

THE CRY OF A TROUBLED HEART

17: "Please Pray For My Persecuted Soul"

There were two black and blue marks on Beulah Green's arms, and one on the right side of her face, as she met with a group of new believers to study The Seven Laws of Communication.

Miss Thachery was the moderator. And because of the persecution of Beulah's husband, Bob, it was decided to begin with lesson No. 10.

There were others in the group, too, who, while not being abused physically as was Beulah, were quite evidently being misunderstood by their friends or families. Some were not making the best responses to these situations. So they all needed help.

Conditions

Before inviting the new believers into this group, Miss Thachery had herself studied carefully the conditions to answered prayer. She wanted, almost more than anything else, to assist these new believers in Christ. If they could become living examples of a living Christ, those who were now persecuting, or misunderstanding them, might become believers themselves. Miss Thachery had seen it work that way before. Hence, she was praying earnestly that she, herself, might be used as an instrument of the Holy Spirit in communicating these same principles to the new ones in Christ.

"These conditions are simple, yet essential," she said to herself, before the meeting took place. In fact, she had for several days been praying most earnestly, and searching her own soul to make sure that she, herself, was living up to these conditions to answered prayer. Briefly stated, they are: faith, persistence, diligence, humility, obedience, family harmony. And also a recognition of one's need. We are to seek answers to prayer for the benefit of others, rather than for selfish purposes. There must also be no harboring of cherished sin, or animosity.

Miss Thachery had been mindful, as she had searched her heart, that she and her sister, Bertha Hunt, had had a misunderstanding. It was complicated. It seemed there was nothing Miss Thachery, herself, could do to reconcile the differences. But she had read in her Bible where it makes allowances. It says, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." She had done everything within her power to bring about a solution to the problem between her and Bertha. But Bertha had refused to be reconciled. With tears, Miss Thachery had pleaded with God to show her the way out. She had apologized to Bertha for any unkind words. But to no avail. Bertha would not forgive her, even though it was she, herself, who had fomented the trouble. Therefore, Miss Thachery felt a sweet assurance in her heart that the Holy Spirit was with her, and that all was well. You cannot compel one to be reconciled. "And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" 2 Corinthians 6:15. Through all the ages, light and darkness have never been in agreement. Truth and error have never been at peace with one another. Christ and Satan have never been reconciled.

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No man can serve God without enlisting against himself all the powers, all the forces, all the agencies of darkness. This had been the case with Miss Thachery. She had been a most dedicated child of God. Her life was one of the most unselfish examples of Christian living. It was because of this that Satan had hoped to ruin her influence as he did that of Christ, the spotless Lamb of God.

Personal Study

She looked forward to this course of study, both from the angle of helping these new believers, and also as a stimulus to her own faith, and a constant reminder to herself as to what constitutes proper Christian reactions to persecution from any source.

The opening chorus, "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me," was followed by a series of sentence prayers. Miss Thachery thought that this unity of prayer would bring a blessing to the new believers, so she suggested that each one offer in a brief sentence or two her thanks to God for some special blessing received.

When Beulah's turn came, in broken tones she thanked God for sustaining grace. Then others followed around the circle, closing with Miss Thachery, herself.

Smiling, Miss Thachery suggested, "Just call me 'Miss T' for short. After all," she said, "we are one family in Christ, and it will save your pronouncing so many syllables each time you call my name."

They all smiled, and Mellicent Sweet, the nineteen-year old, responded with a little love giggle, "OK, Miss T, we will do that."

Miss T explained that this is a different kind of study from the regular Bible course they were accustomed to. In this particular course, all would freely express themselves. There would be no lecture, as such, no sermonizing, or long talk. However, since they were new believers, she would probably do a bit more explaining than she would if the members of the group were older in the faith.

Jesus:

"The first law of communication for those who are persecuted," began Miss T, "is Jesus." Then she turned to Bulah, and asked her to read the first text of Scripture in the lesson.

Bulah read, with quivering lips: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." 1 Peter 2:21.

Rose Holland spoke up: "And I like the second text, 'He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.'" 1 John 2:6.

Alice Garland added, "I have had a most interesting experience of late. Some of my closest friends have been ridiculing me, and cracking jokes because I have begun to keep the Sabbath. Really, it got me down--way down. Then I opened my Bible, as if guided by the Lord, to Hebrews 12. There I read the verses that I observe are right here in this lesson:

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of

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God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.' Hebrews 12:2, 3.

"I have observed," continued Alice, "that every time I am persecuted, or made fun of, if I immediately turn my mind to the sufferings of Jesus, it keeps me from becoming weak and faint. Actually! I mean to say, I feel like a different person when I do that! It really works!"

Humility and Choice:

Mellicent was sitting quietly and thoughtfully. There were thoughts racing through her mind: for she, too, had been made fun of, just a little, at the airport restaurant where she was employed. But she had not responded as Alice had. Miss T suggested that they study two laws; humility and choice. "Let us call them the laws of Christ's humility and choice, since He is our example in all things."

Look Up:

"The law of humility means, briefly," Miss T continued, "that we look up to people--not down on them."

Mellicent asked; "But suppose they are not as good as we. How can we look up to them?" Mellicent queried.

Amy Sims answered, "The text under humility here says, 'Honor all men.' 1 Peter 2:17."

Mellicent broke in, "But how can you honor people who are not honorable?" The group gave a muffled laugh. It could be seen that they were all puzzled.

Rose commented: "And here is another Scripture that seems almost impossible of fulfillment. It says that we are to esteem other people better than ourselves. That is Philippians 2:3."

Mellicent countered: "That sounds like deception. But it must have some kind of explanation. After all, it is God's Word! And I guess we had better not argue with it."

Then turning to Miss T, she asked, "Could it be that our attitude should always be one of respect, even for our enemies, and for those who poke fun at us?"

Alice suggested; "And maybe that we should treat everyone as sincere, even though they may appear to us to be just the opposite. After all, we can't read the heart, can we? And I think I recall reading how Paul, the great apostle, was at one time a vicious persecutor. He declared later how very sincere he was all the time. The people whom he took part in slaying, certainly would have found it difficult to have honored him, wouldn't you think?"

Rose replied, "But I remember that when he was taking part in the martyrdom of Stephen, he heard Stephen offering a most wonderful prayer; 'Lord, lay not this sin to their charge' (Acts 7:60). Can it be," Rose continued, looking in the direction of Miss T, "that people who persecute may not actually know what they are doing? or that they are actuated, or possessed, by Satan?"

Miss T replied: "You may recall that Jesus warned His disciples that the time would come when 'whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service' (John 16:2)."

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Christ's Humility.

Miss T suggested, also, that the group read Philippians 2:5 and 6: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation."

"This must fit into the passage of Scripture we started to read at the beginning," Rose added. "The Scripture goes on to say, 'Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed [himself] to him that judgeth righteously' (1 Peter 2:23)."

"I see where I have failed. At the airport restaurant some of the folk have been making belittling remarks. They have done it in a sort of offhand, friendly way. But I have not liked what they have said. One of them called me a Jew because I had begun to keep the Sabbath. She was sweet--kind of, you know. But that remark really hurt me. I retorted, 'I am not that dumb!' And added, 'It is the Christian Sabbath.' Of course I smiled, too laughed a little. But she got the point.

"Then a little later, I decided to show her where she was wrong, both in belittling me, and also in calling the Sabbath Jewish. So I read to her from Isaiah 58:13, where God calls the Sabbath 'my holy day.' 'The Sabbath is the Lord's day,' I chuckled. 'And more than this, the fourth commandment says it is the Sabbath of the "Lord thy God." That does not say the Jewish Sabbath,' I chuckled again. Then I went on and told her how the Sabbath was given more than two thousand years before the existence of a Jew.

"But do you know, she never asked for any of that information. I see now that I didn't help the situation. What I really wanted to do was to let her, and some of the others, know that I was not as dumb as they thought I was."

Don't Force Instruction

Mellicent continued, "I notice here in the lesson it says that, 'True education is not forcing instruction on an unready and unreceptive mind.' I surely forced my friend, Mary, into a corner. But of course she would not admit I had won the argument. It was all in apparent good-natured fun. But both of us knew what we were doing. She was belittling me, and I was retaliating."

Mellicent caught herself, and remarked, "But I notice our lesson states that this is the wrong approach. That people do not feel at ease in our presence if we retaliate, or force instruction on them. Do you suppose the Lord will forgive me?"

Miss T responded with a knowing smile, "Mellicent, we have all made similar mistakes. It is so easy for us to let self rise up when people persecute us, or even make belittling remarks about the truth we have found so precious in Jesus."

Amy stroked her forehead, and chimed in: "I have been making the same mistake. I really thought that it was my duty to instruct my husband, Bill, in the truths I have learned. And even though he has never asked, I have prodded, and instructed him. Then when he has not shown any interest, I have belittled him. I can see that all of this is wrong. When my Bill got upset with me for forcing this instruction on him, I called it persecution. How wrong I've been!"

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False Persecution

"I guess a lot of us have felt we were persecuted, when it was really just a reaction to our own poor methods of communication. Doesn't the Bible say somewhere that--oh yes, here it is right in the lesson: 'For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.' 1 Peter 2:20."

Mellicent said; "I see what I have been doing. I have been accusing my friends out at the airport of course just in my heart of persecuting me. Actually, I know I have been bringing it on myself. I went out there after I began to keep the Sabbath, with a holier-than-thou attitude, and began to instruct them. None of them had asked for it. Maybe they were calling me a 'Jew' to try to discourage me from being a 'preacher' when they had not asked any information from me. How wrong can a person be, anyhow?"

Again all the girls tried to laugh sympathetically.

Mellicent added, "But it does not make one feel very happy to have friends poke fun at you as if you were wacky!"

Miss T suggested kindly, "Now we come to the law of Joy. Would Rose like to read the first text under this section?"

Rose Holland began: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:2, 3.

Mellicent replied; "Oh, I made a mistake, didn't I, in not going further than merely not retaliating. I should have considered it a joy to have fun poked at me! My! that is amazing! isn't it?"

Rose interrupted, "You notice that a Scripture just below this in the lesson makes clear why we should count it joy. It is because by becoming patient, we are letting the Holy Spirit prepare us to meet Jesus. It says that when He comes for His people, He will describe them this way: 'Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.' Revelation 14:12. The lesson states that throughout eternity, sin will never rise up again. Hence, if we want to be in the number who will never once lose their patience, we had better begin making the correct responses to persecution now."

"And didn't Jesus command us to, 'Rejoice, and be exceeding glad,' whenever we are persecuted (Matthew 5:10 to 12)? He says in the 12th verse that our reward is great in the kingdom of heaven. I would say that is what really counts, wouldn't you?"

Amy had moist eyes as she added: "But what I can't understand, is why some of those who are really persecuting us the most bitterly, are Christian people. At least we thought so. They were some of our best friends. Now, what I can't understand, is why these good friends should turn to become so bitter, just because we are trying to do exactly what God tells us to do. You would think they would complement us for being conscientious, instead of belittling us for doing what we find is right."

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Miss T Replied; "This is what one would expect, Amy. But when we look to Jesus and His sufferings, we learn otherwise."

"But Why?" Amy almost broke into tears as she repeated the question, "But why?"

"We find there are many factors, Amy, according to the experiences of Christ," Miss T explained. "One is that religious people tend to do exactly what they have been taught from childhood. It is extremely difficult for many individuals to actually believe that what they have been taught for years could be only partially right. Many times there is a sort of arrogant pride connected with religion, you know."

Amy replied; "But there shouldn't be. Religion should teach us to be humble, not proud--not even proud of what we have been taught."

"You are so right," Miss T responded. "But you see, Amy, in the experience of our Lord, the Scripture states: 'Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him.' Then it adds, that 'they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God' (John 12:42 and 43)."

Rose responded, "That does not sound much like what real Christianity should do for people, does it?"

"This is answered," Miss T continued to explain, "by Christ's parable of the wheat and the tares. He stated that wheat and tares would grow together in the church until the harvest. And that it is not up to us to try to decide the motives actuating people. For instance, the Bible makes plain that in some cases this unkind attitude springs entirely from sin in the life of the one who misunderstands and persecutes. Speaking of Cain, who murdered Abel, it asks, 'And wherefore slew he him?' Then note the answer to this question: 'Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.' 1 John 3:12.

"Again, the Scripture states that real, deliberate persecution stems from the fact that Satan hates Christ, and all Christ stands for. It says, 'And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?' 2 Corinthians 6:15."

"Would it be proper for a Christian wife to divorce a persecuting husband, and marry a man who will not be mean?" Rose asked, her eyes filled with tears.

"No," Miss T replied. "The Bible makes a very pointed answer: 'And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband.' 1 Corinthians 7:10. Then the great apostle continues: 'For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?' Verse 16.

"The Apostle Peter further makes clear that there is a method which the Holy Spirit can use--it is really within these seven laws of communication--by which the believing wife, or husband, may expect to win the unbelieving mate to Christ. It is not by retaliating. Nor by going to the opposite extreme of dolling up (though we should dress tidily). It is not by compromising with sin, or the world. It is by having 'a meek and quiet spirit, ' 1 Peter 3:1-3. Here is Christ's humility manifested again.

Christ Misunderstood

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"When Christ died on the cross, He prayed, 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.' Luke 23:34. This brings us to the law of faith," Miss T added.

"Christ knew that the people consenting to His death did not have the spirit of God. Neither did they understand His mission to earth. These individuals were 'taken captive by him [the devil] , at his will' (2 Timothy 2:26)."

Rose injected, "But such people are lost anyhow, aren't they? No use of trying to save them, is there?"

Repentance

"This same text of Scripture counsels us: 'In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will' (2 Timothy 2:25, 26," responded Miss T.

"You will be greatly encouraged, Rose," Miss T pointed out, "to notice that Acts 6:7 bears out what we have been discussing. It states: 'And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.' Can you imagine a multitude-in fact, 'a great company' of those who had formerly been in the persecuting class, now becoming 'obedient to the faith'?"

There were many "ah's," and "oh's" among the group. Miss T then suggested that they discuss the law of faith.

Faith

"Evidently," Miss T went on, "Jesus looked with the eye of faith to that time when so many of these priests would turn to Him. His faith pierced the dark future. The prophet Isaiah pictured it this way: 'He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong' (Isaiah 53:11, 12)." Miss T noticed that some of the girls looked a little puzzled.

"Strong What?" Beulah asked, as she almost gasped. Then she added, "Could it be with his strong enemies?" Hope sprang to Beulah's eyes as faith took on a new meaning. It seemed to say, "I have faith that my most bitter persecutor, Bob, may yet see the light. And by seeing the spirit of Christ in me, he will do as the multitude of priests did-find and accept Jesus."

"This is almost too good to be true," Rose exclaimed.

Amy added, with tears flooding her eyes, "This gives me hope for my daddy too. He has been pretty rough on me."

Hope

Mellicent remarked, "I am getting hope, too. I see that I must represent Jesus in my communication. How, otherwise, will my friends be attracted to the wonderful light I have been receiving from Him? If I retaliate a wee bit; if I try to force them into a corner with arguments; if

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I get on my high horse and try to show them where they are wrong, just to justify myself, how can I expect them to be impressed with the spirit of Christ?"

Then she added. "I notice the Scripture says, 'We are saved by hope' (Romans 8:24). This lesson is doing something to my soul--really!"

Love

The group then turned to the law of love-selfless love—the kind of divine love that covers other's mistakes, while working for their salvation.

"I observe in Proverbs 17:9," began Rose, "that if we have love, we shall not spread the faults of our mates around, regardless of how grievous are their sins. I have already attended a couple meetings with the ladies of the Welfare group, and I have observed how careful they are not to discuss the faults of their husbands who are not in Christ. I would say that these ladies have learned the true principle of love.

"I asked Mary Wilcox the other day, as we sat there at the Welfare meeting, why it was that when her husband was so antagonistic, she never mentioned, or even hinted, at any of his hurts, or prejudices, or persecutions. She amazed me when she said, 'Love covers as it seeks to save.' Then continuing meekly, she said, 'God has given me some wonderful promises in His Word. I am asking, believing, and claiming these promises for the salvation of my dear husband.'

"Then there was Alice Cox. She said that for years her husband seemed to be going farther and farther in the wrong direction. She said he even went so far as to become involved in some heathen cult. The farther down he went, the more miserable he became. All the while Alice was thinking of Jesus, representing His love, His joy, and His humility.

"All this time she was claiming promises by faith, and her hope beamed out of her very eyes. She said that one day--one real dark day--her husband turned to her and demanded, 'How is it that when I am so mean, you can be so kind, and so sweet, and so happy?' She said she turned to him with a honeymoon twinkle in her eyes, and answered, 'Honey, it is because I am going to heaven, and I am taking you with me.' She was so gracious, and so sweet, and so meek that these words were used by the Holy Spirit to bring tremendous conviction to his heart. Soon afterward he found Jesus. Later he turned in most of his wealth to evangelistic work."

Beulah was smiling. "Do you think, folk," she began, "that if I obey these seven rules in Jesus, that it just might be that my husband would change from a wicked persecutor to a saint of God, too?" Beulah paused, then continued, "I would give the world if I could believe that."

All Kinds of Insults

Beulah sorrowfully related some of the cruel insults Bob had heaped on her. "Even in company, he loves to pour it on," she remarked. "We had a large crew of workmen in construction a few days ago. My husband requested that I prepare the dinner for all that gang of men. He said it was because he wanted to show off my culinary arts. So I prepared the best and most delicious meal I could. And do you know how my husband rewarded me for doing that? When we were all seated at the tables, my husband arose, and in the most sanctimonious voice began,

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'Gentlemen, my wife's got religion. She never eats without offering praise to her God. She wants to say grace.' And, oh, you should have heard my husband laugh. But the others didn't laugh. They pitied me. I could tell from the sympathetic glances they gave me.

"When I had finished asking the blessing, there was silence. You could have heard a pin drop. I guess some of the men saw tears in my eyes. I got up quickly and hurried into the other room, bringing back a hot dish, hoping no one would notice my embarrassment.

"A few days later, we were in a swanky restaurant. Just as we were ready to eat, what did my husband do but stand before all those strangers. And in a loud, stentorian voice exclaim, 'Folks, my wife's got religion. She never eats without first offering a prayer of thanksgiving for her food.' Then he laughed so cruelly.

"There was nothing left for me to do, but to ask the blessing. When I was through, my heart was beating so fast! I could have wished the floor would cave in and hide me from the eyes of all those people. But they seemed to sympathize with me, too. I observed a lot of love-glances beamed in my direction, as if to say, 'Don't be afraid. We are with you.'

"It has been going that way--first physical blows, and then sarcastic expressions, until I have felt there was no hope. But today has given me hope. I am going to claim a promise, just like Jesus did: 'Father, forgive my husband. He does not know what he is doing.' Then Beulah said softly, as one big tear seemed to stand on her right cheek near that black and blue mark, 'Do you think God will really do something special for me, if I prove faithful, kind, and joyful in trial? Really, do you think so?'"

Mellicent's Reward

Weeks came and went. The group finished the course of lessons. Then the same group decided to go back over the lessons again to further fix the laws of communication in their minds. As they studied, they practiced the seven laws. They freely discussed where they had failed, and how they might succeed in the future. Weeks more passed. Then one day Mellicent walked into the group with face wreathed in smiles. She could hardly wait for the opening chorus and invocation to share the good and wonderful news.

"Do you remember, folk," she began, "the first meeting we had together? It was then that I asked the Lord to forgive me for having belittled some of the folk at the airport restaurant for their little jokes about my being a Jew. And then for trying to out argue them, just so they would realize I was not inferior to them.

"Well, let me tell you what! As I began to change my methods, they began to change their attitudes. I did not tell you several weeks ago that they had seen me studying the 'Faith' correspondence course, sent out by The Voice of Prophecy. But by this time we had become real good friends. Irma, one of the girls at the airport, asked me what I was studying. When I told her about the Bible course, she asked if she might somehow obtain a set of lessons, too. Of course I gave her an enrollment card, which she filled out at once. In two weeks or so, she got her first lessons.

"Irma and Mike, her husband, got so interested in the lessons that they couldn't wait for the next lessons to come. They came over to my home several evenings, and studied my course.

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"Last Sunday Irma rushed up to me and exclaimed. 'Mellicent, my husband and I have decided to give our hearts to Christ, and to become members of the Pierce Arrow church!'

"Folk, I am so happy!" Mellicent gestured excitedly with her hands, her eyes beaming with sacred and holy joy.

Amy smiled with the rest of the group, and then remarked, "Next week I, too, may have something to share with you. And, sure enough, the next week she came to the group meeting, bubbling over with excitement.

"Let me tell you something," she beamed. "My husband was very prejudiced, you know? Well, I have had quite a time with him for several weeks now. Every time he has been nasty, and mean, and sarcastic, I have asked God to help me to be Christlike, joyful, humble, and loving.

"Just a few weeks ago he heard about the 'Gift Bible' offer, and began taking the course of study. I felt for some time that something was happening. But I did not want to mention it to you, and then disappoint you all if he did not come through for Jesus.

"Last Friday he said he had something very special he wanted to talk over. When we did, he apologized for his unkind criticism and persecution of me. He asked me to pray with him, and for him. When we got up from our knees, he told me, with tears in his eyes, that he had decided to give his life to Christ, to be baptized, and unite with the Pierce Arrow church."

Handkerchiefs were being used freely, and reverent "amens" were on several lips.

Two weeks later, Beulah arrived at the group meeting, her eyes brimmed with tears--tears of joy. The moment the folk had all gathered, even before the opening chorus was sung, Beulah began:

"You will find this hard to believe, I know. But it is true--every word true. My husband showed no signs of change, whatever, during all these weeks. As the rest of you related your wonderful experiences, my heart sank. Then I was convinced in my thinking that what God had done for others, He could do for me. So I asked Him to help me to be kinder, more loving, and more joyful than ever; No matter what the trial, to keep me Christlike. And I could feel the assurance of the Holy Spirit.

"Last Sunday my husband invited me to go for a ride out into the country. As we travelled, I knew something was weighing heavily on his mind. I continued to pray. I did not know what it was--whether there was to be more beatings, or whether it might be something worse maybe death itself.

"Finally my husband drove over to a quiet spot under a tree and turned off the key. Then he turned to me. Looking me full in the face, he began apologizing for the cruel way he had treated me.

"I knew then that my prayer had been answered. With big tears rolling down his cheeks, he said, 'Honey, I have made a change. Any God who can keep a woman so kind, so loving, so joyful, so devoted, as you, is worth having as a Savior. I am accepting Him as my Lord, and I have asked Him to forgive my sins, even though like scarlet.'

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"Confidingly, he continued, 'I looked into your Bible and found there the promise that God will cleanse from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). And I learned that if I just believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, even I may be saved (Acts 16:31).' In quiet sincerity he said, 'In believing in the Lord, as the text indicates, I make Him the Lord of my life. I give Him my obedience and my love. In believing on Jesus, I think of the promise I found in your Bible in Matthew 1:21, which says He shall save from sin. So I have claimed Him as my Savior.

"When you were away from the house one day, I was looking through some of your papers and lessons, and found that the word 'Christ' means anointed. So He was anointed, it said, with the Holy Ghost. So I accept Him and His Holy Spirit to lead me, and to make me the kind of Christian you are.'

"He concluded, 'I am going to church with you next Sabbath. And when the closing invitation hymn is sung, I am going to the altar and confess Christ publicly, and then request baptism and membership in the Pierce Arrow church."

There were tears in all eyes, and the whole group of ladies rejoiced greatly with Beulah in her wonderful and thrilling experience.

Smiling through tear-filled eyes, Miss T remarked meditatively, "What hath God wrought!"

Note: This man later became a local elder of the church where he lived.

In Depth Meditations

Question 1: While the Christian should do all within his power to work for peace and reconciliation with any who may hold grievances against him, yet some have discovered that, try as one may, he cannot find peace with the world unless he compromises his principles of truth. What test of Scripture makes this clear?

The Answer: "What concord hath light with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:15.

Question 2: To make sure that we are not ourselves at fault when unable to effect a reconciliation, what example of Jesus should we carefully follow?

The Answer: "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again." 1 Peter 2:23.

Question 3: When we are tempted to think that certain other people are just not sincere, what Scripture should we remember to obey?

The Answer: "Honour all men." 1 Peter 2:17.

Question 4: When we are tempted to criticize others who do not agree with us, what Scripture should we obey?

The Answer: "But in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." Philippians 2:3.

Question 5: What attitude should we request God to give us when people hate us and are extremely bitter against us?

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The Answer: "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." Acts 7:60.

Question 6: If we will follow Christ's example of kindness toward those who oppose, persecute and hate us, what may some day take place?

The Answer: "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." 2 Timothy 2:24-26.

The 7 Laws of Soul-Winning Communication:

1. Jesus: His Methods
2. Jesus: His Joy
3. Jesus: His Humility
4. Freedom of Choice
5. Faith
6. Love
7. Hope