

## "And She 'Done' It, Too"

by Walter Lewis Wilson, M.D.

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BETTY AND JERRY, each six years old, sat on the front seat at a church service, listening earnestly to my message. They were playmates who lived next door to each other and were constantly together. They attended the same public school and the same Sunday school.

The parents of these lovely children came to the special services at the church and brought the children with them. After the first night, the parents decided to bring notebooks and pencils, in order to take notes on the sermon. This rather intrigued the children, and they decided to do likewise. It was interesting to watch them trying to write something on their tablets, but finding it difficult to spell the words and record what they had heard. They frequently put their pencils in their mouths, as children do. When I told an interesting story, in order to illustrate a point, they would forget to write, and would listen most intently to learn what happened to the lion, the fish or the bird.

At the close of my message, they would come to me with pencils and tablets in their hands, and ask questions concerning some point which they had missed in the message. Usually it was some point about a story, rather than the teaching. I could see, however, that they were quite interested in what was being said, and so I tried to make at least part of the message simple enough for them to understand. It was delightful to watch their faces, as one point after another was made clear to their little minds. I was drawn to them, because of their faithful attendance and their earnest attention. I felt that the Lord would reach these two little ones, that their lives would become His property, and that He would train them to be His servants.

Because of the presence of these little hearts and because quite a few other children were coming to the services, I changed my line of ministry to make it more simple than I had planned. It is so essential that we furnish the table of the Lord with food for every kind of person who may be present in the audience. It is my conviction that children go home from Sunday school, instead of remaining for the preaching service, because the pastor fails to make his sermon interesting and simple enough to hold the attention of the young minds. We certainly should do so, for how can we expect our boys and girls to receive enough Bible teaching in thirty minutes to last them for seven days?

The messages which I gave were simple gospel sermons, freely intermixed with interesting stories from nature, which were intended to carry home the point of the passage. I sought to illustrate almost every statement with some interesting incident. God has written two books for us to study and to use in winning hearts. One of these is the outdoor book of nature; the other is the indoor book, the Bible. There are many mysteries in both and some things hard to understand, but there are many things in both which we cannot misunderstand. It is these that we may use in winning hearts to our Lord. These illustrations gripped the hearts of our two little friends.

On the Friday night following the opening of this series of special services, the little children seemed to be unusually earnest in their attention. They did not attempt to take many notes, but they frequently spoke to each other about something I had said, and compared notes as though they were trying to figure out the exact meaning of some statement. During this particular message, I told the story of old Leo, the lion, who saved his trainer from death under the paws of a tiger. It was to illustrate the fact that the Lord Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, and that He protects and preserves all the children who belong to Him and have been saved by His grace.

This was the story: "The animal trainer in the circus was presenting his great wild-animal act. The lions had come in first, as they always do because of their nature, and were made to sit upon the pedestals arranged around the top of the cage. The reason for this is that lions will not jump down on other animals, but the other beasts will jump down on a lion. For this reason, they are always at the top in a mixed wild-animal act. The other animals were brought in and were made to sit on their pedestals around the arena.

"As the act began, the trainer, with a chair in his left hand and a whip in his right hand, commanded a huge tiger to step down from his pedestal and roll over on the ground. The tiger did so, but as he rolled over he stuck one hind foot into the ground and lunged forward a little way. Again the trainer cracked the whip and commanded the tiger to roll over. Again the animal fastened its foot into the sod and forced himself toward the trainer. A third time the trainer repeated his command, but this time the tiger gave a spring toward the trainer, knocking the chair from his hands, throwing him violently to the ground, and fastened his teeth into his arm. The assistants outside the cage came running quickly to rescue the trainer, but as they did so, Leo, the massive lion on the highest pedestal, broke the rule of his

nature, sprang right on the back of the tiger, fastened his jaws upon the tiger's neck, and thus saved the trainer's life.

"The helpers with their prods and pistols soon separated the fighting animals and rushed them back to their cages, while the circus physician hurried to the trainer's side to bind up the wounds."

This story illustrated how the Lord Jesus, seeing Satan's hatred and his power against sinners, "came to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). I told how the Lord Jesus, the strong man, overcomes Satan who holds his subjects prisoners and would like to destroy them (Matt. 12:29). An explanation was given of the beautiful passage in John 6:37, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." Looking at my two little friends, I said, "The Father would like to give you to His Son tonight, and if you or anyone in this audience will come to the Saviour, and will trust Him with your soul and your sins, the Lord Jesus will accept and save you and any other at once." A further appeal was made. Some trusted Christ, but the little ones did not come forward. They were looking down at their laps, and then at each other, and then up at me. They did this several times. I prayed for God's blessing upon all present at the close of the service, and dismissed the audience.

Before I could leave the platform, the little boy came running up to the pulpit, and said, with such a happy face and radiant spirit, "I trusted Jesus tonight, and (with a jerk of the thumb) she 'done' it, too." He had hardly finished speaking, when little Betty came running to me also, and said, "I took Jesus tonight, and he 'done' it, too." I cannot describe to you the beautiful expressions that were seen on the faces of these two lovely little believers, who had placed their trust and confidence in that One who loves to save children.

Some months afterward, I was preaching in a city about sixty miles distant from the one in which this incident occurred. When I entered the church for the first service, about two-thirty in the afternoon, whom did I see on the front seat with lead pencils and notebooks, but Betty and Jerry! Their parents were in the second row. I hurried to them with happy greetings, and said to the parents, "Do you think that these children were really saved the night they confessed Christ?"

The answer was most interesting. One of the mothers said, "These children love their Bibles more than anything they possess. They come home from school and sit on the porch together, talking to each other about the verses they have read in the morning with us in the family worship. I hear them explaining the verses to each other in their simple

childish way. They carry their Bibles to Sunday school, and come home to tell us about the lesson, and also what the sermon was about, for they stay for the church service. Yes, they are really saved children."

God grant that we may win more of these children for Christ.

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