

## Not Quite Twins

by Walter L. Wilson, M.D.

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This interesting story concerns a business man of some prominence and his wife. Mr. T-- was the secretary of a widely known company whose scope of business covered Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Iowa. Because the company with which I was associated handled merchandise which we sold Mr. T-- from time to time for his firm, we often met together in business matters. Our conversations sometimes savored of talks about the Lord. He was religiously inclined and seemed always to welcome any information about Christian things. During none of these visits, however, was there any sign of personal desire nor anything more than curiosity.

One day, as I sat at my desk in the office, my friend entered and seated himself beside me. I could see that he was not in the market for merchandise, for he had just recently purchased his requirements. "I am glad you have come in for a visit, Mr. T--," I said. "Usually, we converse about business matters, but perhaps today we may be more personal."

"Yes," he replied, "I have come in for a personal visit with you. In my various trips to your plant and in our conversations together, I have noticed that your men have a peace with God and a knowledge of God that I do not possess. It is most attractive to me and I would like very much to know what you have that I do not possess. That is really the object of my visit."

"I am sure, Mr. T--, that what we have is just what you may have. It is not a 'thing' but a 'Person.' We have received Jesus Christ and have personal fellowship with Him. It is His presence that transforms the life, saves the soul, and makes us unlike the world. Do you have Christ, and have you ever received Him?"

Mr. T-- looked puzzled by this question, and said: "I have religion, and was raised in a great church of which denomination my father was a pastor. Father and mother often prayed that I would be a preacher or a missionary, and at one time I was selected to be a missionary to the foreign field. I was so exercised by it that I retired to my room for a thorough

investigation of my own condition before God. I asked myself what I would tell the heathen when I reached their shores. I did not know God personally, and felt quite sure that I could not tell the foreigners of One whom I did not know in my own heart. The more I thought of the difficulty I would have in telling them of Christianity, the more helpless I saw myself to be. I returned my appointment with the statement that whenever I got to know God for myself, then I would be ready to speak of Him to others."

Here was an honest heart, a seeking soul. God has been working in this man's life and the Holy Spirit had been revealing to him his own insufficiency and ignorance. How blessed it is to know that the gracious Spirit of God works and deals in hearts, although this may not be known by the one in whom He is working, nor by the friends of that one!

"Have you learned yet how to be saved?" I inquired. "Do you have a clear understanding of the value of Christ and of the Cross?"

He replied, saying, "No, I do not; this whole thing is a muddle to me. Although I was raised in a minister's home, it seems that I know no more than a heathen. I want you to explain to me what this Christianity is that seems to have been such a blessing to you."

The delightful invitation was a golden opportunity which could not be unnoticed. "Mr. T--," I said, "we shall be constantly disturbed here at the desk. You can see how busy our office is, and I fear that our conversation together would not be very satisfactory. May I call at your home some evening? Would your wife mind our visit?"

"Mrs. T-- is just as much interested as myself," he said earnestly. "I have told her of the visits I have had with you and of others in your office, and she, too, has a deep desire to know the secret of your peace and joy. When can you come?"

We arranged to have a personal visit in his home on one evening later in the week. We began at once to ask the Holy Spirit to reach the hearts of these two and to reveal Christ to them. How wise we need to be in dealing with souls! The Spirit is always ready to give wisdom and words that will carry the message

home to the soul. Others were asked to pray, and we looked forward with much joy to the promised meeting.

When the time arrived, I drove over to their home and found them anxiously awaiting my arrival. The children had been sent to bed, and Bibles placed on the dining table. Upon making some inquiry of their religious experiences, I soon discovered that they had been depending on good works, moral character, and religious activity for their salvation, none of which had satisfied their hearts. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. T-- felt sure that this was God's path. They had attended several kinds of churches, including some of the modern cults which are so diametrically opposed to the teachings of orthodox Christianity. Seeking peace, they found none. They had tasted of several of Satan's nostrums, only to find that there was no remedy for the heart, no peace for the soul, and no light for the mind in those teachings.

We read together Isaiah 1:6— "From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds and bruises, and putrifying sores." Again, we read in Romans 3:10 — "There is none righteous, no, not one." "This," I explained, "is God's description of you. As the Lord looks down upon you, He sees nothing attractive, but only wickedness and sinfulness. Do you believe that God's diagnosis of your case is true?"

This thought was so new to the hearts of my friends that they did not reply at once. They could hardly conceive that there was nothing whatever in their hearts and lives that God could call good. Surely they were not utterly bad.

We then turned to Mark, chapter seven, and read at verse 21— "For from within, out of the heart of man, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within and defile the man." I called their attention to the fact that no good thing was mentioned in the list. In God's sight, everything that emanated from the heart was evil and wrong. "You see," I continued, "this is not a description of your life as we may see it; this is a description of your heart as God sees it from heaven."

Through these passages the Holy Spirit convicted Mr. and Mrs. T-- of their sinfulness and their need of a Saviour. Both of them acknowledged with tears their undone condition and their need of

Christ; both were ready then to plead for mercy. I decided it would be best to deal with each one alone, and therefore addressed my gospel message first to Mrs. T--. "Will you," I said, "kindly turn to three Scriptures that we may read together in sequence?" She assented and we turned together to John 3:16, followed by John 1:12, and closing with I John 5:12. She read these Scriptures slowly and audibly in the order given. "Let me explain these passages to you, Mrs. T--," I remarked. "In John 3:16, we find that God is giving to you His own Son. You need that Son to save you. None but He can save you; no one else has been appointed by the Lord to save you. God saw your need of being saved and therefore sent His own Son to you to put away your sins. In John 1:12, our second Scripture, God is giving to you, too, the privilege of accepting that gift described in John 3:16. God the Father wants you to take His Son tonight."

I hesitated at this point in order that my friend might meditate on these two aspects of God's grace: the giving of Christ on His part and the taking of Christ on her part. She was reading the verses over and over again for herself, and was permitting the Holy Spirit to impress upon her heart His own blessed truths.

"What will happen if I take Christ," she said.

"That is answered in the third passage which I gave you. Let us read it together." We then read I John 5:12— "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

"Here is your answer, Mrs. T--. Eternal life is wrapped up in Christ. If you will take Him tonight, you will have eternal life in Him."

"I see it clearly now," she said. "I do accept this Saviour; He is mine." Leaning over the table, she said with tears, "O God, I accept Thy gift to me. I take Jesus Christ tonight. He is my Saviour."

"Just here, Mr. T-- spoke quickly as he, too, was weeping, and said: "I believe all of that, but I am not saved. Why do I not get peace as Norma did?"

I could see by his question that he was occupied with his own faith and feelings. Because of this, I turned to I Peter 3:18, that his mind might be diverted from any deeds of his own. We read

in this passage, "Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God." We also turned immediately to I Peter 2:24, and read: "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree." This revelation of the work of Christ was exactly what Mr. T-- needed. He saw immediately that the Lord Jesus Christ had done for him on the cross what he could not do for himself. For the first time he realized the value of the work of the Lord Jesus at Calvary in his room and stead. "Oh, I see clearly," he said. "Christ took my punishment and paid my debt. How wonderful it is! How clear it is! I believe it with all my heart. My sins are gone and I am saved."

Thirty minutes had elapsed between these two conversions. The wife saw the Saviour and trusted Him at 11:30 P.M. The husband saw Christ and trusted Him just as the clock was striking twelve. A different line of truth was necessary in each case. The one was not saved by the light which the other received. They were almost twins, but not quite.

Through the years the Holy Spirit had guided these two hearts. He had saved them from false doctrines, He had preserved them from being satisfied away from Christ. How we should worship and adore the wonderful One who so wisely guides in the business of the Lord!

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