

ADA SCANLON




ASK WHAT I SHALL GIVE THEE


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“Ask What I Shall Give Thee”

More than nineteen hundred years ago a blind man by the name of Bartimaeus sat on the wayside of a highway that led from Jericho to Bethany near Jerusalem. I do not know how many years he had gone out there daily to beg, but God knew all about him, just as He is aware of YOU and every other individual upon the face of the earth today.

Now the fullness of God’s time had come—the day, yea, the very hour was drawing near when the God-given opportunity was to be given Bartimaeus to see Jesus, and be made every whit whole.

Bartimaeus did not know that somewhere in Jericho a very rich young ruler, who said he had kept the law and commandments all his life, had just turned down the greatest gift any man was ever offered — ETERNAL LIFE. And that this young man, though he had kept all the Law of Moses, still had a hungry heart and realized the inward need of something he did not yet possess to give him perfect peace and assurance of having eternal life.

The power of the gospel Jesus had been preaching and teaching in all the country round about had touched him. He was moved and convicted by the Holy Spirit of God of his heart’s need. (Thank God for the blessed Holy Spirit who makes known to every individual the true condition of his heart.) This young man came running to Jesus. He was eager; he was earnest; he was confident, expecting help for he knew he was coming to the GOOD MASTER. He came humbly—kneeling. He came with a knowledge of the law God had given to Moses on Mt. Sinai, more eager than ever in all his life to be all that his God wanted him to be. But when Jesus pointed out the

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thing, the *one thing* that stood in the way of his Christian perfection in the sight of God, when He showed him the ONE thing that he lacked in order to obtain the fullness of God and be made complete in Jesus, when He showed him the idol of his heart was money, gold, lands, earthly possessions, and that he loved them more than he really loved God, he was very sad and went away grieved, for he was very rich and had great possessions from which he was unwilling to part. From that moment he became a spiritual pauper in the sight of God. No, it was not the money that separated him from God—it was his love for the money (1 Tim. 6:9, 10). He loved it more than he loved God. It was the idol of his heart. He thought God had the first place in his heart, but when it came to the real test he found that he was not willing to part with his idols. So he chose them instead of eternal life.

Dear ones, the sooner we learn that God will not take second place in our life the better off we will be. If gaining, or obtaining the barest necessities of life requires me to neglect my prayer life, my fellowship and communion with God, in the end I will only find that I am dying with spiritual starvation. If the acquiring of our temporal needs looms up so great that we lose our vision and faith in God's mighty power to supply our every need, and we foolishly sacrifice the hours of communion with God, we will soon wake up with dismay to the realization that we are just a spiritual pauper in the sight of God. If I find that I have to sacrifice my spiritual life to maintain my physical life, which one had I best give up? Luke 12:15-21; Rom. 13:14. If I find that some idol has crowded God out of his place in my heart and life, shall I be so foolish as to continue worshipping the idol that will forever separate me from God and send me to a burning hell? If God is good enough to show me these idols, give me the opportunity to remove them from my heart, should I be so foolish as to go away sad and grieved?

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When Jesus looked upon that young man kneeling at his feet asking, “What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” He loved him ENOUGH to be true to his soul and expose the one thing he lacked to obtain eternal life. He had gone as far as he could with the young man. He would not force him to put away his idol, or to sell his land. He would not debate, argue or compromise—just the simple truth offered in love with the opportunity to accept or reject it. But, oh, the solemnity of the hour when one makes his decision to accept or reject the GIFT of God—the love and mercy so freely offered. It is the most solemn time in all the whole life—life or death; peace and God, or an unsatisfied life of discontent. You may be somewhat satisfied now, but the days will come and the years draw nigh when thou shalt say, “I have no pleasure in them.” You may laugh now, but tears will follow soon. Heaven or hell, which do YOU choose? Deut. 30:10, 20; Isa. 57:20-21; Matt. 10:28; Mark 9:43-48.

Let us leave the rich young ruler mourning and grieving over the thought of having to give up his wealth to please God, and go on down there to Bartimaeus, the blind beggar sitting out there on the highway with the usual crowd who went out there to beg for a few pennies for the barest necessities of life. What joy that rich young ruler could have had if he had only consecrated his life and all his wealth to God and heeded the commandment of Jesus and gone along with Him that day—that eventful day of great decisions in the lives of these two men, one very rich and the other very poor. What joy that rich young man might have had in ministering to the needs of this poor brother in the Lord! I do not doubt but that he had done many good deeds and given away much to the poor, (Luke 6:38; 2 Cor. 9:6-15) but had he forgotten God’s warning, “Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God . . . and say in thy heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. It is the Lord thy

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God that giveth thee power to get wealth, and it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish as the nations which the Lord destroyed from before your face so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord thy God.” Deut. 8:11-20.

So the rich young ruler stayed home to count his gold, but down the road came the Son of God who said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached unto them.” Matt. 11:5; 5:3; Luke 4:18.

Beside the disciples there was a large crowd walking along the highway with Jesus that day—many of them filled with amazement, conviction and fear. Now Bartimaeus was not the only poor beggar on the highway that day, but he was the only one, it seems, who was spiritually hungry and ready for the Son of God to do a work on him. As the crowd drew near, the sound of their voices reached the ears of Bartimaeus and he inquired as to the great commotion. He was told it was Jesus, for the fame of Him had gone throughout all the region round about, and the multitudes came together to hear Him, bringing their sick along with them; those who had divers diseases and torments; those that were possessed with devils; those that were lunatic, those that had palsy, and He healed them. Luke 4:14; 5:15; Matt. 4:23-25.

So I believe Bartimaeus knew about Jesus in more than one way for he began to call out, “Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.” Many charged him that he should hold his peace; they tried to hush him up, but he only cried the louder, “Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.”

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Right here I want to say that Satan, the enemy of your soul, will always have a crowd on the sidelines who will try to hush you up and pacify you with many offers if you will just go on with them. Many will do their best to keep you from getting to the Saviour and salvation. And after you get saved there are those who will tell you that you must be careful not to take your religion too seriously, don't be fanatical, don't make a fool of yourself shouting or saying, Praise God, or Amen, be quiet, "be emotionally stable, don't go to the extreme in your prayer life, and don't fast, or you will get sick." I do not believe in fanaticism, but all these "don'ts" from the world's sidelines will not have any effect on the one who minds God and has a determination to go all the way with Jesus. So Bartimaeus did not pay any attention to those on the highway beside him who were trying to hinder him. ("He that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be." Gal. 5:7-10). Bartimaeus knew what he wanted. He knew that if he could just get to Jesus, he would be a new man, so "he cried THE MORE A GREAT DEAL." Mark 10:48. Since we cannot find in the Word of God any instance where Jesus failed to hear a single soul who called on Him silently or audibly, as He is always listening for the cry of the sick, the needy, the hungry, the thirsty, the lost and heart-broken, so He heard this call—the cry of this blind man! Its pleading tones reached His ears above the noise of the great crowd, and He commanded the man to be brought to him. Someone hastened to Bartimaeus with the message, "Be of good comfort; RISE, HE CALLETH FOR THEE."

Oh, what joy that blind man must have experienced in that moment—to have the Son of God hear his cry, to be granted the opportunity to stand before Him and make his needs known! The dream, the hope of his life, thrilled every fiber of his being. His heart sang with joyful expectation as he thought of being healed—to look out upon the world once again with seeing eyes. Only the physically

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blind who live in a world of darkness know what this means, and there are literally thousands living in this world who are blind, many who are accomplished, trained, gifted and proven a blessing to those who can see.

But just now I have in mind a picture of the world's highway lined up and down on both sides with those who are spiritually blind. Many have never seen the true light of the world—JESUS. Some saw it but they went back to count their gold and as they parted with Christ they became blind. They are still sitting on the sidelines weeping, broken-hearted, but holding on to their "gold". Many went back to have one more day, one more night of revelry in feasting and riotous living. The highway of the world is lined with such shipwrecked lives. Luke 15:11-32. There are also many who are deaf. Some have never heard of Christ, the WAY. Some who had good hearing at one time in life heard the call of Jesus, heard His instructions, His commandments concerning the way to eternal life, but they refused to heed and soon became deaf to the voice of God. Some will never hear the call of God again. Then there are some along this highway who are speechless, dumb, unable to talk. They refused to let God's Holy Spirit have His way in their lives and witness through them, and there they sit on the sidelines, just a rebel in the sight of God. Many of these are weeping and broken with despair and sorrow at their condition— their shipwrecked lives and their failure to go on with Jesus, for once a redeemed soul has been a partaker of God through Christ and the Spirit, he will never be satisfied or have any peace of mind and heart away from God. The hunger in his heart will allow him no rest or peace day or night. The most of those on the sidelines of the world's highway despair of ever having Jesus come down that highway again. There are those who are outright enemies of God—aliens. They have no desire to see or hear or know anything pertaining to the kingdom of God and are

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doing all in their power to destroy His work, His people and kingdom on earth.

Then there are those who say they believe in God on this highway, but they have denied the Word of God, which is God manifest in the flesh. (John 1:1, 14; 1 Tim. 3:16b; Col. 1:15; Rev. 19:13). They are sure they are on the highway of God. They are sure they have the right way—a way that seemeth right (Prov. 14:12), but God's highway is a **WAY OF HOLINESS; THE UNCLEAN SHALL NOT PASS OVER IT.** (Isa. 35:8). Since they do not believe in or teach the doctrines of holiness they are still ruled by the carnal nature which is the enemy of God (Rom. 8:5-7), and having an enemy of God ruling in their heart, they cannot be on God's way of holiness where no unclean thing or person can come. Thus they are still on Satan's highway or rather low-way. There are many who say they believe in God on this highway, but they deny the Word and reject God's Son, so they are antichrist according to the Word. "Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father." 1 John 2:23.

They say they believe in God, but they do not believe there is a hell which is enlarging her borders to receive the enemies of God. Isa. 5:14; 14:9; Moses—Deut. 32:22; Job 11:8; 26:6; Solomon—Prov. 27:20. Hell and destruction are never full. Every prophet of God believed in a hell, for God gave every one of them the same knowledge of hell. Jesus did not shun to expose the religious professors of His day and asked them, "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" Matt. 23:33. He warned His disciples not to "fear them which are able to kill the body, . . . but rather fear him (God) who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matt. 10:28.

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Dear reader, if you reject any part of the Word of God, you may as well reject it all. God has a great deal to say about those who add to or take from His word. To His prophets and people of the old law He said, “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it.” Deut. 4:2; 12:32. Jesus, later preaching through another of His ministers, said: “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book (Bible): and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” Rev. 22:18, 19.

We will find many sitting along the world’s highway perfectly satisfied to remain spiritually blind, deaf and dumb just as long as they can go on in their own ways, rich in this world’s goods, but a spiritual pauper in the sight of God; happy with the world’s way of happiness, unaware of the awful wrath of God to be poured out upon the unbelieving and disobedient. Rev. 21:8.

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them who are lost: in whom the god of this world (Satan) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” 2 Cor. 4:3, 4. Satan is the enemy of God and all humanity, and God does not hesitate to expose him in every way, showing to humanity the power of Satan and what he has done to break, deceive and consume everyone he can. Satan comes with “power and signs and *lying wonders*, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish, because they received not the love of the truth that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them a strong delusion that they should

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believe a lie; that they all might be damned who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” 2 Thess. 2:7-12.

Many souls sitting on the wayside of the highway of life, broken and helpless, caught in the snares of Satan (1 Tim. 6:9, 10; 2 Tim. 2:25b, 26; Ex. 23:33; Eph. 2:2), sitting in Satan’s prison house (Isa. 42:7, 22-25), bound and shackled by his evil spirits (Acts 16:16-19; 19:12; Mark 16:17), need to hear that Jesus is coming down that highway where they are and will set them free if they will only be willing to forsake all sin and have faith in Jesus.

So the messenger hurried to Bartimaeus with the good tidings, “Be of good comfort; rise, he calleth for you.” One of the most joyful, satisfying labors in all the world is that of the messenger of God sent to the one Jesus is calling after. What joy to “go tell” some precious soul that Jesus loves him and is calling him to Himself out of the ruin and wreckage of a life of sin into the glorious freedom and liberty of a life of fullness in Christ Jesus. What joy to tell them of the power of God, that He is waiting and willing to destroy every power of Satan's bondage over them. “Be of good comfort, Bartimaeus.”

Oh, precious needy soul, no longer despair! Let me comfort you in the knowledge that there is a Saviour who sees and knows every thought and intent of your heart, and He knows your every need just now. He is ready and willing to give you the desire of your heart to be set free, born again, and created in the image of God if you will only believe in Him, rise and come when He calls for you.

God has given us many promises, and with them He has laid down a condition to be met by the seeker. RISE, He calleth for YOU. How many times have you heard Christ calling for you??? How many times has He bidden you rise out of your life of sin and

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unbelief and come to Him? How many years has He stood at the door of your heart and pleaded that you let Him come in?

My beloved friend, Jesus is walking down the very highway of your life right now in hearing distance of your call. Are you going to let Him pass by unnoticed? Will you longer silence and grieve the Spirit of God who is seeking after you?

With haste Bartimaeus cast away his garment, arose and was led to Jesus. I want to say that when we get a real glimpse of Jesus as the mighty Son of God who is able to save to the uttermost everyone who comes to Him in faith and obedience, when we get a glimpse of Him as the mighty emancipator of sin-bound, hell-bent, heartbroken, disappointed, despairing humanity, (ONE who is able to heal the body as well as the soul), when we get a glimpse of the promises of God which are “yea and amen” to every believer (2 Cor. 1:20), when we come to understand the will and plan of God to liberate humanity from ALL the bondage of Satan, to recreate them again in the image of Himself (Gen. 1:26, 27; 5:1), and when we so desire the Father, Son and Holy Ghost to dwell in us (Rev. 21:3; Heb. 3:6; Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Cor. 3:9, 17), then we will begin to call and cry out to the Son of God to have mercy on us, and we will not stop calling or crying until Jesus sends the word, “Come, what will ye that I should do unto you?”

The first thing we must do is cast away the “garment of sin” which we have been wearing. God will not save us until we are willing to quit the “sin business.” There are a few things the sinner has to do if he wants God to redeem him. The sinner must count the cost of redemption. When Jesus stood (groaning in spirit) among the mourning friends, relatives and beloved sisters at the grave of their brother, Lazarus, He, too, wept and was greatly moved in spirit. Some of them said, “Could not this man who opened the eyes of the

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blind have caused that even this man should not have died? Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, TAKE YE AWAY THE STONE.”

Now Jesus could have spoken the word and that stone would have rolled away, but He said, “Take YE away the stone.” In spite of their fears, their doubts, their knowledge of what shape the human body would be in after that length of time, Jesus required them to TAKE AWAY THE STONE THAT CLOSED THE DOOR OF THAT TOMB. When they were willing and did that, then He was ready to do the work He wanted to do—raise the dead. Beloved, I have a vision of the millions who are entombed in their prisons of spiritual death with great stones piled up about their soul and mind, and there they lay waiting for someone to come along who has enough faith in God to help them. What does Jesus say? “Take YE away the stone”—stones of doubt, fear, unbelief, rebellion, pride—stones the devil rolled up around your soul and shut you up (if possible) until the Judgment day to be cast into fire and brimstone forever.

Now beloved, if you are not willing to roll away these stones, then you will stay there in your spiritual graveyard until Jesus comes and calls all the sinners before Him to give an account of their lives before Him at the Judgment bar of God. If you are unwilling to put away sin, ALL sin, God can never do a thing for you as far as redemption is concerned.

So the first thing that Bartimaeus did when the messenger told him, “Rise, He calleth for you,” was to cast away his garment. Perhaps it was a large robe he had on out there to keep him warm. At any rate, it seemed to be in his way of getting as quickly to the Master as he wanted to, so he cast it aside. Beloved, there are some

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things we will have to cast aside if we want to get in touch with Jesus. If we want to have that need supplied, that heart hunger filled up, that sick body healed, or whatsoever it may be that you are in need of right now—if it is salvation, cast away the “garment of sin” you have been wearing, the shackles, chains and bondage of the devil you have been wearing all these years. Cast away the doubts, the fears, the unbelief. Cast away that old life that has brought only sorrow and disappointment. Cast away everything that is of the world and sin—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. (John 2:15-17). Put away the evil of your doing from before mine eyes, saith the Lord. Cease to do evil. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, for He will abundantly pardon. Isa. 55:6-13. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here am I. Cast away your sham—your empty, dead profession. It has never covered your sins or your need of God.

Are you willing to quit the sin business? Go into business with God. Will you make that decision right now—NOW?? Remember Jesus asks YOU to take away the stone. That will of yours may be the one thing in the way of deliverance.

We must be willing to cast away our plans that do not fit in with the plan of God for our life. Cast away our stubborn wills, for every thought must be brought into subjection to the will and plan of God. 2 Cor. 10:5.

We must be willing to get out of the way of the Holy Spirit. Let God do the work through us that He wants to do, for He tells us, “It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” Phil. 2:13.

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We must count the cost of being a Christian. (Luke 14:26-33). Then with joy pay the price which God asks, thrilled with the privilege of being called and chosen by Him to receive the great gift of God. Eph. 1:4. Thrilled to see Him take nothing and make a sanctified vessel out of it that will bring glory and honor to His name. Phil. 1:6; 2 Tim. 2:20-21.

Now I want you to notice the words of Jesus to blind Bartimaeus, for He is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart of every soul on earth. Heb. 4:12. What did this poor blind beggar know about the word and law of God? The rich young ruler knew all the Law of Moses. He said he had kept all the law from his youth up. Isaiah said, to “deal thy bread to the hungry; bring the poor that are cast out to thy house, and when thou seest the naked to cover him, and that thou hide not thy self from thine own flesh (relatives), to draw out thy soul to the hungry soul, and satisfy the afflicted soul. Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thy health shall spring forth speedily; and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward; the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.” Isa. 58, also Matt. 25:35-40.

Then what about the Law of Moses which said, “Neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold?” Deut. 17:17b. I do not think the young man was selfish or stingy, for he had a sweet spirit that Jesus loved. Jesus saw that hunger in his heart for Christian perfection, for God told Moses to tell his people, “Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God.” Deut. 18:13. What did that mean? And now, Israel, “What doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with

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all thy soul; to keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good.” Deut. 10:12, 13.

It is God Himself who instills a hunger in the heart of His people to be like Him. To attain to that holy life, God requires us to do the work of God. When the rich young ruler saw the wonderful works of God being done through Jesus and His disciples, his heart reached out in longing to be one of them, to work among them, to be holy and full of the Holy Ghost as they were. He had asked, “What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” Matt. 19:15. Jesus and His disciples had just been up and down the coast of Judea and this young man was one of those who had come in contact with Him and His work. Great miracles had been done everywhere they went.

“What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” was the question of this young man. God was calling after that man, striving with his heart. He wanted him in the fold of Jesus. He needed him in the gospel work, so He gave him the heart hunger he needed to seek the thing he needed. He thought that if he was to “do some work” he would be sure of heaven. But, beloved, before God can use any one in the work of His kingdom, there must be a death to the things of “self.” Self must die. “They that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections (passions) and lusts.” Gal. 5:24. The disciples of Jesus were not completely crucified to self until after Pentecost, until after the infilling of the Holy Ghost—the baptism of the Holy Ghost with fire as had been promised of God. Acts 2:16-18; 1:8; 2:38, 39; 15:8, 9.

There are many in the world “working” their way to heaven, who are full of carnality and lust, greed and covetousness, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men—false prophets who have not been sent of God but who are the ministers of Satan (2 Cor. 11:13-15), whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power, signs and lying wonders. (2 Thess. 2:9-12). But to these God

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will say at the Judgment day, “Depart from me, I never knew you.” Many will say to Him, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? Then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me ye that work iniquity.” Matt. 7:21, 23.

Yes, there is much work to be done in the kingdom of God on earth, and God is calling many. Many are called, but few are chosen because they will not pay God’s price to be qualified—to be conformed to the image of God, to be a vessel sanctified and meet for the Master’s use. When God shows them the idols they are worshiping in their hearts, and that they are in reality bound by the power and love for these idols, they go away sad and grieved, for they really love God, but they love their idols more than God.

Face to face with God’s eternal truth and the way to eternal life—face to face with the greatest privilege of all his life time, — the rich young ruler would never be the same again after his decision—never be free of that aching, longing hunger of his soul for the righteousness of God, never be free from the call of God’s voice, “If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven, and come and follow me.” Every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundred fold, and shall inherit everlasting life. Matt. 19:21, 29. “Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, HE CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE. And whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me, he cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:27, 33. No longer would he find great joy and pleasure in his earthly possessions, for he knew that they were the things that were keeping him away from God, yet he would not give them up. Greater

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will be his punishment before God having had a knowledge of the truth of both the old and the new law.

Now let us see what the poor blind beggar knew about the word and the law of God. He knew Jesus to be the Son of David who was to be the world's Messiah. He believed Him to be the Saviour. Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:1, 16-25; Isa. 9:6-7. He believed the prophecies concerning the coming Messiah. Matt. 8:16, 17; Luke 4:14-21; Acts 10:38; Isa. 53. He believed Him to be the one who had power to show mercy on whomsoever He would. Deut. 5:10; Exodus 20:6; Matt. 9:36; 14:14; Mark 1:41; 6:34. He believed Him to be the one chosen of God, yea, who was God come down in the flesh (John 1:1, 14; 1 Tim. 3:16; Isa. 59:15-17; 63:5) to heal the body, soul and mind of everyone who would believe and obey the Word of God. For all men do not have faith. 2 Thess. 3:2. Only those who were hungry spiritually and would seek God and His righteousness would be filled. Matt. 5:6.

He believed Jesus to be the One of whom it is written, that when He came He would open the eyes of the blind, He would make the lame to leap and walk, the ears of the deaf would be unstopped, the tongue of the dumb would sing the praises of God, the poor would have the gospel preached unto them, and the captives of the devil would be set free by the wonderful power of God through the sacrifice of the Saviour, Jesus. Isa. 35:1-10; 42:7, 22, 24; 49:9; 1 Peter 3:19, 20. He had faith in Jesus. Doubtless he had been hearing of the many wonderful miracles that had been taking place wherever Jesus went, which was not only the means of strengthening his faith, but was the proof that the Old Testament prophecies were being fulfilled.

I ask you, do you think God will turn down such faith as that? Do you think He will send away such a one who comes believing in

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Him and His word? No, never! Every one of those Old Testament saints could say, “God is a God of His word, of His promise . . . according to all that he hath promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promises.” 1 Kings 8:56; Joshua 21:45; 23:14. No, praise God, the Word of God shall stand forever. Isa. 40:8; 1 Peter 1:25. It is settled forever in heaven. That word tells us that sickness and disease would follow sin and disobedience to God. Deut. 28: 1-68; 2 Peter 2:20-22; Deut. 28:58-61; 29:22, 25; Exodus 15:26; 32:33. “But if the wicked turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right, restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, and walk in the statutes of life without committing iniquity, he shall surely live. . . . None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him.” Ezek. 33.

Sin is the devil’s work, and it was for the purpose of destroying the devil’s work that the Son of God was manifested. 1 John 3:8. When Jesus was on earth about His Father’s business, healing the sick and all that were oppressed of the devil (Acts 10:38; John 14:10), He said unto the sinner who came to Him for healing (after He had healed him), “Go and sin no more lest a worse thing come upon thee.” To others who came for healing who had not sinned, He said that the works of God should be made manifest in them. “I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work. For the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same work that I do bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.” John 9:4; 5:36.

Then there was Lazarus, a believer and disciple of Jesus, who took sick and died. Though Jesus loved him, He purposely tarried two days after he had been called by Martha and Mary, the sisters, to come and heal Lazarus. The dead man had lain four days in the tomb. Jesus said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory

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of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.” He stood by the tomb and wept with Mary and all the mourning relatives. Then He said, “Take ye away the stone.” After they had removed the stone, He called with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth,” and he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes. His face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus said, “Loose him and let him go.” John 11:46; 12:1, 2.

The multitudes followed him and he received them and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing. Luke 9:11; 4:32.

There was not one soul who came to Jesus for healing or salvation who was turned away or disappointed. When he healed them, he also forgave their sin.

Jesus is looking into your heart right now. He knows the attitude you are taking toward Him and His word. He knows whether you believe in Him or not. He knows that you have heard Him calling you. He knows the things that are keeping you from surrendering to Him. He knows the idols that you love more than Him. He knows if you will give Him the first place in your heart and life—whether you will accept or reject the great sacrifice He has made for you. His life, His love, His very heart is beating with tender compassion for you. He knows whether you will believe His promises and stand on them regardless of all Satan will do to try to overthrow you, make you doubt and give up. He knows every motive of your heart and life. He saw your beginning in life and knows your ending, and that there are two places being prepared, one of which will be yours throughout all eternity—heaven or hell—and that your decision, your choice now will determine the place you will be given then.

As Jesus looked upon poor blind Bartimaeus, he was moved again with love and great compassion. He saw this man thrilled with

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faith, hope, humility and expectancy, and He asked the question He has been asking for generations of time: “WHAT WILT THOU THAT I SHOULD DO UNTO THEE?” Think of it—the Almighty God asking man, “What would you like to have me do for you?”

But I hear you murmur, “That all happened when Jesus was on earth—those days of miracles are gone forever.” But ever since the day Jesus offered up His life as a ransom for sinners, and He arose triumphant from the tomb, and after forty days ascended up on high and gave gifts unto men (Eph. 4:8), then sat down on the right hand of the Father where He ever liveth to make intercession for us (Heb. 1:3; 9:24; 7:25; Mark 16:19; Eph. 1:20), I am glad to tell you that many precious souls have been redeemed from the powers of darkness of both sin, sickness and disease of every description. From the unchangeable Word of God I can tell you that God is still on the giving side of humanity when they will believe on Him with all their heart, obey His word and give Him the chance to prove what He can and will do.

I want to assure you there are no powers of darkness, no evil spirits, no sickness or disease that Jesus does not have power over. He has all power in heaven and earth, and if you will open your eyes and look you will see Him coming down the highway of your life, and if you will acknowledge your need and begin to call, He will hear your call and stop beside you on the highway of life and ask, “What will ye that I should do unto thee?”

Oh, how glad Bartimaeus was to have Jesus to stop on the highway of his life—to be suddenly confronted with the Son of God with whom nothing shall be impossible. (Luke 1:37). He was glad to be given the opportunity to ask for the things that would make him a new man. Oh, that I had words to tell you what Jesus wants to do for YOU! Oh, that I had power to open your understanding to see

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and know what the Christ of God is longing to do in you and for you.

Bartimaeus did not hesitate to tell him his need: “Lord, that I might receive my sight.” And Jesus saith unto him, “Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole.”

And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way. Mark 10:52. Oh, matchless love of God! Who would not want to follow such a Saviour? Who would not want to walk in the WAY with Him? Who would be unwilling to give all to Him? You say, He would not open blind eyes today. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.” Heb. 13:8. “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear . . . Your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath uttered perverseness.”

The first thing Christ must forgive your sins, and take away the old stony, proud, hard heart. He will give you a new heart. He says you must be born again of the Spirit of God—born into the family of God where you will become a son of God. You will be a child of God. (1 John 3:10). Your father will be God, not the devil. (John. 8:44; 1 John. 3:8). You will be a joint-heir with Jesus to all the inheritance of God (Rom. 8:17), and you will have no difficulty in knowing that you have been redeemed and born again.

There are thousands of people today professing to be Christians who are living in sin, in worldly pleasure, and for self, but the Word of God is the plummet by which we shall all be judged, and our profession without actual possession is only a mockery, a sham, an air castle, or a beautifully painted soap bubble like the children blow

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into the air which in a second of time has broken and vanished forever.

Thousands of people are praying about countless things, but they are not praying in the true Spirit of God. They are not exercising faith because there are so many things in their life that are displeasing to God; so much of sin and carnality that they cannot pray in the Spirit or exercise faith. If they would seek God and His righteousness first, then all these things would be added unto them. Some folks are more concerned about their physical condition than they are about their soul. They are eagerly striving to be healed of sickness and disease of body when they should be seeking to be healed and made white and pure in their souls. Then some people make a lot of promises to God to obtain the blessings they want, then forget all about the promises they made to God. Yet God in all His love stands ready to deliver and heal everyone who will come in faith and obedience.

Down through the ages of time God came down and talked with numbers of His people, asking them what they would like to have Him do for them. He told them what He would do for them when they had no idea what to ask for. He came down and talked as man to man with Abraham, and blessed him with an abundance of every good thing. God saw the desire of this lonely couple for a son and He brought life into their aged bodies and gave them a son when Abraham was one hundred years old and his wife was ninety.

God heard the cry of a man one hundred and eighty two years old who was crying for help and God gave him a son called Noah to comfort them. You know the life and work of Noah.

Then there was Enoch who walked with God three hundred years. He was a mighty preacher and prophet of God filled with the Spirit who was not afraid to expose sin and evil and pronounce

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God's judgments against the wicked unbelievers of his day and to warn them of the coming of the Lord. The desire of his heart, when he was nearing the end of life on earth, was to be translated so that he would not see death. God said, amen, for He saw the faith Enoch had for such a translation and said, ask what I shall give thee. So Enoch must have said something like this, "Oh, thou Almighty God, we have walked together for more than three hundred years. I have done the things that pleased thee and Thou hast favored me with Thy presence at all times, keeping me in Thy righteousness, anointing me to preach Thy gospel and to warn a lost world of their coming doom except they repent and turn from their wicked ways. I have not shunned to declare the whole council of God, nor preached with fear or favor of men. It is appointed unto man once to die and I shall have to go the way of all humanity, but I have a desire to go the way my Lord shall ascend to Thee in the coming generations. I want to be translated that I will not see death." God said, Yes and amen. (2 Cor. 1:20). So by faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death, and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, **THAT HE PLEASSED GOD.** Gen. 5:18-24; Heb. 11:5; Jude 14, 16. "But without faith it is impossible to please God: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6.

So it was on down through the ages, those who walked with God were granted the desires of their heart in Christ Jesus because they walked with God and did the things that were pleasing in His sight. Deut. 10:12, 13; John 8:29; 15:10; 1 John 3:22, 23.

Look at the great promises God gave Moses. "Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours." Deut. 11:24. With the promise went the condition that still goes with every

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promise of God. We learn that 23,000 people fell in one day because of sin, rebellion, failing to obey God and walk in His way. Of the original number that Moses led out of Egyptian bondage only two men remained faithful and were permitted to enter the Canaan land, namely, Joshua and Caleb. God chose them to take the place of Moses as leaders. To them also we find God giving those same wonderful promises with the same restrictions and the same conditions: “Every place where the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given you, as I said unto Moses.” Joshua 1:3. The condition “if” is in Joshua 1:7-9; Deut. 10:12, 13.

Solomon was another man to whom God gave the joy and privilege of telling God what he wanted. God came down one night and said to him, “Ask what I shall give thee.” Solomon had just begun his ministry over a great multitude of people, for he was a king. He was little and humble and anxious to be God’s best. “I am but a little child; give thy servant an understanding heart, that I may discern between good and bad.” 1 Kings 3:5-14. He asked God for knowledge and wisdom to rule and judge his people. God was pleased with this request and made him the wisest, richest and greatest king in all the world. 2 Chron. 1:1-12; 1 Kings 3:5-14.

Today God is still able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. Eph. 3:20.

In Psa. 1:8 we read of God’s promise to His Son Jesus, “Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.” Does that not sound like the promise He made Moses and Joshua? Well, you may say, it was easy for Jesus because He was the Son of God. But we are told that, though He were the Son of God, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; and having learned obedience by His

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suffering, He was made perfect (or He was perfected) and He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him. Heb. 5:8, 9. Though He was the Son of God, He made himself of no reputation, was made in the likeness of men and became the servant of all men; and being found in fashion as a man, He HUMBLED HIMSELF and became obedient unto death. Phil. 2:6-8. "He was tempted in all points like as we are." "Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people, for in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted." Heb. 2:17, 18; 4:15, 16. Because of His perfect obedience to His Father, He had perfect faith, perfect confidence that whatsoever He asked of God He would give it to Him. That was His desire for all His disciples, that they might attain to perfect obedience to God and be able to have perfect faith and confidence in Jesus and His promise that "whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in MY NAME, He may give it you." John 15:16.

"The Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works." John 14:10. Is that promise any different from the one He gave to Moses? "My presence shall go with thee." Ex. 33:14. Or to Joshua: "The Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. I will not fail thee nor forsake thee." Josh. 1:1-10. "I will be thy mouth and teach you what ye shall do." Or His promises to us today: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Heb. 13: 5. "Lo, I am with you always." Matt. 28:20.

"The Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works." Therein lies the whole secret of a victorious Christian life. It has always been so and shall be until the end of time.

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To Jeremiah (chosen, sanctified, and ordained before he was ever born) God said, “Say not that I am a child. Thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee, thou shalt speak. Then the Lord put forth his hand and touched my mouth and said, behold, I have put my words in thy mouth; thou shalt speak unto them all that I command thee. Be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.” Jer. 1:1-19.

What is the promise of God to His people today, you may ask. There are over two hundred promises in the New Testament for us today. “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matt. 6:33. “Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask him.” Matt. 6:8, 32. If you will walk with God, ye shall lack nothing. 1 Thess. 4:12. “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” Mark 7: 7, 8; 18:19; Mark 11:22-24; 1 John 5:14-16; Luke 10: 19; John 12:24; Acts 1:8; 2:38, 39; John 14; 1 Cor. 12; 2 Cor. 8:5.

Just as God had a work He wanted to do through Jesus, and He did that work through Him while He was on earth, just so God has a life He wants to live through you—a work He wants to do through you. When Jesus stopped by the side of the road and gave Bartimaeus what he longed for, this man in turn gave himself to God and followed Jesus in the WAY. God had a work—a plan He wanted to fulfill in that man. When Bartimaeus was healed, made every whit whole (spiritually and physically) God moved into his life and began that work at once. The redeemed man or woman, boy or girl, becomes the house of God. Heb. 3:6. He becomes the temple of God. 2 Cor. 6:16; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16. Jesus said, “If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him.” John 14:23.

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A wholly surrendered person becomes the habitation of God. Eph. 2:19, 22. He is chosen, ordained of God by the Holy Ghost to bear much fruit. If he will not bear fruit, God will prune and purge him until he does, or else cut him off as a dead branch. John 15:2, 6.

Isaiah knew what it meant to be a tabernacle or a house of God. God told him all about it: “For thus saith the high and lofty ONE that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” Isa. 57:15. “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.” Rev. 21:3. “I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” 2 Cor. 6:16.

God cannot and will not live in the heart of a sinful person, but He has promised to re-create the faithful, obedient one to His own image again. He has promised to purge out the old carnal nature and give him the Holy Ghost so he can become a sanctified vessel unto the Lord in His kingdom on earth. The Word of God makes it very evident that God will still carry on a work through the one in whom He dwells. God is still on the giving side of humanity. He is still ready to save to the uttermost, to heal to the uttermost, and He is still confirming His unalterable, indestructible, never-dying Word with all the signs following where He can find one who will become His dwelling place where He can continue to carry on His work of deliverance to sin-bound, hell-bent slaves of the devil. John 14:11-15; 16:15-20; Acts 1:8; 2:16, 17, 21, 33, 37, 39; 15:8-11; 5:32; 26:18.

The 12th chapter of 1st Cor. tells of the wonderful work and purpose of the Holy Spirit of God to be accomplished in your

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surrendered, sanctified life in God. God is asking you today, wilt thou be made whole? Then give Me thine heart, and I will show thee great and mighty things which thou hast not known. May God bless His own Word to your heart.

Today I wonder where you stand with Jesus. Are you sitting on the sidelines with the defeated crowd?—the crippled, the maimed, the broken, the blind, the dumb, the carnal-minded, self-loving crowd? Are you on the sidelines counting your gold? — worshipping your idol that separated you from God?

Are you like the rich young ruler who had served God all his life and still had a hungry heart? Still felt a need in his soul? Still realized there was something (he did not know what) that was keeping him from perfect victory, perfect peace, perfect joy, and perfect assurance. He longed for Christian perfection, but would not pay the price God asked. Deut. 18:13; Lev. 20:7, 8. He came face to face with God's eternal truth, face to face with the greatest privilege God ever offered to any one—the privilege of having the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity to come and dwell with him, and the privilege to be as the mouth of God to a lost world. Jer. 15:19.

He would never be the same again—never be free of that longing, that hunger for the freedom and righteousness of God. He would never be free of hearing God's voice calling: "Sell all that thou hast, and come and take up thy cross and follow me." He that loveth father or mother, brother or sister more than me is not worthy of me. Matt. 10:37, 38. "Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:33. He that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me is not worthy of me.

"There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands for my sake and the

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gospels, but he shall receive an hundred fold NOW in this time with persecutions, and in the world to come, eternal life.” Mark 10:29, 30.

“Come and follow me.” Oh, how he wanted to follow Jesus, but he went away sad. Jesus is coming down the highway. Which of these men will you be like? Jesus asked for “all” from both of these men. One of them gave all he had; the other went away sad and grieved.

Well, you may say, it was not hard for poor blind Bartimaeus to give all; he did not have anything to give up. Yes, he had a will that he surrendered to God. With returned health and sight he could have gone to work, earned money, obtained riches, and put God second. But no, he surrendered his will, his life, his ALL to Jesus and followed Him in “THE WAY”. “So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:33.

Do you hear the tread of that great army marching along with Jesus, and the sound of their united prayers going up to God for YOU just now? Somebody loves you. Somebody is calling upon God to save you and deliver you from bondage, to heal you, and to sanctify you. Jesus is coming down the highway of your life! **WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH JESUS?** What will you do with the priceless opportunity that God offers you right now? Will you believe Jesus? Will you call upon Him? Will you accept His miracle-working power in your life? Oh, friend, what will YOU do with Jesus? Will you give up the “one thing thou lackest” and become a God-owned, God-filled, God-ruled tabernacle for God?

Notice that both of these men were believers in God. Both had a need. Jesus was able to supply them both, but only one was willing to let Him. Jesus wanted both of them, and He wanted ALL of them, but only one was willing to let go of himself and give himself wholly

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to God. He was the only one Jesus could help; the other one went away sad.

Are you going to go away sad this very day, yea, this very moment because you are unwilling to let go of your way, your life, your plan, your idol and give it to God?

Are you going away grieved because God has asked you to give up something that is killing you spiritually? Are you going away sad because you have said “No” to God? What are the paltry things you hold to? What are they compared in value with the priceless gift of God?

Can you not see the rich young ruler as he stands before God on the Judgment day? Will his gold buy his way into heaven? Will it buy the favor of God? Will it bribe the Godhead into showing him mercy? “What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?” Mark 8:36.

Yes, he had his way on earth. He was able to buy his way through wherever he went on earth, but on the day of Judgment his gold will be consumed in the fire of God’s wrath and he will stand a spiritual pauper before God, condemned forever to hell.

Oh, beloved, your way, your plan, your idol, your treasure may seem hard to give up now, but God has something so much better to give you in place of what He asks you to give up, that you will never miss your paltry, puny, self-esteemed treasures. Lay them at Jesus’ feet just now. Surrender them all to Him. Let Him cleanse you, make you holy and fill you with a holy purpose, and then follow Him in **THE WAY**, for He alone is the **WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE**. (John 14:6). Bless His wonderful name forever, amen!

Your sister redeemed by Jesus from the world’s high-way (low-way) of sin,

—Ada Scanlan

