl got up and said, "Now listen to me; I am determined that you will leave me alone."

Mr. Weaver said, "I opened my eyes with surprise; but she stood there as calm and unmoved as the moment before she had been deeply moved."

He said, "I never stopped to say 'Good-night;' just took my hat and went. I was in the presence of a soul's tragedy."

The next morning, when the girl came down to breakfast there were black lines under her eyes, and the mother said,

"Mary, why will you not settle it? You did not sleep any last night; I heard you tramping up and down your room."

She said, "Mother, how can a doomed soul sleep?"

"Oh, Mary, there is love, there is hope as long as there is life; do not break my heart by saying that!"

She said, "Mother, I have settled my destiny, this morning, when you and Mr. Weaver were on your knees, I settled it then."

They were sitting down at breakfast, and she was taking a piece of bread to her mouth; the mother saw the hand tremble and before she could get around the table to put her arms around her, she fell to the floor a lifeless corpse.

"My Spirit shall not always strive."

—Moody B. I. Monthly

## DELAYED, NOT DENIED

Delayed answers to prayer are not denials. A Christian woman received a letter from the late beloved Mother Ruth a few months before the latter went to her heavenly home, and after a message of spiritual guidance and comfort Mother Ruth added this postscript, "I am impressed to add this experience of a doctor I knew well. He said to me one day in church, 'Oh, what shall I do? My son and his family will not even come to church any more. The children will come to Sunday school with me sometimes. I have prayed so long and so much, that I can but wonder why God does not answer.' I said, 'Doctor, have you thanked God you are here to pray for them?' He answered, 'No, but I will.' He died a few months after that, and last Easter I saw those grandchildren come

into the church and make an open confession of their faith in Jesus Christ. Prayer was answered, and his privilege of seeing it before he went on denied, but God was faithful, and the salvation of the loved ones, the important answer, was granted."—Sunday School Times.

## THE ALWAYS FAITHFUL FEW

When the meeting's called to order and you look around the room,

You're sure to see some faces that from out the shadows loom;

They are always at the meeting and they stay until its through,

The ones that I would mention are the Always Faithful Few.

They fill the many offices and are always on the spot,

No matter what the weather, though it may be very hot,

It may be cold or rainy, but they are tried and true,

The ones you can rely on are the Always Faithful Few.

There are lots of worthy members, who come when in the mood,

When everything's convenient they can do a little good,

They're a factor in the meeting, and are necessary too,

But the ones who never fail us are the Always Faithful Few.

If it were not for these faithfuls, whose shoulders at the wheel,

Keep the institution moving, without a halt or keel,

What would be the fate of meetings where there is so much to do?

They surely would be failures, but for the Always Faithful Few. —Sel.

## JOINT-HEIRS WITH CHRIST

A dying judge, the day before his departure to be with Christ, said to his pastor, "Do you know enough about law to understand what is meant by joint-tenancy?"

"No," was the reply. "I know nothing about law. I know a little about grace, and that satisfies me."

"Well," he said, "if you and I were joint-tenants on a farm I could not say to you, 'That is your hill of corn, and this is mine; that is your stalk of wheat, and this is mine; that is your blade of grass, and this is mine;' but we would share and share alike in everything on the place. I have just been lying here, and thinking with unspeakable joy that Jesus Christ has nothing apart from me; that everything He has is mine, and we will share and share alike through all eternity."—Pentecostal Evangel.

"There are experiences . . . by which the faith of a Christian man is verified. Of these one of the most decisive and most wonderful is the consciousness that through Christ he has passed into the eternal and divine order. He is just as certain that he is environed by things unseen and eternal as that he is environed by things seen and temporal . . . He is conscious that that diviner region is now the native land of his soul."—R. W. Dale.

## POINTS FOR PREACHERS

The following was clipped from some preachers' magazine and is passed on to our preachers for what it may be worth:

Choose a position higher than your audience if possible. Induce your audience to sit near you. Always let the audience join in a hymn early in the worship service. Plan the service with life and color. There is enough monotony in most lives.

Quote texts accurately. Few of us can improve upon them. Mark your Bible well. Read Scripture as if you believe it and expect your audience to believe it. Don't drone it or mumble it, as though it were a waster of your effort.

Be natural in manner and gesture and dress. Speak in a natural voice clearly and distinctly. Take time enough to get your thought over. Don't screech and scream and roar. Put plain things in plain words. Plain people have plain needs, and their faith needs are best put in plain words. Avoid being technical. Many in your audience will not understand and will go to sleep. Bishop Taylor advised five points for preachers:

1. Clearness (make them understand).
2. Literalness (stick to the truth).
3. Earnestness (act as though you believed what you preach).
4. Appropriateness (God's business is serious, but not mournful. Be joyous, but dignified).
5. Naturalness (keep yourself in the background, put God to the fore. You want people to believe in God, so let them see God).—Christian Standard.

## FAITHFULNESS IN LITTLE THINGS

A Christian worker on a sea voyage one night heard the alarming cry "Man overboard!" Following a sudden impression he held the light in his room near the port hole of his cabin, in the hope that its gleams shining out on the waters might be of some service. And indeed it was of service, for he learned that the sudden appearance of his small light revealed where the unfortunate man was in time to be rescued.

The story has a point for every Christian who desires to be useful in the Lord's service. An ancient proverb says: "Do all the good you can, to as many as you can, and as long as you can." Small duties faithfully done mean much for good in the sum of life's record. Faithfulness in the duties of the home, and the church, and community is the habit that will bring some most agreeable and unexpected rewards.

Everybody who has read the story of the missionary career of David Livingstone has been deeply impressed with his heroic work, and especially have we been impressed with the manner of his death, alone, and on his knees in a lonely hut in the heart of Africa. He was literally worn out, and one would think that he could easily have rejected the thought that he should arise from his cot to pray in the night, but he did not reject this impression. Instead he did arise weak, sick and dying and knelt in prayer. This silent testimony continues through the years to speak for God and to inspire many other Christians to be more sincere and faithful. Livingstone hoped to open up Africa to Christianizing influences, a hope that is being realized in measure as the people of God are faithful to their trust.—Selected.