

The Senior and His Sweetheart

by Walter L. Wilson, M.D.

The young people in every age have had a special place in the eyes of the Lord. Often in the Scriptures do we find young men selected by the Lord to carry out His great purposes and plans. The ministry of our Lord Jesus was finished when he was thirty-three and a half years of age. David was chosen to be king when he was probably less than twenty years of age. Samuel as a boy received the message of the Lord concerning Israel.

It has often been my desire to present Christ to the young men, the young women, and the boys and girls in our schools and colleges, and frequently I have asked the Holy Spirit for the privilege of ministering Christ to these young lives. One day He gave the opportunity. A call was received from the principal of a large high school in one of our great cities to speak to his students. There were eight hundred and forty-two young people in the auditorium to hear the address.

I reached the schoolhouse a few minutes early. The principal accompanied me into the auditorium just as the students were entering to take their seats. We walked down one of the side aisles, but as we neared the front of the room approaching the platform, a teacher requested an interview with the principal for a few minutes. Standing alone, waiting for his return, one of the seniors, a lad of about seventeen, approached me and with a cynical look, almost a sneer, he said: "Are you the preacher that is to address us this morning?"

"Yes," I replied, "I will talk to you young people about some interesting things that perhaps you will enjoy."

"It isn't likely that I will enjoy it," he said, "because I don't believe the 'bunk' that you preachers put out."

"Well," I exclaimed, "that is interesting. Now that you have told me what you do not believe, perhaps you might like to tell me what you do believe. I am far more interested in what you do believe than in what you don't believe."

"I will believe only what I can understand; none of that mystery

stuff for me," he replied very emphatically.

The principal now returned, and the young man went back to his seat by the side of his red-headed sweetheart, and I accompanied my host to the platform. It was a typical group of lively young folk who had gathered for this morning's session. They were full of jokes, enjoyed their fun, and were a little slow to settle down and become quiet when the principal arose to open the session. He made a few brief announcements, and then introduced me to the audience.

The young man who had spoken with me was seated in the front row in the senior section. Turning to the principal, I asked: "Would you have any objection if I should request one of your seniors to come to the platform for a few moments?"

"Certainly not," he replied.

I then addressed the audience, and said, "You have in your midst a very wonderful young man. He is, of course, a senior. A senior is one who knows everything, and knows that he knows everything. I would like to request this young man, with whom I have just had a brief conversation, to come to the platform. He has only now told me that he believed nothing that he could not understand. I will ask this young gentleman if he will please explain to the audience how it is that a black cow eats green grass, which makes white milk, and churns yellow butter, and then makes red hair on his sweetheart, when she partakes of it."

The students in the auditorium enjoyed the question greatly. They knew this young man and were delighted with his embarrassment. Since he did not come to the platform, I continued: "Perhaps this friend would also like to explain to you young people why it is that he will blow his hands in the winter to warm them, and will blow his coffee to cool it. He might wish also to explain to you why electricity is turned into one box to make ice and into another box to bake bread."

The laughter throughout the building was soon changed to deep thinking, as the boys and girls realized that many things in life must be taken by faith, and that explanations are not always possible. These two young people on the front seat listened most attentively to the address which lasted for one and a half hours. Throughout the lecture there was a constant comparison made

between the miracles of the Lord seen in nature and the miracles recorded in the Word of God. I called their attention to the remarkable transformation that takes place when a caterpillar (an upholstered worm) encases itself in its home-made casket and is changed into a beautiful butterfly. How hair is changed to scales — a million to the square inch. The many legs of the caterpillar become only six legs on the butterfly; the yellow color becomes a beautiful red; the crawling instinct becomes a flying instinct. Thus will God take the life of a sinner and transform it, until it glows with the beauty of the Lord and is fragrant with the graces of heaven.

A handful of sand is deposited by the Lord in the heart of the earth. Great heat is applied from beneath and ponderous weight from above until, when it is found by man, it has been miraculously changed into a beautiful, fiery opal. God takes a handful of clay, deposits it deep in the earth, applies great heat beneath it, with a stupendous weight upon it, and when it is found by man it has become a beautiful amethyst, prized most highly. God takes a handful of black carbon, plants it deep in the bowels of the earth, treats it with heat from above, presses it with the rocks of the mountains from above, and transforms it into a glorious diamond, fit for a king's crown.

From these wonderful miracles in nature, I pressed and stressed to these young people the fact that they, too, might have their lives transformed, their souls changed, their hearts renewed by trusting fully in Christ Jesus, the Lord of life.

I next called their attention to the marvelous accuracy of God in His operation in the three great kingdoms of earth — the animal kingdom, the vegetable kingdom, and the mineral kingdom. This accuracy may be observed in the hatching of eggs. For example, the eggs of the potato bug hatch in 7 days; those of the canary in 14 days; those of the barnyard hen in 21 days. The eggs of ducks and geese hatch in 28 days; those of the mallard in 35 days. The eggs of the parrot and the ostrich hatch in 42 days.

Applying these scientific facts to the students, I said, "The lives of each of you young people may be ordered by the Lord in a beautiful way for His glory, if you will only entrust Him with your life, and receive Him as the Lord of your life and the Saviour of your soul. If you try to regulate your own life, it will

only be a mess and a failure. Only the One who made you can successfully direct you. Only the One who made the brain and the heart can successfully guide them to a profitable end.

"God's wisdom is seen in the making of the elephant. The four legs of this great beast all bend forward in the same direction. No other quadruped is so made. God planned that this animal would have a huge body, too large to live on two legs. For this reason he gave it four fulcrums so that it can rise from the ground easily. The horse rises from the ground on its two front legs first. A cow rises from the ground with its two hind legs first. how wise the Lord is in all His works of creation!

"God's wisdom is revealed in His arrangement of sections and segments, as well as in the number of grains. Each watermelon has an even number of stripes on the rind. Each orange has an even number of segments. Each ear of corn has an even number of rows. Each stalk of wheat has an even number of grains. Every bunch of bananas has on its lowest row an even number of bananas, and each row decreases by one, so that one row has an even number and the next row an odd number. The waves of the sea roll in on the shore twenty-six to the number in all kinds of weather. All grains are found in even numbers on the stalks, and the Lord specified thirtyfold, sixtyfold, and a hundredfold — all even numbers.

"God has caused the flowers to blossom at certain specified times during the day, so that Linneus, the great botanist, once said that if he had a conservatory containing the right kind of soil, moisture and temperature, he could tell the time of day or night by the flowers that were open and those that were closed. Thus the Lord in his wonderful grace can arrange the life that is entrusted to His care in such a way that it will carry out His purposes and plans, and will be fragrant with His presence. Only the God-planned life is successful. Only the life given over to the care of the Lord is safe.

"God performs a great miracle when He causes the limb of a tree to grow straight out from the trunk for a distance of forty, fifty, or sixty feet, and with no other anchorage than perhaps fifteen or eighteen inches of fibers which lose themselves in the trunk of the tree. No human being has discovered how to apply this principle in the construction of buildings or bridges. The God who

can do this is able to work miracles in your life as well. Dr. Robert G. Lee has called attention to the fact that God takes oxygen and hydrogen, both of them odorless, tasteless, and colorless, and combines them with carbon which is insoluble, black and tasteless. The result of this combination is beautiful, white, sweet sugar. How God does it, I do not understand. I only know that He can take your life — drab, useless and fruitless, and transform it into a beautiful garden of the sweetest graces for His glory. He will do it for you, if you will trust your life to Him."

I came to the conclusion of the message, and prayed to the Lord of the harvest that these young people might find Jesus Christ. Especially did I pray for the young man who would not believe what he could not understand. The principal dismissed the assembly, and the young senior with his red-headed sweetheart left the room, quite subdued and fully convinced that he was on the wrong path.

As the principal stood by my side on the platform, watching the pupils leave the room, he suddenly turned to me, and I saw that there were tears in his eyes. He said, "Doctor, I have been deeply impressed with the perfections of God. I had never before noticed the beauty of that passage, 'Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.' I would like for the Lord to make me what He wants me to be. Will you tell me, please, how to find that Saviour this morning? I want Him to be the King of my life and the Prince of my heart. My life has had too many failures in it. I am going around in a circle and getting nowhere. I want the Lord to take charge of me today."

I opened my Bible to I John 5:12, and read: "He that hath the Son hath life." Then I said to him, "if you will this morning accept Jesus Christ, He will at once take charge of your life and will mould you as the potter moulds the clay. Will you trust Him with your soul? You have the privilege of trusting; He takes the responsibility of transforming."

The professor took my hand in a cordial clasp, and said: "I will accept Him just now. I have made a wreck of my own life, although apparently I have succeeded in educational circles. I believe the Christ Jesus will make me anew. I will trust Him to change me and make me a real Christian."

"You may safely trust the Saviour," I assured him. "He died on the Cross to save you; He lives in heaven to keep you. As God by His sunshine and rain transforms the ugly bulb in the black soil, so that it sprouts forth with a beautiful, white, fragrant lily, so He will take your life and bring out of it that which will bring joy to His heart and blessing to your fellow-men."

"Thank you, doctor," he said earnestly; "and I thank the Lord also that He has sent you here with this message for my soul."

The Holy Spirit led the way into this fertile field and found a ready heart for His own wonderful message. Let us seek great things from our God, and the Holy Spirit will gladly bring about the circumstances and arrangements necessary for successful service.

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