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August 2006

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## **Preach the Gospel**

*Jesus went about . . . preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness . . . among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*

*Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*

*Matthew 9:35-38*

## The Blood of Jesus Still Speaks

One of our Christian hymns begins with these words: "The blood of Jesus, speaking on Zion's Mountain still, Is heard, dear friends, repeating the gospel of good will . . ."

Yes, the blood still speaks to the children of Zion. The Word tells of this when it refers to *Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. (Hebrews 12:24)* The blood of Jesus speaks today of forgiveness, proclaimed by the hearts and mouths of his servants.

In a recent Bible study, many people were moved to discuss the power of Jesus' blood to take away sin. They said that, if the blood stops speaking, praises will die out forevermore. When the blood stops speaking, living faith is replaced by dead faith. The major difference between living faith and dead faith is the blood of Jesus.

Sadly, much of the Christian world has rejected or neglected the blood of Jesus in its doctrines. The blood cannot be treated abstractly, but it must be applied according to Scripture to free a soul from sin. When our sins have been forgiven in the name and shed blood of Jesus, and this assurance declared to us by an ambassador of Christ -- *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God (II Corinthians 5:20)* -- we have the responsibility and privilege to proclaim forgiveness to those who repent and ask. This is the ministry and the very word of reconciliation, as the Bible says, *All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. (II Corinthians 5:18-19)* We do this as members of the royal priesthood (I Peter 2:9). We, as God's children, are in the spiritual bloodline of Jesus.

However, the Devil continues to deceive and destroy. We see that he has been able to remove the power of the blood from much of Christendom. Now he is promoting an even more sinister doctrine of the blood of Jesus. Using some of the errant Gnostic gospels such as the Gospel of Judas and the more recent false and fictional story of the so-called Da Vinci Code, he is capturing the hearts of countless poor souls. They seek for a natural, royal bloodline of Jesus, believing He fathered children with Mary Magdalene. Many of you, I am sure, are familiar with this falsehood, as the mainstream media has given it strong coverage. As the Apostle Paul warned, *they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. (II Timothy 4:4)*

May we remain in a spirit of prayer to our Heavenly Father, asking Him to guide and protect us from all false doctrines, and keep us watchful in our walk of faith. We pray these things in Jesus' name.

Al Wuori  
Tapiola, Michigan

## Through the Righteousness of God

The following is a translation of Brother J. Antonio Salguero's message at the close of our last service at Zacapa, Guatemala in May 1976. Brother Salguero was the native resident missionary and Pastor of the Apostolic Lutheran Church in Zacapa. Before his conversion, he served for many years as Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

I will take the liberty to say a few words from my heart. As all of you know, I have been preaching for years, and believing that I was very religious. I used to think that I had righteousness through my own reformation. Now I know that that amounted to nothing.

When I used to preach, I would think of myself as being of great importance. Many people do, unfortunately, believe that way. I received much adulation, and each time I heard it, my false confidence heaped higher. I became blindly led into believing that I had a religion when I belonged to such a church, and preached for such a church. It is a deed of which I am not only ashamed but also sad -- sad about having believed that way, and preached and guided souls from that viewpoint.

The value of a soul is a treasure before God. Before Him, our garbs are worthless, human preparation is worthless, and our economic positions are worthless. Neither do the noble titles a person may possess here have any value. But there is a soul of great value in every person, whoever it may be.

Many times, as I used to put on my clerical collar and robe, I would feel so proud. I thought and felt that I was much more religious and superior than all the people sitting in the pews. And even though I would speak of love and humility and faith, the truth was that the confidence I had was only in myself, and my pride, each time, would be all the greater. But so much greater is the sadness that fills my heart when I remember those things. Not only was I badly misled and ill shod, but in such a state I was also doing the guiding. As our brother, here, said in his sermon, "We shall all appear before the righteous Judge, and there will be those who will say, 'Lord, Lord, have you already forgotten that we have been preaching for years? And have we not cast out devils and done many wonderful works?'" What ignorance that is! How tragic it is that one can go to such extremes when the Bible tells us of just one justification, by faith alone, without the works of the Law.

While we were in San Salvador, I had not believed it was possible for a human being to remain in such a frivolous spirit. Nevertheless, how it came to my heart when I saw that other preaching brother, whom I had esteemed so highly in regard to his spirituality, as he appeared in his long black robe with its white tunic. I knew how he felt because, as he was, so I had been. Seeing the whole congregation there again, I had to wonder where those souls were being led.

Therefore, when I come forth with the Word of God now, I try to bring it forth by the grace of God which I have received in my heart through his manifestation

and revelation. It is also my prayer each day that this human pride would fall to the ground because it wants to make me feel superior. I fear and tremble because there is always this question of, who am I? I received this, brethren, through a revelation by the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. I was dead through trespasses and sin.

But now, thanks to God, my sins are forgiven, and I am no longer sad. Now I feel very happy. As I have already found salvation for my soul in the blood of my Lord Jesus Christ, I desire to receive more, and to continue to be guided by the Spirit of God, by his Word, and to likewise lead souls by speaking his Word. It is the only thing that can give us strength.

It is easy for a man to say in his heart, "I will do this" or "I will leave this or that aside." But all that is nothing more than the work of the flesh, our human thought. Therefore, it is my prayer that God will, by his Word, convert the hearts and give the power to live. May He join us together in faith in the Saviour. God alone can give this blessing to us. May He take care of us, and feed us by his Word. As Brother Ralph Davidson said, "Many people think they have no need to hear it, because they have their church." But, thanks be to God, we have learned that, where there is no forgiveness of sins, neither is there life. But in life, there *is* the forgiveness of sins in the blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is for this cause that God gave this power to his servants, that in the blood of Christ, our sins are forgiven.

All this causes me to remember that when Jesus beheld Jerusalem, He wept. Now I'm able to understand better the reason why He cried and said, *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! (Matthew 23:37)* The tears of Jesus moistened his cheeks because He loved us. Because He loves us. Because He still wishes to forgive us our sins. He takes no pleasure in the death of the ungodly, but rather, He desires that the ungodly would turn from their ways and live. He does not condemn them. He is our Saviour. It is still He who invites us, and who gives us pardon for our sins when we draw near to Him in repentance.

Therefore, we know that this is the time of our invitation. For this reason, He said, *Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (II Corinthians 6:2)*

*To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Hebrews 4:7)* We know today. About tomorrow, we know nothing. But we know that *there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. (Luke 15:10)* There is joy in Heaven when one sinner repents and receives the forgiveness of sins in the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Antonio Salguero  
Zacapa, Guatemala  
Translated from Spanish by Carl Niemitalo

*Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:*

*Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.*

*For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*II Peter 1:1-8*

## Fear of God is Better Than Wealth

Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, his son in the faith, and advised him to withdraw himself from those men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth who supposed that gain in money and gods of this world was godliness. *Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. (I Timothy 6:5)*

That was good advice. In the next verse, he stated that *godliness with contentment is great gain*. Very clearly, Apostle Paul said *we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. (Verse 7)* In no way is he encouraging slothfulness in our duties. He merely states that we ought not to allow our cravings for abundant goods overtake us.

*And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. (Verse 8)* In the next verse, he explains why. *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition*. It is natural for men who have acquired wealth to desire much more.

The first part of the tenth verse is often misquoted, saying that money is the root of all evil. That is not what Paul said. He wrote, *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows*. His instruction to us is to *flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. (Verses 11-12)*

We are given specific instructions to *Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. (I Timothy 6:17-19)*

Howard Prouty

## We Dwell in Him

Do you want a house for your soul? But do you ask, "What is the purchase price?" It is something less than proud human nature will like to give. It is without money and without price. Ah! you would like to pay a respectable rent. You would love to do something to win Christ? Then you cannot have the house, for it is "without price."

Will you take my Master's house on a lease for eternity, with nothing to pay for it; nothing but the ground rent of loving and serving Him forever? Will you take Jesus and "dwell in Him?" See, this house is furnished with all you want; it is filled with riches more than you will spend as long as you live. Here you can have intimate communion with Christ and feast on his love; here are tables well-stored with food for you to live on forever in it; when weary, you can find rest with Jesus; and from it, you can look out and see Heaven itself!

Will you have the house? Ah! if you are homeless, you will say, "I should like to have the house; but may I have it?" Yes, there is the key. The key is, "Come to Jesus." But," you say, "I am too shabby for such a house." Never mind, there are garments inside. If you feel guilty and condemned, come; and though the house is too good for you, Christ will make you good enough for the house by-and-by. He will wash you and cleanse you, and you will yet be able to sing, "We dwell in Him!"

Believer, thrice happy art thou to have such a dwelling-place! Greatly privileged thou art, for thou hast a "strong habitation" in which thou art ever safe. And "dwelling in Him," thou hast not only a perfect and secure house, but also an everlasting one. When this world shall have melted like a dream, our house shall live, and stand more imperishable than marble, more solid than granite, self-existent as God, for it is God Himself. "We dwell in Him."

*Charles H. Spurgeon  
Born 1834 Essex, England*

*Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.*

*I John 4:13*

## The Joy of Paul and Silas

### Acts 16

Paul and Silas's missionary journey had been deliberated and directed from Heaven through which nations they should travel. In this chapter, it is to be noted that they had planned to go to Asia, but the Holy Spirit thought otherwise. It was not Asia's turn that time. That turn came in due time, and then St. Paul labored diligently among the Asians for years as described in Acts 19:9-11.

The Holy Spirit considered it to be Europe's turn, and God, by a vision, informed the apostle where they had to go. *A vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. (Acts 16:9)* After Paul received this supernatural information, he hastened with Silas, his co-laborer, to Philippi, the capital city of Macedonia, to sojourn there several days and to observe, at first hand, how, under the circumstances they met with there, the labor was to begin.

On the Sabbath, they went out of the city and by the river. They had the opportunity to talk with the people who came there to pray. The Lord opened the heart of a woman named Lydia, who was a seller of purple in the city of Thyatira, and who worshipped God. She took to heart the things Paul spoke. *And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us. (Verse 15)* Thus, the love, which was kindled in her heart toward the servants of God's Word, prompted her to take them to her home for food and lodging.

*And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. (Verses 16-17)*

The wonder of wonders here depicted is that God used even a divine to further his cause. She cried unceasingly for days: *These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.*

God is not a respecter of persons, nor does He consider what level of society a person comes from when He chooses to publicize his cause. God was concerned about the people of Philippi. They had to be informed about what manner of men had come to town. In the end, Paul cast the evil spirit out of the woman, which came out the same hour. She became docile, and her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone. They caught Paul

and Silas and hailed them into the marketplace before the magistrates, who caused their clothes to be torn off, and them to be beaten.

It was a terrifying experience, humanly speaking: their clothes lay in rags, blood streamed from their many wounds, their bodies were mauled black and blue. They were flogged and thrust into the gloomiest, darkest dungeon, and handled with a treatment accorded the worst criminals. But what did these men of God do? They did not grieve over their lot, nor weep over their misery. In the darkest midnight, the men prayed and offered up hymns of thanksgiving.

The Apostle James wrote, *Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. (James 5:13)*

What was the cause of their joy? It was this: God is the kind, Almighty God who knows if his messenger becomes afflicted while doing his duty. His presence fills that affliction. These men prayed and sang praises unto God, and were exceedingly happy to be counted worthy to suffer in the name of Jesus.

That is the situation of a child of God. However difficult the outward appearance is, the more joyous it can be inwardly. The men in the fiery furnace experienced this. Paul and Silas sang praises so loudly that the other prisoners heard.

God created more miracles. As the hymn singing continued, *suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.*

*And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.*

*But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.*

*Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*

*And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.*

That is how salvation came to the faithful jailer. *And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house. (Verse 34)* As he believed, so ensued the fruit of faith as a result—the service of love. Their wounds were washed and bandaged, and they were given fresh linen. The father of the household

rejoiced in that he and his whole household received grace and faith to believe on God, and thus they became children of God.

There is always a fathomless reason for joy—to be saved by grace from eternal shipwreck, and to become, instead, an heir of eternal life. Words fail in describing the cause of such bliss.

Even the Holy Bible subsides to brief wording in attempting to describe the ineffable joy of Heaven. *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. (Revelation 21:23)*

*They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 35:10)* No more weeping or sighing, for the causes of grief will be eternally wiped away. The Lord himself will wipe away all tears from the eyes of those who will stand in the victorious flock, praising his glory forever. They shall see Him whom they love, and on whom they have believed. It is said that the fullness of love is there.

The person who, on earth, has experienced a bit of Christ's love as though by a glimpse in the mirror, is somewhat able to anticipate his love. This is what Jesus meant when He told his harassed children, subject to the suffering under the cross: *Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven. (Matthew 5:12)* He who knew best said so, and so did Paul: *Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. (Hebrews 10:35)*

And it is so, that in the Final Reckoning, when two groups are gathered from all nations before Him who sits on the throne, those who sing the song of victory may hear the words ensuing from Jesus, *Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (Matthew 25:34)*

Thus, looking and waiting for this bliss in faith, Paul and Silas were happy in the darkness of the prison dungeon, bloodstained from the flogging, their feet in stocks. And their happiness increased when they were accounted worthy to bless the jailer and his household into the faith of Jesus Christ. Thus they spent the balance of the night receiving the service of love as their share.

That is the situation of the child of God. As King David said, *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. (Psalm 23:5)*

*Janne Marttini, Finland  
"The Way to Happiness"*

## Swift as a Dream

*All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. (I Peter 1:24-25)*

With such a meaningful analogy, this epistle writer depicts our life here on earth. He reminds us that these words apply to each of us. Some people will view them passively, with very little regard. For others, they bring frightful thoughts of death and eternity.

Yet, for God's children, they are neither dismissed as unimportant nor do they strike fear into the heart. Rather, they contain a message of promise to the faithful; for, in the preceding verses, a lively hope is kindled within the hearts of the believers. This hope is brought to us by the power of the Gospel of Christ, in which we can freely believe that our sins are forgiven in his precious blood. And the Spirit testifies with our spirit that we have been redeemed.

How good it is to know that we do not remain on earth in this fleshly body to suffer afflictions and pain, heartache and sorrow. God's children are assured that these things will pass away. Our departure from this vale of sorrows will soon come, and the beautiful songs of the homeland will swell our hearts. Thus the Apostle Peter wants to remind us to take heed of his words lest we become careless and fall victim to the mindless apathy of the unbelieving.

Especially well does Peter call our attention to the brevity of life by drawing a parallel between our lives on earth and the grass and the flowers that bloom. In the spring of the year, we take notice of the blades of green grass that spring up from the sun-warmed earth. How richly green those blades appear; so vibrant with life. Soon to follow are the delicate little flowers raising their heads toward heaven to bask in the warm sunshine and display the beauty of their Creator. Wonderful and fragrantly fresh are these creations of our God. However, spring and summer seem to pass swiftly, and the days grow cooler as autumn approaches. The green grass pales and the beautiful flowers fade, bow their heads, and fall to the earth from which they came. The bite of frost soon turns multicolored summer fields to common brown.

Our lives on earth are much the same. A baby is born, tender and vibrant; and like the grass and flowers of spring, he or she is received with joy. The little one grows, bursting with energy as it makes its presence known. All too soon, the child develops and becomes a mature adult. The adult grows old, fades, and, as the grass and flowers of the field, soon bows

his head earthward. And, as King David said in farewell to his son, Solomon, *I go the way of all the earth. (I Kings 2:2)*

Some may think that the parallel portrayed here is one of only brief joy, which gives way to sadness. Spiritually, however, it is quite the opposite for the believer. The child of God is born of the water, which is the Word of God, and of the Spirit, which is the abiding Sanctifier of our lives. Even though this mortal returns to the dust of the earth, the soul lives on and attains the beauty of the glorified body that the Lord has prepared and promised to his own.

All this He accomplished for us through his victory over death, hell, and the power of the Devil. Unto us this Gospel has been, and continues to be, preached, and we believe, in Jesus, all our sins forgiven. Oh, wonderful words of the Gospel! Let us praise his holy name!

An anonymous songwriter has penned, "Swift as a dream doth the time fleet away, year after year in its flight." Indeed our time here on earth grows shorter every day. \_Strive diligently, therefore, dear Christian brother and sister, so that we may all receive the recompense of the reward, which is eternal salvation in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Soon we can enter that land where the roses never fade.

*In God's peace,  
Pastor Ken Storm  
Tapiola, Michigan*

*He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

*II Corinthians 9:6-7*

## Redeem the Time

*What is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. (James 4:14) For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. (Psalm 90:4)*

Life is a gift from God. It is precious; something we must not waste. All of us have been given our allotted number of years in this world. *Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass. (Job 14:5)* Whether our years are few or many, we spend them just like a tale that is told. It behooves us to use our time wisely.

In a Christian's life, the word *today* should be all-important. Not in a sense that we live just for the present without thought for eternity, but in the realization that yesterday is gone and we cannot be sure that there will be a tomorrow. We need to seek God's guidance for today, knowing that He has given these present moments to us as a time of grace for our eternal welfare, and to use in his service.

The Word of God instructs Christians to *walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:15-16)* The word *circumspect* means to be attentive to all circumstances and aware of all consequences; to be discreet and cautious. Since we are God's children, we are children of light and children of the day, not of the night nor darkness. As such, we are to be *sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. (I Thessalonians 5:8-10)*

When we walk circumspectly, we give due consideration to our actions. Not only do we view how our decisions will impact our own lives, but we are also concerned about others'. This must have been Apostle Paul's thought when he wrote to the Corinthians that *All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. (I Corinthians 10:23)* He concluded that he should not only be governed by what pleased him, but also be concerned over the good and welfare of his neighbor.

We are all members of one body, and, as such, we do not seek only our own growth and health but also the growth and health of the body as a whole.

In a circumspect walk, we give prayerful thought to the consequences of our actions. We must never follow the rule of the world that the end justifies the means. With the health and good of the body as our goal, we do not compete with, or work against, other members of the body, nor seek to impose our own will on them. Good can only result from the use of the *wisdom that is from above, which is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. (James 3:17)* This godly wisdom must be the source of a circumspect walk; one where caution and discretion temper our self-willed natures that are often impetuous.

*Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is: that I may know how frail I am. (Psalm 39:4) Yes, teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. (Psalm 90:12)*

Pastor Alvin Holmgren  
Seattle, Washington

# Children's Page

Dear Children,

I would like to share a miracle that Jesus did. I am sure you will enjoy this story. Even though it is short, it is still wonderful, for it shows Jesus' love and compassion.

You can find this in Mark 7:31-37.

## Jesus Heals

Jesus had been on the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, teaching, and had just fed four thousand people and healed a young girl.

*Departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis. And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. (Mark 7:31-32)* This young man could have been born deaf, and because he could not hear, it made it hard for him to speak properly. Whoever brought him to Jesus must have felt sorry for him, and they believed that Jesus could heal him.

*And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue; And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. (Verses 33-34)*

The boy must have really been wondering at all the unusual actions that Jesus performed, but Jesus was bringing about a miracle. This boy would soon be a different boy. Let's read on.

*And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain. (Verse 35)* The boy was healed. He spoke as well as anyone, and he could hear. This was another of Jesus' wonderful miracles. But He really wanted the people to believe in Him as the Son of God, and not follow Him just because of the miracles He performed.

Jesus even told the people not to tell anyone about this healing. *He charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it; And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak. (Verses 36-37)*

The people who were nearby when the boy was healed were amazed at what they had seen. Even though Jesus told them not to tell anyone, they could not stay silent. I don't think I could have, either.

Our story ends very happily. Doing miracles is what Jesus is still doing today. We just don't see them done in this way. Do you children realize that each morning you wake up a miracle has happened? Jesus watched over you through the night and allowed you to wake to another day. We need to remember to thank God for such things.

Just as the people had to go telling about this great miracle, we, too, should tell others about this wonderful Jesus who loves us and takes care of us.

I pray that you will have a good day wherever you are, and that you will keep Jesus with you in your heart.

*God's peace,  
Gwen Wilson*

*The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:*

*Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.*

*And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:*

*But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.*

*Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

*Matthew 13:1-9*

*Verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.*

*Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*

*But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.*

*He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.*

*But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

*Matthew 13:17-23*

## Grieve Not the Holy Spirit

*Grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

*Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:30-32)*

The Devil is even now whispering in my ear not to write to God's children, for they are weary of exhortations. I suppose all the ministers of the Gospel would long since have discontinued to preach had they listened to the sermons of the Devil.

Yes, we all would have ceased believing if he had his way with us. We would be on the broad way that leads to eternal damnation. But such is not the case. All glory be to God's saving Gospel by which we are empowered daily to believe by faith upon Christ's merits. It is our means of eternal salvation.

The preaching of the Gospel is the work of the Holy Ghost. Only those who possess the Spirit can preach the Gospel. *For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power. (I Corinthians 4:20)* We can thank God *because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. (I John 4:4)*

The Spirit testifies in our hearts daily that we are God's children solely by the merits of Christ. And the Spirit constrains the believing heart to confess the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the lips and by the example of a godly walk. In this twofold manner is the Gospel preached by all believers. It is the Devil's design to put a stop to the work of this Gospel. Let us take great comfort in the fact that the Devil cannot destroy the Gospel.

How sad it is that man's flesh is weak and that we have this wicked enemy, the Devil. How diligently he works to sow seeds of discord and hatred between us so that cold and unforgiving hearts spring up over small offences. Woe unto such souls who daily grieve the Holy Spirit, and dare to carry into eternity such a debt of sin.

Think of this: Christ, the pure and innocent Lamb of God, who has forgiven you all your sins, did not withhold from you one drop of his grace. And you, who dare to carry bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, evil speaking, and malice in your hearts toward other Christians, do you think the Saviour is gladdened by your condition?

Those sins are too heavy for you to carry. Put them away while it is still the time of grace. It is not too late to seek forgiveness. The blood of Jesus can restore all things so that the deepest wounds of sin can be healed. Let us not grieve the Holy Spirit by our disobedience, but let us submit ourselves to the Spirit and *lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us. (Hebrews 12:1)* Let us pray to God that He will give us showers of blessing, and with those drops of mercy from Heaven gain victory over the enemy.

The day of the Lord is nigh at hand. Let us now hear the midnight cry on Zion's wall: *Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. (Matthew 25:6)* May we all arise and go forth with our lamps well trimmed and burning brightly.

Andy Olson

## Send Me!

The voice of God is calling  
    Its summons unto men;  
As once He spoke in Zion,  
    So now He speaks again.  
Whom shall I send to succour  
    My people in their need?  
Whom shall I send to loosen  
    The bonds of shame and greed?

I hear my people crying  
    In cot and mine and slum  
No field or mart is silent,  
    No city street is dumb.  
I see my people falling  
    In darkness and despair.  
Whom shall I send to shatter  
    The fetters which they wear?

We heed, O Lord, thy summons,  
    And answer, Here are we!  
Send us upon thine errand,  
    Let us thy servants be.  
Our strength is dust and ashes,  
    Our years a passing hour,  
But Thou canst use our weakness  
    To magnify thy power.

From ease and plenty save us,  
    From pride of place absolve;  
Purge us of low desire,  
    Lift us to high resolve.  
Take us, and make us holy,  
    Teach us thy will and way,  
Speak! and behold we answer,  
    Command, and we obey.

*John Haynes Holmes*

*And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

*Romans 10:35*