

Christ is Victor

MAR/APR 2008

“God Wants You!”

“And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat there on; as it is written.” - John 12:14

A young ass! Jesus sat upon it. It was a very fortunate ass. A mule is a royal animal in Palestine. Jesus does not dishonour anybody. He tries to make use of everyone in the work of His Kingdom. God can make use of any man. Ann Preston was a very foolish woman. But God made use of her wonderfully. One night she heard the Word of God and the Spirit of God touched her. Many preach but they do not touch your spirit. Moody was a preacher long before he became a powerful revivalist. Two women prayed for him that he might be filled with the Spirit.

You have a spirit. Before you go to a meeting, prepare your spirit and go. Suddenly your spirit is awakened and you cry, ‘I have missed the way. I have followed the way of pride.’ You have been a critic. You always find fault with the speaker. It is because you have no humility. Even if the preacher is faulty, God can give you a message through him if you go prepared.

Jesus was riding an ass and going to the holy city. The Holy Spirit wants to ride on your spirit and lead you to Zion. You cannot reach Zion till the Holy Spirit

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“Where is Thy God?”

“As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they said daily unto me, where is thy God?” Psalm 42:10

It is the lot of many people in our work-a-day world to be misunderstood, slighted and slandered. Good men are set aside when there is a selection made for key jobs. Many people appear to be totally without any defenses when they meet with such situations. They either become deeply resentful, spiteful, or cynical. We see such people all the time and they can make it miserable for others too.

No one was so unfairly slandered cried, “Crucify him, crucify him” must and set at naught as the Lord Jesus. The meanness of the multitudes that have stabbed Him to the heart but the Lord Jesus Christ knew how to overcome malice and ill-will, with the positive reactions of forbearance, long-suffering and love.

Men called Him a glutton, a drunkard and a mad man. Yet the Lord Jesus Christ took all these scurrilous attacks on Him in His stride. He did not allow His peace in any sense to be disturbed.

Some reproaches can be very cutting, biting, and painful. The Psalmist found the reproach of his enemies as a sword in his bones. So deep was the hurt which was given him.

Probably righteousness and right-living was never laughed out of courts in the manner in which it is in our age and generation. The fellow who can hold immense quantity of alcohol and does not seem the worse for it is looked upon as a hero. The

one who cleverly hides his tracks and makes his money by dubious means is admired. When commodities and essential building materials like cement, happen to be in short supply, officials posted with the specific purpose of regulating supplies begin to accept huge amounts as illegal gratification, the public appears to say, “Well, he is a clever man”. In short, the wicked are admired and the righteous are reproached.

Men who live clean and conscientious

lives and give of their best as public servants, are slandered as fools who do not know how to mint money when the going is good. They are even bypassed when they are for promotion. It is very humiliating to the just man to see the flatterers and drunkards who scarcely know their jobs, preferred before them. Trusting in the unfailing faithfulness of Jesus under these trying circumstances, builds your spiritual muscles as nothing does.

The Bible talks here of the deep hurt occasioned by the sneer, “Where is their God?” When the righteous suffer adversity and appear to fail, men are quick to say,

“It is very humiliating to the just man to see the flatterers and drunkards who scarcely know their jobs, preferred before them. Trusting in the unfailing faithfulness of Jesus under these trying circumstances, builds your spiritual muscles as nothing does.”

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“Where is their God?” I even heard an ignorant man say, “Look, what a miserable death Jesus died. He even cried, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” The poor man did not know that when Jesus put Himself in the sinners’ place, the normal penalty and the estrangement from God which is the sinners’ due, fell to the lot of Jesus. Jesus said, he could have summoned thousands of angels

from heaven to rescue him from death but such was not his purpose. He had come into this world to die for sinners and thus

open the door of heaven to the vilest offenders who truly turn to him in faith. This man who sneered in this fashion was a poor idolater who only thought of God as an awesome power and not as a Redeemer who must redeem man from sin by making the supreme sacrifice of Himself for sinners.

Yes, men talk heedlessly and thoughtlessly even of the Perfect One - the Saviour of the world.

There will however be seasons and situations in which God apparently maintains strict silence. This could give great occasion for the enemies of Jesus to reproach but when God’s answer does come, as it certainly will, the enemies of the Gospel and the scoffers will be confounded and scattered.

We should however be extremely careful to see that the apparent silence of God is not caused by some hidden sin of ours. God could not go with His people when Achan hid his sin cleverly in the camp of Israel (Joshua 7). There was in fact a tragic defeat and thirty six men were killed in the battle. When we hide sin, we forfeit the glorious privilege of having God go before us. At such a time the reproaches of our en-

emies could turn out to be a great blessing for they will provoke us to thought and self-examination.

The Lord Jesus bore the reproach of not only the religious leaders but the pain of being betrayed by His own disciple Judas. The Bible says, “For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated

me that did magnify himself against me;” (Psalm 55: 12) Yes, it was one of His own that betrayed Him.

Many young people at our Univer-

sities are being deliberately taught that they must leave God out of their whole spectrum of investigation in their several scientific disciplines. They are being encouraged to ignore God completely and to think of themselves as being gods unto themselves. Hence they break every moral law and live in great sexual promiscuity. Such a pattern of youthful irresponsibility and arrogance is looked upon as quite a norm for the educated young of today. Many of these self-styled gods and goddesses from the world of show-business, look for release from their inhibition-free Utopias with an overdose of sleeping pills or some such thing.

This is a very challenging hour. Where is our God? It is time we prove Him. It is time we pray as Elijah prayed. It is high time we prevail as Elijah prevailed in his day, over sin, immorality, and idolatry. Dear reader, be not dismayed if you are cut to the bone by the scorn of colleagues or reproaches of the enemies of truth and holiness. Our God will lift us up and deliver us— our living Christ will look in mercy upon us and save us from the cross-fire of vicious tongues.

— Joshua Daniel

“Guaranteed by Resurrection”

Robert Flockart was a well-known character in the city of Edinburgh around a hundred years ago. Although he was not an ordained preacher, he proclaimed the Gospel every night in the open air for over forty five years. While speaking one night on the text Romans 4:25 (Who was delivered for our offences and was raised again for our justification), he told the following story to illustrate his message:

“An aunt of mine died and left me a large sum of money in her will, but the will was contested by relatives, and I received nothing. On another occasion, an ex-Sunday School pupil of mine who had rejected the Gospel, and who was under sentence of death, invited me to come to his cell to pray with him. With tears in his eyes, he said, “Mr. Flockart, you are the best friend I have on earth, and I am leaving to you all my possessions.” However, the young man did not die, as he received a pardon. I received nothing again.

“But now, dear friends, I want to tell you a far greater story. The best Friend I ever had, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for me on the Cross of Calvary, and willed to me eternal life. And, praise the Lord, on the third day He rose again to make sure I got it!”

Yes, the death of Christ was the payment for our sins, while the resurrection was the guarantee for our Salvation.

— Selected

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This Fellowship is an undenominational missionary movement working for revival in churches and amongst students in several countries. We invite every layperson to become God’s ally in changing his or her corner of the world. We train people in evangelistic work and to be self-supporting missionaries.

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"Candy or Heathen?"

"I remember once, when I was but a little boy, someone gave me five cents. I never had so much money before. I felt rich. I thought, *"Why, these five cents will buy six sticks of candy!"* I raced into the house to ask my mother if I might not go to the store at once and buy that candy. My mother said, *"No, you may not go for it is Saturday evening and the sun will soon be setting. You must wait until Monday."* I never felt so impatient about Sunday before. It came between me and the candy. Just then something seemed to say to me, *"Well, little boy, do you not think that you ought to give your five cents to the heathen?"* At that time I didn't know who put that thought into my heart, but I had heard about a collection for missions announced to be taken on the morrow and I know now that God's Spirit spoke to me then. He wanted to make me a missionary but I was not willing, The heathen were far away. I did not know much about them and did not care. But I knew all about candy and it was only two miles away at the store. I was very fond of it and

decided I must have it. But that didn't end the struggle. It was candy and the heathen and the heathen and candy contending for that five cents. Finally I went to bed, but I couldn't sleep. Usually as soon as my head touched the pillow I was off to sleep, but that night I couldn't get to sleep because of the war going on between the heathen and candy, or between love and selfishness. At last the heathen got the better of it and I decided to go up to Sunday school next day and put my five cents into the collection. I felt very happy then and in a moment was asleep. But when I woke the sun had arisen and my selfishness had returned. I wanted the candy and the fight went on but before Sunday school time, love had gained a final victory and I went to Sunday school and when the plate was passed around for the mission collection, I dropped my five cents in. And would you believe me, I felt more happy than if I had got a whole store full of candy! And so will any boy or girl who acts unselfishly for Jesus' sake."

— Selected from 'Goforth of China'

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"Bread, Sir!"

He couldn't have been over six years old: Dirty face, bare footed, torn T-shirt, matted hair. He wasn't too different from the other hundred thousand or so street orphans that roam Rio de Janeiro.

I was walking to get a cup of coffee at a nearby cafe when he came up behind me. With my thoughts somewhere between the task I had just finished and the class I was about to teach, I scarcely felt the tap, tap, tap on my hand. I stopped and turned. Seeing no one, I continued on my way. I'd only taken a few steps, however, when I felt another insistent tap, tap, tap. This time I stopped and looked downward. There he stood. His eyes were whiter because of his grubby cheeks and coal-black hair.

"Pao, senhor?" (Bread, sir?)

Living in Brazil, one has daily opportunities to buy a candy bar or sandwich for these little outcasts. It's the least one can do. I told him to come with

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REALITY CHECK!

"BUT HE WAS WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, HE WAS BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES: THE CHASTISEMENT OF OUR PEACE WAS UPON HIM; AND WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED."

— ISAIAH 53:5

... "GOD WANTS YOU" FROM PAGE 1

controls your spirit. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." (Romans 8:16). When the Holy Spirit controls your spirit, you will be a broken man. Every step you take will take you closer to God. The experiences of saints will become yours. Abraham rode an ass to Mount Moriah to offer a sacrifice. That mount became Mount Zion. There King Solomon built his temple. Scores of sacrifices were offered there. There the Son of God offered Himself a sacrifice for man.

This young ass bore Jesus on its back humbly. It was also honoured. If Jesus walked on the ground and they spread their clothes for Him to walk upon, it would be different. But now the ass is walking on the clothes. Its feet were not getting dusty. When you bear Jesus on your soul and spirit, your feet will not get dirty. You will be honoured though you do not seek honour. You must never seek honour. If honour comes to you, let it come from God. "How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?" (John 5:44). "And he said unto them, ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." (Luke 16:15). I know some who were greatly honoured for their devotion in their youth. But later, they did not march to Zion. Their end was miserable. Is the Spirit of God riding upon you?

"The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider." (Isaiah 1:3). Even an ass knows his owner. Do you know where you should live? Do you know where God has protection for you? The ass that bore Jesus walked silently and steadily.

This event was prophesied 400 years ago. In God's presence there is a prophecy for you. When the Spirit of God comes upon you, the plan of God that He has made for you will be fulfilled. If you lose these blessings, you will weep one day. Look not at the world. But look at your Creator. God once used an ass to preach to a prophet. Young as you are, you may have to prophesy to prophets.

— Late Mr. N. Daniel

Easter Retreat Announcement

ALL ARE WELCOME

Friday, March 21st through Sunday, March 23rd

For more information or directions to the retreat, please contact us at any of the numbers listed at right, or e-mail us at: **post@lefi.org**

... "BREAD" FROM PAGE 1

me and we entered the sidewalk cafe. "Coffee for me and something tasty for my little friend." The boy ran to the pastry counter and made his choice. Normally, these youngsters take the food and scamper back out into the street without a word. But this little fellow surprised me.

The cafe consisted of a long bar: one end for pastries and the other for coffee. As the boy was making his choice, I went to the other end of the bar and began drinking my coffee. Just as I was getting my derailed train of thought back on track, I saw him again. He was standing in the cafe entrance, on tiptoe, bread in hand, looking in at the people. "What's he doing?" I thought.

Then he saw me and scurried in my direction. He came and stood in front of me about eye-level with my belt buckle. The little Brazilian orphan looked up at the big American missionary, smiled a smile that would have stolen your heart and said, "Obrigado." (Thank you.) Then, nervously scratching the back of his ankle with his big toe, he added, "Muito obrigado." (Thank you very much.)

All of a sudden, I had a crazy craving to buy him the whole restaurant. But before I could say anything, he turned and scampered out the door.

As I write this, I'm still standing at the coffee bar, my coffee is cold, and I'm late for my class. But I still

feel the sensation that I felt half an hour ago. And I'm pondering this ques-

tion: If I am so moved by a street orphan who says thank you for a piece of bread, how much more is God moved when I pause to thank Him - really to thank Him - for saving my soul?

— Selected from Max Lucado's 'No Wonder They Call Him the Saviour'

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Community Christ Church, in Novi MI
46200 West Ten Mile Rd.
Call (248) 486-6326 or (248) 380-8633
University of Michigan Mondays 6:30 pm
Angell Hall, Room G-144
Call (248) 446-3009
University of Windsor Sundays 5:00 pm
Iona College 208 Sunset Ave.
Call (519) 966-4603
Oakland University: (248) 374-5565
For info on other meetings, Call:
South Lyon, MI: (248) 446-3080
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Cincinnati, OH: (513) 478-4512
Lincoln, NE: (402) 477-0526
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Detroit, MI: 560 AM (WMUZ) Sat. 5:00 pm
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WHRI 19 Metre band 15.355 MHz
Des Moines, IA: 1460 (KDMI)
Sat. 7:30 am, Sun. 11:00 pm
Fort Wayne, IN: 1090 AM (WFCV) Sat. 4:00 pm
Council Bluffs, IA: 1560 AM (KLNG) Sun. 8:00 am
Atlanta, GA: 86 AM (LOVE 86) Sun. 2:00 pm
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