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J. A. Dennis

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Before God can launch us out into the breadth and sweetness of His service, and entrust to us great things for Himself, we must be perfectly subdued in every part of our nature. To His will and disposition of His mind. We must be subdued in our hearts, in our wills, in our words, in our tempers, in our manner: subdued through and through so thoroughly that we will be flexible to all His purposes and plans. We must be subdued that harshness, severity, criticism, sluggishness, laziness, impetuosity, and all wanting our way, even in religious matters, must be subdued out of us. Conversion will not finish this work, and, perhaps, not one case out of a thousand will the second work of grace produce this complete condition of teachable subjugation to God's will. Being able to preach strong sermons on sanctification will not do it, or having charge of camp meetings, or conventions, or Bible schools, or the writing of books and editing papers on Christian holiness will not prove adequate for this.

We must be subdued, not merely in our own opinion, not merely think ourselves subdued, not only subdued in the esteem of our friends and fellow-workers, but subdued so perfectly that the all-seeing eye of God can look us through, and the omniscient One knows that we are subdued: God must conquer the man that He can trust with His great thoughts and plans.

The Holy Ghost must saturate us with a divine conquest before He can use us to conquer other souls. The Lord will begin to subdue us with gentle means: and if we sink lovingly and promptly into His mind, the work will be done; but if we have flint or iron in our nature, and it is necessary, He will use heroic means and put us between the millstones and grind us to powder until He can mold us without any resistance to His purpose. The greatest difficulty in the way of God using His servants, even His zealous and oftentimes sanctified servants, is that they are not perfectly, universally, and constantly subdued under the power of God.

We must be so subdued as to stop meddling with other people's matters that God has not entrusted us, subdued as not to be calling God's servants with hard names, and thrusting at Christians who are doing what they can in various fields for the Master; so subdued that we can hold our tongues, and walk softly with God, keep our eyes upon Jesus, attend to our own work, and do God's will promptly and lovingly, glad to have a place in His kingdom and do a little service for Him.

Oh! it is grand to be absolutely conquered by the Holy Ghost, and swing out a thousand miles from everybody and everything into the ocean of God's presence, and work with Him in humility, without stumbling over others, without religious peevishness, and bend with every plan God gives us.

When we are subdued in the sight of God, He will work miracles in us and power in experience, in healing, in finance, in service, in gentleness, and in sweetness of the inner heart life; miracles of grace that will astonish us and surprise our friends and utterly amaze our enemies when they come to know the magnitude of what God has wrought. Let us get subdued in every way, in everything; so subdued that we can keep still in God and see Him work out great, bright thoughts of His eternal mind in our lives.

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The Price Of Oil

By J. A. Dennis

“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

“And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

“They that were wise took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

“But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

“When the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

“And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

“Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

“And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

“But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: But go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

“And when they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage; and the door was shut.

“Afterward came also the other virgins saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

“But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you I know you not.

“Watch therefore for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.” (Matt. 25:1-13)

Some years ago, burdened by a great need, and my inadequacy to be of any help in the situation, feeling my lack of power, my lack of the presence and power and love of God in

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The Texas Herald

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But we thank God more each month for the anointed messages and testimonies which He gives us for the magazine, and the blessing it is to many people, and for the funds He sends in to cover its cost.

Thirtieth Anniversary

Thirty years ago, in April, 1951, we began publishing The Texas Herald, and mailing it to a few readers in Texas and several other states.

Today, our subscription list is still quite small, compared with other magazines, but The Texas Herald goes to a few Special People in every State in the Union, and to 38 other countries: People who love God and His Word, who love Jesus, and who love the Holy Ghost, our Comforter.

We pray, the Lord Jesus will continue to richly bless, and keep, and protect, and reward you, for your faithfulness to Him.

Sincerely,
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Dennis

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GOD GIVE US MEN

God, give us Men! A Time like this demands
Strong minds, Great hearts, true faith, and ready hands;
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor; men who will not lie;
Men who can stand before a demagogue:
And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking!
Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog
In public duty and in private thinking;
For while the rabble, with their thumb-worn creeds,
Their large professions and their little deeds,
Mingle in selfish strife, lo! Freedom weeps,
Wrong rules the land and waiting Justice sleeps.

—Josiah Gilbert Hubbard

PAGE TWO
my life and ministry, I began to cry out to God, by day and by night, “Lord, send down the Old Time Power!”

He directed my attention during those days to this parable that Jesus told His disciples, the story of the Ten Virgins. I am not going to deal with this parable as a prophecy, or what is going to happen at the end of the world, or when Jesus comes for His Own. But I feel led to share with you how God dealt with me on one verse, one line in that parable. Because I had been crying out to God for Power to meet the situation. And He kept leading me back to this line, “Go ye, and buy oil for yourselves.”

I studied about that a while, and I went to the Lord about it. I said, “Now, Father, Salvation is free, the Holy Ghost is free, your Gifts are free; what does this mean to me about buying Oil?”

I am using the word Oil to mean the Power of God, the Anointing of God, more than just the Holy Ghost and speaking in tongues. Many people speak in tongues, but do not have the Power of God in their lives. They do not live victorious lives themselves, and are unable to help others who may come to them for help.

That was my heart-cry, and I said, “Lord, what do you mean by talking about buying oil, when only you can furnish the oil?”

Then the thought came that maybe He wants me to furnish the vessel. He has to have a vessel to put the oil in. So I said, “I’ll just furnish the vessel”.

But the Holy Spirit whispered to me, “You can’t furnish the vessel. God requires empty vessels. You can’t fill a vessel with something, when it is already full of something else. Elisha told the poor widow who came to him for help, to borrow empty vessels, then the Lord would fill them with oil. (2 Kings 4: 3) Your vessel is not empty. You can’t pay even that part of the price of Oil. Your vessel is full of self, and vanity and pride and selfishness and criticism. You just can’t pay it. And Only God can empty it, only God can pay that much of the price of oil.”

After some days, between me and the Lord, it boiled down to This: The Only part of the purchase price of this Heavenly Oil that I was so desperately in need of, the only acceptable currency that I had to offer, was my Willingness—and He needed that—to complete the purchase Price. My willingness for Him to take my vessel and empty it of all that was displeasing to Him, something I could not do myself, and then by His Grace and Mercy, pour in some of His Heavenly Oil.

After some days and weeks the Holy Spirit began to reveal some of the costs of this Heavenly Oil, the Heavenly Anointing, the Power of God, The Love of God, The Presence of God, in my life and ministry. This Oil that will set us aflame for God and the souls of men, Oil that will enable us to see signs and wonders follow the preaching of the Word, Oil that will bring miracles to pass, as in New Testament days.

What Price, this Heavenly Oil? The Price is Seven.

1. THE PRICE OF SILENCE

“Be still and know that I am God”. (Psalm 46: 10)

God said to me, “You talk too much, too foolishly. Much of your words are unnecessary and of little value to anyone.”

“Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient; but rather giving of thanks.” (Eph. 5: 4)

“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” (Matt. 12: 36-37)“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.” (Matt. 12: 34)

It was not for nothing that God, through Joshua, commanded the Israelites, as they circled the walls of Jericho: “Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.” (Josh. 6:10)

If the Israelites had been permitted to talk, as they walked around those mighty walls for a week, no doubt they would have been discussing the height of the walls, the strength of the defending army, the impossibility of the task before them. But they were commanded to “Keep their mouths shut,” not to utter a word—not a word of doubt, or fear, or discouragement, or defeat—not a word.

We need to learn that lesson, if we would expect God to work miracles in and through us. Too often, as we walk around a sick bed or some other obstacle to our faith, we lose the battle with our tongue—with our idle or doubting words.

When Jesus was falsely accused before the Sanhedrin and before Pilate, He answered “never a word.”

 Idle talk, foolish chatter, dissipates faith and power. Jesus, when He walked the earth, though He was the Son of God, could not say what He might want to say. He must first find out what His Father wanted Him to say.

“For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.” (John 12: 49-50)

The Lord has been dealing with me, more every year of my life, to keep my mouth shut, until He gives me something worthwhile to say.

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PAGE THREE
2. THE PRICE OF KNOWING THE WORD

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Tim. 2:15)

"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Rom. 10:17)

Men of power, men with Oil, are men saturated with the Word of God. They not only read the Word, study the Word, know the Word—they LOVE the Word and its Author, they BELIEVE the Word and its Promises, they USE the Word and its Power.

"The Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discriminator of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb. 4:12)

Jesus, facing the Tempter in the Wilderness, won his victory over Satan by meeting the devil's testings with the Word. With three slashes of his mighty Sword of the Spirit—"It is Written," "It is Written!"—He put the enemy to rout. If we are to see the devil flee from us, we must "resist him" with the Word of God. (James 4:7)

If you would "buy" Oil, let the Word and Jesus the Living Word back of it, become your meat and drink, your shield and buckler, your ever-present Sword.

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matt. 4:4)

I used to like to read novels, love stories, and detective stories. The Lord took me off of all these, and put me on his Word.

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, and thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." (Joshua 1: 8)

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." (Psalm 1: 1-3)

3. THE PRICE OF PRAYER

"Men ought always to pray, and not to faint." (Luke 18:1)

Jesus knew that the only alternative to "fainting" was to pray.

When other men were sleeping, He was praying.

"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." (Mark 1:35)

"And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray; and when the evening was come, he was there alone." (Matt. 14:23)

"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 he named apostles." (Luke 6:12-13)

"Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

"And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

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"Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death; tarry ye here, and watch with me.

"And he went a little farther, and fell on his face and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

"And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?"

"Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matt. 26: 36-41)

Have you won the battle with the bed? Do you "rise up early" enough in the morning to spend an hour in prayer before your daily work begins?

"What, could ye not watch with me one hour?"

"When Joshua and the Israelites took Jericho, they rose "early in the morning."

"And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times." (Josh. 6:15)

If you want to meet God, meet Him early in the morning. We have time to hunt, to fish, to watch TV, time to play, but, so often, no time to pray.

I had to ask Jesus, as the disciples did, "Lord, teach me to PRAY". (Luke 11: 1)

4. THE PRICE OF FASTING

"This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." (Matt. 17:21)

The disciples were put to shame before the multitude and before the enemy, when confronted with the boy possessed with a devil which they could not cast out.

They had not fasted. Jesus had, and with a word, He rebuked the devil, and the boy was delivered.

Jesus said that his disciples would fast after his departure from the world:

"But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast." (Matt. 9:15)

Paul fasted. "In fastings often." (II Cor. 11:27) "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." (I Cor. 9:27)

Fasting breaks the bands of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Fasting kills the ego, crucifies the self, stills the tongue, subdues the flesh, slays the pride, makes us weak so that God can be strong in us.

"For my strength is made perfect in weakness." (II Cor. 12:9)

When prayer alone will not prevail, fasting added to prayer will bring the Victory.

Men with the power of God in their lives, men with Oil, are men who have won the twin battles of "bed and board"—sleep and appetite—men who have learned the secret of fasting.

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." (Zech. 4:6)

The few to whom the multitudes go for healing, are men who have paid the price of prayer and fasting, separation, solitude and silence, to walk and talk with God and present their bodies a living sacrifice unto God, a "vessel sanctified and meet for the Master's use." (II Tim. 2:21)

They have the Oil.

We call men to hear the Word, to study the Word, sometimes to pray, but seldom do we call them to fast. We often call them to feast, rather than fast.

So I had to ask Jesus to teach me about fasting.
5. THE PRICE OF SEPARATION
If we want the Oil, the power of God in our lives and ministries, we must live separated lives, “in the world, but not of the world.”

“So be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what partnership hath righteousness with wickedness? and what fellowship hath light with darkness?” (2 Cor. 6:14)

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (I John 2:15-16)

Before God permitted John the Baptist to announce the coming of Jesus and the Kingdom of Heaven, He placed John in the desert “until the day of his shewing unto Israel.” (Luke 1:80)

Before God sent Moses to deliver Israel from Egyptian bondage, He forced him to herd sheep in the desert for forty years.

Before God placed Joseph in charge of the Egyptian economy, He held him in jail for something like 13 years.

Before God sent Paul to preach Christ to the Gentiles, He sent him to the deserts of Arabia for three years.

Before God permitted Jesus to preach his first sermon or work his first miracle, He led him into the wilderness for 40 days and nights.

Isolation from the world means power to overcome the world.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” (Rom. 12:1-2)

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Rom. 12:1-2)

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. 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 God.” (Heb. 12:1-2)

I feel deeply that many Christians are trying to make Heaven, and still carry a lot of weights. I will just name one of many weights they are trying to carry, for I believe it is the heaviest weight of all, and that is the hours they spend watching Television.

The Television is the most powerful Propaganda devise ever invented by man. And I feel deeply that the devil has used the Television, aside from the strictly Christian programs, to brainwash America, including many Christians; to think like the world, to talk like the world, to joke like the world, to dress like the world, to look like the world, and in great measure, to act like the world.

I believe the greatest harm done is the damage done to the minds and spirits of our children and young people. Children were once brought up at mother’s knee, and told about Jesus. Now probably most of them are brought up on all the violence and immorality fed into their eager young minds, from watching worldly and wicked things on Television. After ten or twelve years of that kind of “teaching”, it is no wonder that many of them go into crime and wickedness in their early teens.

You ask, “Is it a sin to watch Television?”

It certainly is a sin, if you watch wicked things, and I am told that there are plenty of wicked things on it, to watch.

David said in Psalm 101: 3, “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes.”

Jesus said the devil is a Liar (John 8: 44), a Thief (John 10: 1), a Robber (John 10: 1), and a Murderer (John 8: 44).

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10: 10)

If you are not mighty careful, the Devil will use the Television to steal your Prayer time, to steal your Bible reading time, and your Quiet Time with Jesus, which is so important. And if the Devil can entice you to watch wicked things that

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ALL GLORY TO GOD!

A Joyful Life, for me and my Wife
Is only just begun in Nineteen Eighty-One.

Whence cometh this Glad Abundant Life?
From God’s Royal Bounty, through his Son!

Three Score and Ten, and then Four Score,
And then—What then? What then?

Does God have more? Aye, more, much more,
For those who call Him Friend.

Mere length of days is not our Goal,
But Christ’s Perfection of our soul;

For Him to finish what He’s begun,
And end the race given us to run;

Christ, the Lord, Who made us whole.

For length of days, we give Jesus Praise,
All Honour and the Glory.

We’re not our own, but his alone;
It’s really just his story;

Who saved our soul, and made us whole;
Glory, Glory, Glory!

We Praise God daily for His Health,
And just a touch of His Great Wealth;

We thank Him more for His Great Love,
And our new Heavenly Home Above.

But just for Himself, we thank Him Most.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

Amen, and Amen.

J.A.D. 1-3-81
stir up the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, that John warned us against, he can steal your Salvation, and he is trying his best to do it.

God didn’t have to deal with me about watching Television, because we have never had one in our home. When Christians first began buying Televisions, I was convinced in my mind and heart that more bad than good would come out of it, so we have never had one in our home, and never expect to have.

But God dealt with me about a different weight that I was carrying in my Christian race to Heaven. I don’t suppose you would call it a sin to read the newspaper. Certainly not much spiritual food in a newspaper, and lots of bad news. But years ago I just loved to read the daily newspaper. I just LOVED it, so much that I could almost EAT it. And I could sit down joyfully every morning and waste an hour of my time devouring the newspaper. They weren’t as big then as they are now, and I would just read it all, from the front page headlines on over to the want-ads, if I didn’t want a thing. I just loved it.

Well, the Lord got after me about it. He told me I wasn’t just wasting my time in that hour, but I was wasting His time. He said, “When my Son, Jesus, saved you with His Blood, He bought you, paid a big price for you, and you are not your own. (1 Cor. 6: 19-20) You are a Bond-Slave to Jesus, and you don’t have any time of your own. You are spending that hour in the newspaper, on my time."

My last secular job was managing a man’s office here in Austin. If I had taken my newspaper to the office and spent an hour every morning reading it, on his time, he would have fired me. The Lord was merciful and gracious enough that He didn’t fire me. He just told me gently that He would rather for me not to be reading the newspaper an hour every day, on His Time.

I made the Lord a promise that if He would let me keep my newspaper, I would just read the headlines each morning, to see who was President, and if we were at war or peace, and then I would lay it down and go about his business. I thought that was a pretty good deal, but God didn’t think much of it. He knew I couldn’t keep a silly promise like that. What if I picked up the paper and saw a big headline, “Hurricane Heads for Texas”, or “Russians Threaten U.S.”, or “The President Resigns”, and I read eagerly a few paragraphs, and then it says, “Continued on Page 12”? How are you going to lay it down and go to work? I saw He had me.

He must have whispered to our paper boy, just to forget to send the fire on the altar of Mt. Carmel where the priests dared go out against him in the Name of the God of Israel. Joshua’s command. If the waters of Jordan had failed to open when the priests counted that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.” (Heb. 11: 19) Moses dared to take his life in his hands (No, he put it into God’s hands) when he dared defy the king’s decree and continued to kneel in prayer and give thanks to his God.

6. THE PRICE OF DARING

A. Daring to Say

“Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he sayeth shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.” (Mark 11:22-23)

The battle against satan is often won or lost with our tongues —what we say.

Idle words, foolish chatter, dissipate power.

But when we “Say what God says,” speak His word—seriously, confidently, boldly—it IS quick and powerful.

Jesus dared to boldly SAY what was going to happen BEFORE it happened. He KNEW it would come to pass “because it was WRITTEN in God’s Word.”

“The scripture cannot be broken.” (John 10:35)

When the Centurion told Jesus of his servant lying at the point of death, the Master calmly replied, “I will come and HEAL him.” (Matt. 8:7)

When standing at the tomb of Lazarus, BEFORE he had dared to call forth the dead man, He looked up to Heaven and thanked the Father openly, for the miracle that was about to happen. (John 11:41-43)

“And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.” (Isa. 65:24)

“He shall have whatsoever he saith.” (Mark 11:23)

“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering: for he is faithful that promised.” (Heb. 10:23)

I have had to learn to dare to say—regardless of what my symptoms said, or the pain said, or my appearance said, or what the neighbors or the devil said—“Jesus is my Physician, and by His Stripes I am healed!”

B. Daring to DO

“Whatsoever he sayeth unto you, do it.” (John 2:5)

The final proof of faith is what we DO. We only believe what we believe strongly enough to ACT on.

If I sincerely believe that God will heal me when I call on Him, then I do not seek help from means or men.

If I am not sure He will, then I turn to the arm of flesh for help.

God’s men of faith are men who dare to put their faith and their God to the bitter test.

Abraham went the last step in offering his son Isaac on the altar, even to tying him and lifting the knife to slay him, “accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.” (Heb. 11:19)

Moses dared to take his life in his hands when he returned to Egypt to appear before Pharaoh and demand that the Israelites be set free.

Joshua risked his life by stoning at the hands of the multitude, if the waters of Jordan had failed to open when the priests bearing the Ark of God marched into the swollen river at Joshua’s command.

David risked a cruel death at the hands of Goliath when he dared go out against him in the Name of the God of Israel.

Elijah faced an ignoble death before Baal’s prophets, if God failed to send the fire on the altar of Mt. Carmel where the prophet had challenged the enemy and their god.

Noah dared to face the ridicule of his generation when he built the ark and declared that God’s wrath would flood the earth.

Daniel risked death in the lions’ den when he dared defy the king’s decree and continued to kneel in prayer and give thanks to his God.

The three Hebrew children boldly accepted a flaming death in lieu of bowing to King Nebuchadnezzar’s image, unless God would save them.
If we want the Heavenly Oil, we must dare to pay the price of saying what God's Word tells us to say, and of doing what his Word tells us to do.

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

I had to learn, by God's Grace, to do what I would do if I knew God was going to do what He said He would do. To dare to step out on His Word, and trust Him to bring me through.

I had to learn, and by His Grace and Power, to "stand, and having done all, to stand" against the devil. (Eph. 6:13)

Like the football players do when their team is being pushed back, and back, and back, by their opponents. They grit their teeth, dig their cleats into the sod, and, even at risk of life or limb, they "hold that line," for their team or school.

We Christians should be able and willing to do no less for Jesus.

7. THE PRICE OF CRUCIFIXION

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet, not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Gal. 2:20)

All the steps outlined above are a part of and lead up to the ultimate Price of Oil—the Crucifixion of Self.

If we want Oil—the power of God moving in our lives—we must bring Self and Ego and Pride and Stubborn Will to the Cross of Christ and there condemn them to death with Him, that the old man may be dead and we may arise to walk in newness of life—truly a new creature in Christ Jesus—where his will, not ours is sought, where we have one passion in life: to please Him who died for us.

God cannot trust his holy Oil to carnal, fleshly hands.

If we seek power in order to build up our ministry, our assembly, our finances, we seek in vain.

When God begins to use a man, and that man begins to take the glory, God removes his hand, and soon the man is left without oil, an empty darkened vessel.

If God is using a man, that man has little to boast of, for God does not often use the wise, the great, the gifted.

If God is mightily using a man, it is pretty good evidence that man is a fool, is weak, is nothing, as the world judges wisdom and greatness.

Paul, though talented and learned, was used mightily of God because he counted all these things, "as dung, that he might win Christ." (Phil. 3:4-9) He was willing to be a "fool for Christ's sake." (I Cor. 4:10)

When other men boasted of him, saying, "I am of Paul," Paul reminded them that neither he nor Apollos "was anything." "But, God that giveth the increase." (I Cor. 3:4-7)

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing." (Rom. 7:18)

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty:

"And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

"That no flesh should glory in his presence.

"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

"That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." (I Cor. 1:26-31)

"Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many." (Matt. 20:26-28)

"And, whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." (Matt. 23:12)

I have prayed for years that God would enable me, by His Grace, to some day make that confession, honestly, that Paul could make, "I am crucified with Christ."
Will You Be A Donkey?

Are you down-hearted and blue? Defeated and discouraged? Do you sometimes feel that your life is of little value, that there isn’t anything you can do to help Jesus bring in the Kingdom of Heaven on earth? If you feel that way, perhaps I can help you, I have felt just like that.

For twenty years I carried two heavy burdens on my back, one bag on each shoulder. In one, all the sins, mistakes, guilt, remorse of yesterday. In the other, all the fears and doubts of the future. Until one day Jesus spoke to my heart and succeeded in getting me to cast down these heavy burdens at His feet and straighten up—free!

Much of my burden was an inferiority complex that brooded over past failures and anticipated future defeats. At that time there came to me a new interpretation to this passage of scripture—the story of Jesus and the Donkey—the Donkey which Jesus especially chose to carry Him into Jerusalem on His Triumphant Entry.

Listen:

“And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethpage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, he sendeth forth two of his disciples and saith unto them, Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat; loose him, and bring him.”

(Mark 11:1-7)

Years ago I found fault with this parade into Jerusalem, of Jesus’ riding on a little stupid donkey. My father was a breeder of Thoroughbreds and I have always loved a fine horse. I thought if I were staging a parade as Jesus did that day I would go and get the finest big prancing steed I could find, a handsome trimmed saddle and silver mounted bridle, so that folks would know a King had come to town. A horse like we see leading the many colorful parades up Congress Avenue in Austin on special parade days.

And I expect, if a little donkey could have reasoned and spoken, he would have argued to the two disciples that came for him, that he was un-qualified to lead the parade. He would probably have said: “No, I am not capable of leading the parade, of carrying a King into the city. Go get someone capable, someone experienced. I’ve never had a saddle on my back or carried a human being; I’ve never known a bridle, I have no education; no seminary training, never been to college; I don’t even know the way to Jerusalem. No, get someone else for this job.”

The disciples might have had to talk into the donkey’s long ears quite a while before he would consent to go. They could have explained that he didn’t have to know the bridle, that he could just do like the cow pony of the West does today, obey the pressure of the rider’s knees, the sway of the rider’s body. That he didn’t need to know the way to Jerusalem, that Jesus knew the way, that all he would need to do would be to go wherever Jesus guided him. And they could point out that if Jesus had chosen a big prancing mount with flowing mane and waving tail, with rich saddle and bridle, the people who lined the road might have cringed out, “My, what a pretty horse the Master is riding.” But as He rode into Jerusalem on the lowly donkey the cry was, “Behold, the MAN.”

In this story I found the answer to the problems of my life. Though wanting to do great things, I was always held back by a sense of inadequacy, of inferiority, so that when an opportunity did come I would say, “No, I am not worthy or capable. Go, get someone else. I can’t do it.”

When I caught the full significance of the Donkey Story, I saw that Jesus didn’t need folks with fancy appearances or many talents. They are always in danger of pointing attention to themselves instead of pointing attention to Jesus. But He needs men and women of mediocre talent or with no talent except the willingness to be a dutiful obedient, lowly donkey on which Jesus can ride into the hearts of men. He needs men and women who are willing to be overlooked or forgotten that all eyes may be focused on Him, the Saviour of the world.

Listen to what Paul says about that:

“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the
things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are: that no flesh shall glory in His presence.” (I Cor. 1:26-29)

This is a mystery that the world, in its pride of achievement, cannot understand and will not accept. Unless you become as a little child, Jesus said, you cannot enter the Kingdom.

When Jesus chose the twelve most important men in history, His disciples, He passed by the learned and proud political and religious leaders of His day to choose twelve common working men, hard fisted fishermen, to shake the world with miracles and wonders. Why? The wise men would have had ideas of their own as to how the Kingdom should come in and would have gotten their own ideas mixed into it. So Jesus picked common, unlearned men who didn’t know any more than to believe every word He said and to obey every command He gave them.

And today we see that very thing taking place again. Jesus is seemingly passing up many religious leaders, with much scholarly wisdom, many man-made degrees, with many talents and many ideas about the Kingdom of Heaven. Their churches are cold and dead, their people spiritually unfed.

While Jesus has today raised up a group of unlearned or slightly educated men to whom He has entrusted the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of healing, of miracles, of discernment of spirits, of tongues and interpretations, of prophecy and Heavenly wisdom. (See I Cor. 12)

Why? Perhaps because they don’t know any more than to believe the Word of God, literally, and to go out and obey the commission of their Lord and Master, when He commands them to lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.

Perhaps because they know that in themselves they are nothing, they can do nothing, their wisdom amounts to nothing, their training is nothing, their talents are nothing; that only Jesus, working through them, can do anything worth while.

And hungry thousands are flocking to hear them preach the Word under the anointing of the Holy Spirit that makes their words alive and powerful; to see the wonderful things that only God can do.

They are only fulfilling Paul’s observation that God hath chosen the weak, the foolish, the base and the despised to confound the wise, that no flesh should glory in His presence.

So friend, if you feel you have no talent, you are not properly educated or trained or capable of doing anything for the Lord, remember He can use you just like you are. In fact, He needs you, just as He needed the little dumb donkey. Are you willing to be a little donkey, to be unnoticed, unpraised, forgotten in God’s service? If so, then Jesus wants you. He desperately needs you to carry Him into the hearts of men and women. Each of you can be a witness to His power, His love, His goodness.

But before Jesus could use the donkey he had to be untied. Jesus told the disciples to loose him. And I saw that I had been useless to the Lord because I was tied up to a post—that post, myself. Perhaps you are tied to that same post—to yourself.

And the disciples could not untie the colt if he persisted in pulling back on the rope as I have seen many western broncs do. Jesus could not untie me, until I quit pulling back on the rope and let Him untie me. Perhaps some of you are pulling back on the rope today, refusing to let Jesus untie you.

The messenger that Jesus sends today to loose you is the Holy Spirit. “Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” Acts 19:2) If not, you can receive Him if you will humble yourself and ask earnestly for Him to come in and take over your life and set you free.

This story of Jesus needing the Donkey, Paul’s statement about God choosing the weak and foolish and despised to do His work, encouraged me tremendously but they were not sufficient to untie me from myself. Only the Holy Spirit could do that. When I found that out I began to seek and to pray for the Holy Spirit to come in and dwell within me where Jesus promised He would dwell. He said: “He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” (John 14:17)

It is nice to think of God in Heaven upon whom we can call in time of need; it is better to think of Jesus walking by our side in time of trouble; but Jesus promised even more than this. He promised us Himself, within us, in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

“Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence . . . (And) ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me.” (Acts 1:5, 8)

Friends, would you be a donkey in Christ’s service; would you like to have the Holy Spirit untie you from self and failure and remorse and fear? He is eager to do it because He needs you in His service. Just open your heart today and ask Him to come in and take over your entire life, past, present and future. Turn over everything to Him and He will use you to His glory.

J. A. Dennis

THREE GATES

If you are tempted to reveal
A tale to you someone has told
About another, make it pass
Before you speak, three gates of gold.

These narrow gates: First, "Is it true?"
Then, "Is it needful?" In your mind
Give truthful answer. And the next
Is last and narrowest, "Is it kind?"
And if to reach your lips at last
It passes through these gateways three,
Then you may tell the tale, nor fear
What the result of speech may be.

—Author Unknown

THE TEXAS HERALD

Since we have seen the Light of Day,
And see the coming Night;
Often, as we watch and pray,
The Master orders, "Write!"

There's such a lovely story to tell,
Christ Jesus and His Love;
And how, to save us all from hell,
He left his home Above.

The woeful tale of sin and pain,
And the lateness of the hour;
And how you can be saved and healed,
By Christ Jesus and his Power.

We do not write to have "our say,"
Ours is a sacred trust;
Not for profit, nor for pay;
We write because we must.

The pen we use is someone's gift,
The message not our own;
It's printed by another's hands,
And censored at God's throne.

It comes to you through loving gifts,
By air and sea and post;
If the Texas Herald blesses you,
Please thank the Holy Ghost.

—J.A.D.
**REPTANCE**

By Catherine Booth

"Repent ye; for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Matthew 3:2

"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent; for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:17

"Whereupon, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision, but shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coast of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance."

Acts 26:19,20

In the mouths of three witnesses—John the Baptist, Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul—this word shall be established, namely, that repentance is an indispensable condition of entering the Kingdom of God.

People generally are all at sea on this subject, as though insisting upon repentance were an arbitrary arrangement on the part of God. I believe God has made human salvation as easy as His almighty, infinite mind could make it. But there is still the necessity that we should "repent and turn to God." It is just as necessary that my feelings be changed and brought back into harmony with His will, as that a wicked, disobedient boy should have his feelings brought back into harmony with his father before he can be forgiven. Precisely the same laws of mind are brought into action in both cases, and there is the same necessity in both.

If there is any father reading this who has a prodigal son, I ask, "How is it that you are not reconciled to your son? You love him—love him intensely. Probably you are more conscious of your love for him than for any other of your children. Your heart yearns over him every day; you pray for him night and day, and you say with David, "Absalom, Absalom, My son! My son!"

Why are you not reconciled? Why not put him on the head, or stroke his face and say, "My dear lad, I am well pleased with you. I love you—I give you my approbation." Why are you always re-proving? Why are you obliged to hold him at arms length? Why can you not live on amicable terms with him? Why can you not have him come in and out, and live with you on the same terms as the affectionate, obedient daughter?

"Oh!" you say, "the case is different; I cannot. It is not, I would not, but 'I Cannot.' Before that can possibly be, the boy's feelings must be changed towards me. He is at war with me; he has mistaken notions of me; he thinks I am hard and cruel and exacting and severe. I have done all a father could do, but he doesn't understand me. He is going in defiance of my will, and it is a necessity that I insist on a change in him. I cannot receive him as a son till he comes to me. He must confess his sin and ask me to forgive him. Then—oh how glad will my fatherly affection gush out. How I should run to meet him, and put my arms around his neck!"

Just so, it is not that God does not love you sinner; it is not that His great benevolent heart has not, as it were, wept tears of blood over you. It is not that He would put His loving arms around you this moment, if you would only come to His feet and confess you were wrong and seek His pardon; but otherwise, He may not—He cannot. The very laws of His universe are against Him doing so. The good of millions of immortal beings is involved. Until there is a change of mind in you God cannot move. You must repent. "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

**WHAT IS REPTANCE?**

Well, if repentance be an indispensable condition of salvation, let us see what repentance really is. Oh, how full of confusion the world and the Church are upon this subject. May the Holy Spirit help us!

First, repentance is not merely conviction of sin. Oh, if it only were, what a different world we should have tonight. There are tens of thousands in whom God's Spirit has fulfilled His office by convincing them of sin. I am afraid we would be perfectly astounded if we had any conception of the multitudes whom God has convinced of sin—as He did Agrippa and Festus. I could not tell you the numbers of people who, in our "anxious meetings," have grasped my hand and said, "Oh! what would I give to feel as I once felt! There was a time fifteen years ago when I was so deeply convinced of sin that I could scarcely sleep or eat; but instead of going on till I found peace, I got diverted, cooled down, and now I feel as hard as a stone." I am afraid there are tens of thousands in this condition.

But also there are thousands of others who are convinced now. They say, "Yes, it is true. I know I ought to lay down the weapons of my warfare against God; I know I ought to cut off this right hand and pluck out this right eye. They are convinced of sin, but they go no further. This is not repentance. They live this week as they did last. There is no response to the Spirit; they "resist the Holy Ghost."

Neither is repentance mere sorrow for sin. I have seen people weep bitterly, and wriethe, and struggle, yet hang on tenaciously to their idols. In vain one tries to shake them from them. Oh, if Jesus Christ would have saved them with those idols, they would have no objection at all. If they could have got through the "strait" gate with even this one particular idol, they would have gone through long since; but to part with that—that is another thing.

Such people will weep like a stubborn child when its mother requires of it something which it does not want to do. The child will cry, and when she applies the rod it will cry harder—but it will not yield. When the child yields, it becomes a penitent; but until then it is merely a convicted sinner.

When God applies the rod of His Word by His Spirit, or the rod of His Providence, sinners will cry and wince and...
whine and make you believe they are praying and that they want to be saved—but all the while they are holding their necks as stiff as iron. They will not submit. The moment they submit, they become true penitents and get saved.

I do not believe there is any mistake more common than for people to suppose they are penitents when they are not. There are some of you who are reading this in this very condition. I am afraid you are quite mistaken—you are not penitents. God is true though every man should be a liar! If you had sought, as you say you have, and perhaps even think you have; if you had been sincere and honest with God, you would have been saved years ago. Oh, may God the Holy Spirit help you to come out and be honest! Be honest, and I will be honest with you and bless you; but while you be hugging on to some forbidden possession, as with the young ruler. That is not repentance.

Repentance is simply renouncing sin—turning from darkness to light, from the power of Satan unto God. This means giving up sin in your heart—your purpose, intention and desire. It is resolving that you will give up every evil thing, and do it now.

Of course this involves sorrow, for how will any sane man turn from a given course to another if he does not regret having taken that course? It implies also hatred of sin. The penitent hates the course he formerly took and turns from it.

It is like the prodigal. When he sat in the swineyard among the husks and the filth, he fully resolved and he acted. He "went"—and that was the test of his penitence! He might have sat resolving and promising till now, if he could have lived this long, and he would never have got the father's kiss of welcome. But he "went." He left the filth, the swineyard, the husks; he trampled them under his feet. He left the citizen of that country, gave up all his subterfuges and excuses, and went to his father honestly and said, "I have sinned!"

THE PROOF

"I have sinned against Heaven and before thee," he cried. Then came the proof of his submission: "I am no more worthy to be called thy son; make me as one of thy hired servants." That is repentance—Jesus Christ's own beautiful illustration of true penitence. Have you done that? Have you forsaken the accursed thing? Have you forsaken the accursed thing? Have you cut off that particular thing which the Holy Spirit has revealed to you? Or is there a "but" that keeps you out of the Kingdom? You know what it is—and you will never get saved until you renounce it.

Submission is the test of penitence. My child may be willing to do a hundred things, but if he is not willing to submit to me on the one point of controversy he is a rebel—and remains one until he yields. Right here is just the difference between a spurious and a real repentance. I am afraid we have thousands in our churches who have had a spurious repentance. They were convinced of sin and they were sorry for it. They wanted to live a better life, to love God in a sort of general way; they skipped over the real point of controversy with God. They hid it from their pastor, perhaps, and from the people who talked with them.

Abraham could have been willing to give up every other thing that he possessed, but if he had not been willing to give up Isaac, all else would have been useless. It is your Isaac God wants. You have an Isaac, just as the young ruler had his possessions. You have something that you are holding on to that the Holy Spirit says you must let go. You say, "I can't." Very well, then you must stop outside the kingdom, but I beseech you not to deceive yourself by supposing that you repent.

DIFFICULTIES IN THE WAY

The apostle Paul said, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." This is, I believe, the greatest work of the ministry. To do what? To persuade men; We are constantly talking to thousands of people who know just what God wants of them. We cannot bring them any new light or new Gospel. They know all about it. In fact, they used to tell me this so often that I longed for a congregation of heathen. So often when the heathen hear the Gospel, like the publicans and sinners of old, they go into the kingdom, while some of you who are the natural children of the kingdom are shut out. Why? Simply this. When they hear they receive, submit and obey—while you stand outside (holding on to your idols) and reason, quibble and reject!

Oh dear friends, let me persuade you to trample under foot that idol, to tear down that refuge of lies and to come to God honestly and say, "Lord, here I am—to be a servant, to be nothing, to do anything, to suffer anything. I know I shall be happier with Thy smile and Thy blessing than all these evil things now make me without Thee." When you come to a full surrender, my friends, you will

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by Gene Neill

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He will lift you up out of the pit. You struggle the more you sink; but he wrestling have done all these weary years.

Olive will do more for you in one hour—it shall be done. He will pour in the oil and balm. His glorious, blessed presence will say, "Yes, Lord." The moment he said that, Jesus supplied the healing

I cannot!" But what did Jesus want? He wanted that, "I will, Lord," inside the man—the response of his will. He wanted him to say, "Yes, Lord." The moment he said that, Jesus supplied the healing strength, and you know what happened.

Don't ever look forward and say, "I shall not have strength to go through it." That is not your matter—that is His. He will hold you up. He is able, once you commit yourself to Him. Say, "I will!" Never mind what you might suffer—it shall be done. He will pour in the oil and balm. His glorious, blessed presence will do more for you in one hour than all your struggling, praying and wrestling have done all these weary years. He will lift you up out of the pit.

You are in the mire now and the more you struggle the more you sink; but he will lift you out of it and put your feet on the rock. Then you will stand firm.

Stretch out your withered hand, whatever it may be. Say, "I will, Lord!" You have the power and mind, and you have the obligation.

This is an issue that God has made both universal and immediate. God "now commandeth all men everywhere to repent!" What a tyrant He would be if He commanded this and yet knew you have not the power to do it. Not so, dear friend—it is "now" and it is for "all men everywhere."

Keep in mind the issue—it is, do you repent? Not, do you weep? The feeling will come after the surrender. One often hears someone say, "I do not feel it enough." Do you feel enough to be willing to forsake your sin? That is the point. Any soul who is not disturbed enough to forsake his sin is not a penitent at all. But when you are willing to forsake your sin, that moment your repentance is sincere. You may then take hold of Jesus with a firm grasp and appropriate the promise, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Look and live!

DO IT NOW!

Will you come to that point now? Don't begin making excuses. Now—all men—everywhere—now! Perhaps you should have done it ten years ago? You have been accumulating sin, condemnation and wrath ever since. God commanded you these ten years to repent and believe the Gospel—and here you are yet. How many sermons have you heard? How many invitations have you rejected? How much persuasion and reasoning of the Holy Spirit have you received in vain?

I tremble to think what an accumulated load of abused privilege, lost opportunity and wasted influence many people will have to give account of. Men seem to think nothing of the way they treat God. They are very much awake to any evil done to their fellow-men. They can much more easily see the sin of injuring their neighbors than that of injuring the great. God. But He said to Israel of old, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me!" Do you not see the awful weight of condemnation that is coming upon you as you vaccilate—as you put off, reject and resist, while He says "Now"?

He has had a right to every breath you have drawn, to all your influence, every hour of the day, of all your years. Is it not time you ended that controversy? Oh my friend, be persuaded now to repent! Let your sin go and come to the feet of Jesus. For the peace, the joy, the power, the glory, the gladness of a life of consecration to God and of service to your fellow-men, yield!

But there is an even greater motive, and that is the love He bears you. A great, rough man—stricken down—looked up to the place where other people were being saved and said to his husband, "Mr. Booth, I would not go there for a hundred pounds." My husband whispered, "Will you go there for love?" and after a moment's hesitation the man, brushing the great tears away, rose up and followed him.

Will you go there for love—the love of Jesus—the great love wherewith He loved you and gave himself for you? Will you, for the great yearning with which your Father has been following you all these years—for His love's sake, will you come? Go down at His feet and submit. Go down at His feet and submit. The Lord help you!—Voice in the Wilderness

REPRINTS

We will send up to 10 Reprints of Captain John M. LeVrier's Testimony—How God miraculously healed him of cancer—Postpaid, to anyone who will prayerfully distribute them for God's Glory.

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