

Focus on Jesus

Editor – j. godwin

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MIRACLES OF JESUS *THEN*

“Lazarus, come out!” was Jesus’ command as he stood at the entrance to his friend’s tomb!

Go to John 11:38-44 and read about the incident. It is one of Jesus’ great miracles.

MIRACLES OF JESUS *NOW*

PRESBYTERIAN REVIVAL MEETING

For many years I was an itinerate lay speaker. I moved from church to church as needed. I substituted for pastors who were sick, on vacation or answering the call to another church. My longest term of service was at the Bramwell Presbyterian Church in Bramwell, West Virginia. The church’s pastor, Dr. Craig Houston Patterson, was my mentor. Each year he had a series of special meetings (Revivals) and included me as one of the speakers. On one occasion during and after my sermon when several miracles occurred.

When I preached I always gave the congregation the choice of a two hour sermon or one that lasted just twenty minutes. If they wanted the short sermon they had to pay me a hundred dollars which I in turn would give to a charity of their choosing. No group ever opted for the two hour oration.

At the start of my sermon I told the congregation about a young woman who was struggling to complete her studies at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. The young lady just didn’t have enough money to care for all of her expenses. She was working up to forty hours a week to earn money to pay her way.

This girl was living with two other women. One had graduated from the Seminary and was waiting for a call and the other was a student.

One day the graduate came in and told her two friends she had received and accepted a call to a church. This was great news except for one thing. The young lady who was leaving would no longer share in paying the rent for their apartment. I asked the congregation to send my hundred dollars to the student I had told them about.

I have no idea about the subject of the rest of my sermon that evening. I can only say that I realized I was not in control of my words. It was as if someone else were speaking through me.

At the conclusion I felt I needed to issue an alter call. I did so and to my amazement almost everyone in the congregation came forward. People even came from the choir loft and we formed a giant prayer circle. My mentor dismissed us with prayer.

The following Tuesday I saw my mentor at the weekly meeting of the Rotary club. He stopped me and handed me a check which was folded. I stuck it in my pocket and started to go to a table. Dr. Pat told me I had better look at the check to make sure it was for the right amount. I looked at it and I almost came unglued. It was for six hundred and fifty-eight dollars!

I told him there was a mistake. He replied that it was not a mistake and that it was what the people wanted sent to the young lady.

I decided I ought to call the seminary student and tell her what happened. When I told her she burst into tears and hung up.

The next morning she called. She apologized for her actions of the day before. Then she told me that she and some of her seminary friends had been up all night praying and asking forgiveness for not understanding God would supply her needs. Her additional rent would amount to \$600.00 for the balance of the year and she owed the book store \$58.00.

This young lady finished her studies and is now a pastor leading others to a strong belief in Jesus as their Savior.

WHAT A MIRACLE!

So often we are faced with problems we cannot solve. We tend to throw up our hands and give up the struggle.

We forget God has told us He will provide for us if we have faith in him.

Please read the following bit of scripture:

Matthew 6:25-33 (NRSV)

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

Winner gets \$254,000,000

Two hundred and fifty-four million dollars is a lot of money! If you had won this amount in the lottery I am confident you would want many of your friends to know about it. In fact you would probably tell a host of friends and family about your good fortune and most of us would do the same.

Just think of it. You would be able to have just about anything you might want and you could give many wonderful gifts to those you love.

Is any gift better than vast amounts of money? There certainly is one. That gift is eternal life in God’s kingdom.

Keep in mind that eternal life with God is a gift. It can’t be earned, bought or inherited. It is strictly a gift from God.

You know about this gift so why not share your knowledge with the people you know and love. It could be a life changing experience for you and the person who receives this gift of love from our heavenly father.