

Christ is Victor

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“God’s Mercy and Truth at Calvary”

“Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face. Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted” (Psalm 89:14-16).

One of the attributes of God which we seem to neglect and not take into account is that the Lord is just. He does not in any sense reward us with any kind of harshness or vengefulness or vindictiveness. He is just; He is obliged to be just.

“Justice and judgment are the habitation of your throne”. So God clearly demarcates between evil and good, righteousness and unrighteousness, and those who are his children do likewise. They do not compromise with evil; they have a true sense of justice. They do not want injustice and oppression to be perpetuated, and today we see many people just turn and look away when they are confronted with evil or injustice or greed or graft or corruption. No, God obviously visits those who have no regard for moral values in judgment. That is why we dare not have an inanimate God. We dare not have a God of our own making. We dare not make an image and call it God.

God is God. His holiness is so basic that when you come with people who do not even know that God is holy, you simply cannot fathom such people. They do not have a true sense of direction; they cannot have it. Their compass is false. They are totally misdirected in their ways because God is not in their hearts. When the Lord

Jesus Christ comes into our hearts, we love to see justice, in our courts of law, in our judges, in our magistrates, on our streets, and in our offices. We do not want to gain any undue advantage over some weak person. We don’t want to see the poor oppressed. We don’t want to turn away or look the other way when someone is doing harm to another.

Today we are confronted with a situation where people do not want to get involved. On the other hand, a Christian is involved. He is involved with these issues of Righteousness, of Judgment, of Love, and of Mercy. The Bible tells us that Mercy and Truth shall go before His face. So if God is with you and God is directing you, the same will happen to you.

Mercy, oh, how marvellous! Mercy for a sinner! Mercy for the man who has grieved God and broken His heart! Mercy for the one who has been responsible to break the heart of God. Your sin and my sin are responsible for Calvary. Your sin and my sin came upon the sinless body of the Lord Jesus Christ, and, therefore, through His death and resurrection, there is mercy offered for us. Truth says, “Now this man has fallen short, this man can never enter the Kingdom of Heaven, this man has gone contrary to My law, the truth. This man has trampled down the truth, so there can be no place for this man in Heaven.”

Now Mercy says, “Yes, because this man has acknowledged that in the Cross of Jesus Christ his sin has been dealt with, because this man has confessed the truth about himself that he is a sinner and has come short of the glory of God, there is mercy for him.” What a wonderful God we have! Mercy for the sinner. Mercy for you and me.

Therefore, we rejoice in God our Saviour. You remember the song of Mary, “My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour” (Luke 1:46-47).

What is the cause of our rejoicing

today? You know the excitements pass over so quickly and leave an aftermath of pain and sorrow, a sense of guilt and shame. Most of the joys of this world are evanescent, ephemeral; they pass away and leave a bitter taste behind. But a man who rejoices in the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, his is an enduring joy. You know it is to be experienced, [it] cannot be explained. So you had better take hold of Jesus and experience this joy—the joys which are for evermore, the pleasures which are at God’s right hand. You know today’s religion seems to be getting pleasure as quickly as possible, and at any price, and at the cost of anybody. You want to tread over bodies, tread over lives, walk over virginity, but obtain pleasure.

Now that kind of pleasure, that selfish pleasure does not satisfy. It can only bring guilt and sorrow and a backwash of disease and misery and death. Here we are told, “In your righteousness shall they be exalted.” For those who love God’s righteousness, for those who are willing to pay the price to establish, and to work ... righteousness, there is a price to be paid. “You will be hated,” the Lord Jesus Christ told us. “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved” (Matthew 10:22).

Now there is a price to be paid for righteousness. People may hate you, slander you, and look askance at you, but “in your righteousness you shall be exalted.” As we are full of Jesus, He sets us apart as the sons of God. We are clothed ... by His righteousness. I do not mean, my friend, that this is a theoretical righteousness, but this is a practical righteousness which I am referring to. When the Lord Jesus was touched by that woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years, virtue went out of Him. You know power went out of Him, and she was healed. His righteousness is a healing righteousness; it is not a condemning righteousness, it is not a Pharisaic righteousness, it is a river of blessing—a river that brings righteousness.

—Joshua Daniel

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“The Power of Jesus’ love”

“And looking round about upon them all, [Jesus] said unto the man [with the withered hand], Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other. And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus.

And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called unto Him His disciples: and of them He chose twelve, whom also He named apostles; Simon, (whom He also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphæus, and Simon called Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

And He came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of His disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judæa and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear Him, and to be healed of their diseases; and they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him: for there went virtue out of Him, and healed them all” (Luke 6:10-19).

Jesus said, “Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand.” Jesus came to save sinners. People did repent and confess their sins. But one disciple closed his heart, hiding his sins until at last his own sin killed him. But the others created a new world. Thousands of men followed them. Joy and peace and a new love functioned in the new society.

There is power with Jesus which is above atomic power. Man uses this power for destruction. Jesus uses His power to bring peace and good will to society. Money does not make us happy and does not give us good will. You can pray throughout the night to bring heavenly power to earth to heal and to transform the wicked. The more we know of God, we find we cannot hate our brother. When you start loving your brother, you begin to share his burden. The love of money brings you down to hell. It hides all the angelic potentialities in you.

There was a man called Dr. Jekyll. He wanted to bring out all the evil in himself. He discovered a drug, which, when he drank, he shrank into an ugly Mr. Hyde. In that form he beat a man to death. When he finished his crimes, he would drink another drug and be transformed into the respectable Dr. Jekyll. Thus he played with himself. This procedure repeated many times. After sometimes

even without the medicine, he would just turn into Mr. Hyde. The police started searching for him. One day while in a park, Dr. Jekyll turned into Mr. Hyde unexpectedly. He hurriedly got the transforming medicine through his friend and became Dr. Jekyll—but one day this medicine was exhausted, and he was Mr. Hyde forever. He hid in a room. He wept and wept. One day the police broke the door open. In the meantime, he drank some poison and died. We are doing things prompted by our evil nature. There is a medicine to bring back our angelic nature. That comes to us by looking at the Cross. We must not exhibit the “Hyde” in us. Jesus called Simon and transformed him into Peter. How many of us are Peters? God has a great purpose for you. The rivers of living waters must flow from you. Why do you hide yourself and your sins? You are already in hell. God wants us to be in Heaven. The work of salvation is completed and available to you. Will you be an angel? Now you may be a Saul, but you can be a Paul. Satan prevents you from becoming an angel. Jesus’ prayer is mighty and marvellous to change us.

St. Thomas came to India, a difficult place, and was a blessing. Abraham became a blessing. You must become a blessing.

—N. Daniel

REALITY CHECK!

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

“Surely I [Jesus Christ] come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20).

“Evidence not seen”

The camp

During the bloody days of World War Two, the Japanese successfully occupied the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia), leading to the internment of many prisoners of war and brutal suffering. Among these prisoners was C. Russell Deibler, a pioneer Christian missionary to the Kapauku tribe, and his young wife, Darlene. Russell would die in 1944, but Darlene survived to tell her story.

Shortly after Darlene's arrival at a prisoner-of-war camp in Kampili (1943), a senior missionary exhorted her: "Lassie, whatever you do, be a good soldier for Jesus Christ." Those words sustained her in the dark days ahead.

In the darkness, God spoke comfort to Darlene's heart. On her first night of being evacuated to a trench, bombs exploding, Psalm 91:7b repeatedly came to mind: "It shall not come nigh thee". Having learned of her husband's death, the Lord stood in the cathedral of her heart and read from His Word: "He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted ... to comfort all that mourn ... to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness" (Isaiah 61:1-3). The sword of sorrow pierced deep within, but He bathed the sword in oil and blessed her with the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

One day, the Kempeitai—the feared military police of the Japanese Army—came to collect Darlene from the camp and take her to a separate prison. Darlene had known the quality of God's love, and so her heart bowed in submission to this discipline: "All right," she whispered, "just don't leave me." He was faithful.

The prison

While in prison, Darlene had to endure many interrogations, the piercing eyes of one interrogator displaying unadulterated hatred. These were accompanied by physical assault. All the questions pertained to alleged spying activities, and she had to pray for God's help to answer carefully and briefly. Alone in her cell thereafter, she would pour out her heart to God. When there were no more tears, the Lord would whisper, "But my child, my grace is sufficient for thee. Not was nor shall be, but it is sufficient." Two weeks before arrival, the Lord had laid it on her heart to memorize a poem by Annie Johnson Flint that she would sing after her praying:

"He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,

He sendeth more strength when the labours increase. ...

... out of His infinite riches in Jesus,
He giveth and giveth and giveth again."

Late one afternoon, Darlene discovered a knife on a ledge in her cell. Her stomach churned within her. Face down on her knees, she explained the whole situation to the Lord. Quietness invaded her spirit and she began to worship the God of

miracles. "Lord, if You could open the Red Sea to deliver Your people from Egyptian tyranny, and if You could send Your angel to shut the mouths of lions that they might not kill Daniel—then, Lord, it is nothing to You to remove that knife. Thank You, Father."

For three days, Darlene did not leave her six-foot-square cell. Yet in the afternoon of the third day, she crawled up to find an empty ledge. The knife was gone! "—and Father, erase all memory of it from the mind of whoever put the knife there." He did just that. With Him, all things were still possible.

He, the Great Physician, passed by too when Darlene was troubled by dysentery; by faith Darlene reached out to touch the hem of His garment, and He healed her of dysentery, beriberi, and malaria. She could witness to the guard who brought her medicine that God had healed her.

God provided for her too. Once as Darlene looked out, she saw a woman receiving bananas. Dropping to the floor, exhausted, Darlene asked the Lord for one banana. Then she began to rationalize—how could God do it? "There's no way for You to do it," she prayed.

On the following day, Darlene received an unexpected visit from Mr. Yamaji, the very cruel camp commander at Kampili to whom she had witnessed of Jesus and His love, and for whom she had prayed. After he finally left her cell, the guard returned, opened the door, walked in, and with a sweeping gesture laid at her feet—bananas! "They're yours," he said, "and they're all from Mr. Yamaji." Darlene sat down, stunned, and counted. There were ninety-two bananas!

Darlene had never known such shame before her Lord. She pushed the bananas into a corner and wept before Him. "Lord, forgive me; I'm so ashamed. I couldn't trust You enough to get even one banana for me. Just look at them—there are almost a hundred."

In the quiet, He answered within her heart: "That's what I delight to do, the exceeding abundant above anything you ask or think." Darlene knew in those moments that nothing was impossible with God. Those bananas helped her to survive.

One afternoon, in a moment of terrible aloneness and sorrow for a world of people so devastated by war, she heard someone singing "Precious is Your name, a shelter that is secure!" By this stage, she had drifted into the spiritually unprofitable game of "suppose". "O Lord," she cried, "forgive me. It isn't a game of 'suppose'. I live in the sure knowledge that 'the name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe' (Proverbs 18:10). The name of Jesus, Your precious name, is my strong tower of defence against the enemy of despair. It is my shelter that is secure; I enter in and am safe." Listening to the hymn of hope and assurance, great awe filled her heart. She slipped to the floor and bathed her soul in the presence of her God.

In those dark days, Darlene came to experience faith as "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1), her trust in the unchanging Person of Jesus Christ even when she felt a spiritual vacuum.

The Lord began to speak to her heart from 2 Corinthians 1:10: "Who delivered ... and doth deliver ... He will yet deliver."

"A wonderful verse, Lord," she responded and quoted the verse: "Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust He will yet deliver us."

Immediately, a still, small voice within her spoke again: "Who delivered ... and doth deliver ... He will yet deliver."

With joy, she replied: "Yes, thank you, Lord, I'm free—free from the law of sin and death!"

The words continually washed over her: "Who delivered ... and doth deliver ... He will yet deliver."

"Lord, I know, I believe that. I'm free. I'm alive in Christ; I have been delivered."

Insistently His words echoed and re-echoed, "Who delivered ... and doth deliver ... He will yet deliver." Finally she asked: "Lord, how could You get me out of here?" Perhaps He was trying to make her understand that He was yet to deliver her from the Kempeitai prison. "He will yet deliver!"

She arose early, and with great care and thanksgiving, peeled the last banana. That morning she was removed from the prison and taken to the secret police headquarters; there one of her interrogators withdrew a sword slowly, indicating imminent execution—but a car pulled up in front of the headquarters, brakes screeching, and she was ordered into it. That day she was delivered from the prison and returned back to the camp.

Yet fear that she would fall into the hands of the Kempeitai gripped her and she dared not unburden her heart due to the threat of one of her interrogators if she told of what had occurred in prison. One afternoon, she walked out onto a grassy plot. "Lord, I've sought You for deliverance from this terrible fear; I need sleep, but I'm afraid. ... I've no more strength left!" "Lord, I'm gone. I'm gone!" she cried, her hands thrown up in despair. Yet in that moment she felt His supporting arms and found she was singing: "... to sink into His fullness, / And in trustful weakness lie ...". As she sank into His fullness, the Lord delivered her and all fear was gone (2 Timothy 1:7).

After Darlene's liberation later that year and return to America, she returned to New Guinea to share the Gospel.

—Extracts and story taken from Darlene Deibler Rose, Evidence not seen (Authentic Lifestyle, 1988)

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“Answers to prayer”

The following examples are from Rosalind Franklin, who became a missionary to China and recounted examples of answers to prayer.

About a year after my confession of Christ, an incident occurred which greatly strengthened my faith, and led me to look to God as a Father in a new way.

When Easter Sunday morning came it was so warm only spring clothes could be worn. My sister and I decided at breakfast that we could not go to church, as we had only our old winter dresses. Going to my room, I turned to my Bible to study it, when it opened at Matthew 6, and my eye rested on these words: “Why take ye thought for raiment? ... Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you.”

It was as if God spoke the words directly to me. I determined to go to church, even if I had to humiliate myself by going in my old winter dress. The Lord was true to His promise; I can still feel the power the resurrection messages had upon my heart that day so long ago. And further, on the following day a box came from a distant aunt, containing not only new dresses but much else that might well be included in the “all these things.”

An unforgettable proof of God’s loving care came to us

as a family about this time, when my parents were face to face with a serious financial crisis. Isaiah 65:24 was literally fulfilled: “Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.”

At that time, it is necessary to state that we depended on a quarterly income, which came through my mother’s lawyer in England. Unusual circumstances had so drained our resources that we found ourselves in the middle of the quarter with barely sufficient to meet a week’s needs. My dear mother assured us that the Lord would provide, that He would not forsake those who put their trust in Him. That very day a letter came from the lawyer in England, enclosing a draft for a sum ample to meet our needs till the regular remittance should arrive. This unexpected and timely draft proved to be a bonus, which did not occur again. ...

In the autumn of 1885 the Toronto Mission Union, a faith mission, decided to establish a branch mission in the East End slums of that city. Three others and I were deputed to open this work. [I]n face of tremendous difficulties, that seemed to my inexperienced eyes insurmountable, I learned that prayer was the secret which overcame every obstacle, the key that unlocked every closed door.

I felt like a child learning a new and wonderful lesson—as I saw benches, tables, chairs, stove, fuel, lamps,

oil, even an organ coming in answer to definite prayer for these things. But best sight of all was when men and women, deep in sin, were converted and changed into workers for God, in answer to prayer. Praise God for the lessons then learned, which were invaluable later when facing the heathen.

—Rosalind Goforth, *How I Know God Answers Prayer: the personal testimony of one lifetime* (1921)

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