

He Was Singing, But Was Not Saved

by Walter Lewis Wilson, M.D.

THE STORY which I am about to relate is most thrilling and enlightening. It shows how possible it is for one to go a very long way in the service of the King without being related to the King.

When Huber was about twenty years of age, he attended a gospel Tent meeting just out of curiosity. He was blessed with a very rich, sweet voice which attracted much attention from those in the service and also from the evangelist. He came night after night. Soon he felt at home among the Christians and gradually began sitting closer to the platform. The evangelist was so attracted by his singing that he asked him one night to sing a solo out of the hymn book, and this the young man was glad to do.

The campaign closed but Huber was not saved. He was interested, but did not make his way to the Saviour. The evangelist suggested that he go with him to the city where the next campaign was to begin. The young man replied that it seemed hardly right for him to participate in a public service when he was not a Christian. The evangelist replied that he knew the young man was not saved, but he felt that if he would go with him, hear the sermons, enter into the ministry of song, and become a part of his evangelistic party, the Lord would reveal Himself to him and he would find salvation. This reasoning appealed to Huber and so he began a ministry which continued through many years.

Having once taken his place as a song leader, he began to develop that talent, and began also to express thoughts concerning the verses of the hymns. In this way he became more and more linked with the preaching as well as the singing. Of course, now that he was such a leader, he could not bring himself ever to kneel at the altar in confession of his own need. He smothered his feelings, quieted his conscience, and neglected opportunities when he might have accepted the Saviour.

Huber was quite talented in music and soon began to compose hymns and write music for poems. He taught these hymns from place to place, and they soon became popular with the public. When he had composed a sufficient number, he arranged with a publisher to purchase the copyrights from him and to print them in hymn books having a wide circulation. Soon thousands were singing the hymns written by this unsaved friend, who really had no song in his own heart.

One day, after many years had gone by, Huber was called upon to hold a tent service in a large city. He had been preaching and singing for a number of years, and no one knew but what he had experienced a meeting with the Saviour. It happened that in this tent service the pastor, under whose auspices the campaign was held, sensed the fact that the speaker's message was theologically sound, but seemed to lack warmth, life and power. He did not know what was wrong, but he felt something very vital was lacking in the life and experience of this singing evangelist. He therefore obtained a small book, entitled *The Romance of the Doctor's Visits*, in which there is the story of a pastor, who had been preaching many years before he found the Saviour under the ministry of a visiting evangelist. He did not tell Huber why he was giving him the book, but only said that he had been blessed in the reading of it, and thought perhaps the same blessing would be enjoyed by him, too.

As Huber read the story, he realized that the years had gone by and he had never accepted Christ. The Spirit of God convicted him of his deep need. His soul was greatly distressed. At the close of the service, he returned to his home determined to preach no more until his own heart had bowed at Calvary and received the Saviour. It was then that he discovered with such surprise and sorrow that although he knew the gospel story quite well, he could not find the Lord. He prayed and cried and read his Bible, but to no avail.

One evening it was suggested to him, no doubt by the Holy Spirit, that he should write to the evangelist who had been used of God in winning the preacher in the story which he had read. He did so at once. His letter was full of heart cry and most pathetic in its appeal. Upon the receipt of it, the evangelist went at once to the Lord for wisdom in knowing how to handle such a difficult case. He called his secretary and dictated the reply.

He gave this friend, whom he had never seen, three Scriptures. The first was John 3:16, the second, John 1:12, and the third I John 5:13. He urged the singer to shut himself up alone in his room with only his Bible and the Spirit of God. He asked him to kneel there with the letter open before him and to turn to these three Scriptures. He explained that in the first one, God was giving to him personally the Lord Jesus to save his soul. In the second Scripture, God was urging him to accept the gift so graciously given. In the third Scripture, the Lord was assuring him that upon receiving the gift of the Lord Jesus he would at once have eternal life.

The singer did as he was advised. He knelt alone with the Lord in his study, read the three Scriptures carefully, and then followed the counsel of the evangelist. He accepted the Lord Jesus as God's Gift to him. He believed in that Name of Saviour, because he knew that Christ alone could and would save. He lifted his heart in thanksgiving to God for the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus.

The letter that he wrote shortly afterward to his unseen evangelist friend was wonderful. His heart was overflowing with joy. His rest was complete. His song was sacred with the fragrance of heaven. At last he had found that blessed One about whom he had preached and about whom he had sung through the years.

Beloved friend, if you are in a church and have a religious life, do let me urge you to be sure that you are not just going through the form, but that you really have had a meeting with the Saviour.

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