

The Spirit Convicted the Spirit Medium

by Walter Lewis Wilson, M.D.

A CLUB of spirit mediums in one of our larger cities invited me to bring them an address on the Bible in the auditorium of a large hotel. There were sixty-two present—fifty-nine women and three men. This proportion was not unusual. This has been the case through the centuries. I received this invitation because these people had been listening to some radio messages which I had given over a local station. One of these messages dealt with the condition of the dead and the attitude of the living toward the dead.

The meeting convened and the president of the club introduced me by saying, "Tonight we have with us a gentleman who probably does not believe as we do, and no doubt he has views which are decidedly in conflict with ours. We feel that our position is quite firmly established, but it may be that we will be challenged by the message which he will bring us tonight. We accept the challenge. I am sure that all of us will listen with open hearts and minds, so that any new thoughts brought before us by the Doctor will receive our careful consideration."

The service was turned over to me, and I announced that I wished to consider with them, not the matter of death so much as the matter of life. I had decided, while planning the service, that a better effect would be produced on those present if I would avoid their usual line of thinking and bring before them a series of truths with which they were not familiar. I chose the Gospel of John and discussed the eight miracles recorded in that book. The president, Mr. W—, seemed to be such an earnest fellow that I prayed especially for him, that the Word might enlighten his mind and touch his heart. I noticed that he listened most earnestly.

I arranged the eight miracles in four pairs:—the first and the eighth, the second and the seventh, the third and the sixth, and finally, the fourth and the fifth.

This strange handling of the Scripture seemed to be most interesting to Mr. W—. He had never examined these portions, nor had any of the audience. I saw at once that they were interested and were receiving the message favorably. I called their attention to the fact that in the first miracle (chapter 2) there was no wine at the wedding, and that in the eighth miracle there was no fish after the night of labor (chapter 21). Wine is a type of joy. Meat is a type of strength. I applied the

lesson very earnestly by telling them that the Lord chose the happiest scene on earth, a wedding, to show that their joy could not be complete without His presence, and the peace which He brings to the heart. Neither could labor be gratifying and successful, unless He came with His own personal blessing. I noticed that the chairman, Mr. W—, nodded his head and indicated that he saw the point and was considering it.

In the next pair of miracles, we considered the healing of the nobleman's son (chapter 4, verses 46 to 54) in connection with the raising of Lazarus (chapter 11). The son was about to die, while Lazarus was already dead. In each case, there was no hope of any human help. I stressed the fact that in the first case only Christ could sustain life, and in the second case, only Christ could give life. A number of illustrations were used to show how futile it is for any man to attempt to impart life to that which is dead, or to create life where none exists. This part of the message seemed especially forceful, and I noticed that Mr. W—, with his head bowed, was considering this matter very earnestly.

As we considered the third group, I pointed out that the man at the pool (chapter 5) was in many respects quite like the blind man (chapter 9). They were both healed on the sabbath day. They both had an experience near a pool, and they were both helpless. In the former case the impotent man was unable to walk with the Lord, and in the latter case the blind man was unable to see the Lord. Only Christ could make these men whole. Only Christ could make the one man walk as he should, and cause the other man to see as he should. From this I stressed the fact that it is still true that no man can walk with God, nor work for God, until Christ Jesus comes into his life. No man can see his own guilt and realize his own need of the righteousness of God, until Christ gives him spiritual sight. Evidently this was an entirely new thought to the president, and his perplexity deepened as he meditated on this truth.

I next brought up for consideration the fourth and fifth miracles in John (chapter 6)—the feeding of the multitude and the storm on the sea. In each case there was a very pressing need. In each case, there was an appeal made to the Lord Jesus for help, and it was not in vain. The first group were afraid of hunger. The second were afraid of drowning. The first group had no food. The second group had no means of rescue. In each case, the Saviour met the need quickly, quietly and easily. I pressed home the lesson to be learned from this: That only Christ can satisfy the hunger of the human soul, and only the

Saviour can rescue from the storms of life.

We had now come to the close of the service. I hoped that the president would give me an opportunity to talk with him personally, but he did not. He shook my hand, thanked me cordially for the message and then disappeared. I had conversations with others that were present and whose interest had been aroused, but was unable to lead any of them to Christ. I left the service disappointed.

The next morning, to my great surprise and joy, I received a visit from Mr. W—, who was himself an active spirit medium in the city. He sat down beside my desk and opened the conversation by saying, "Your message last evening certainly has aroused my deepest interest. I was unable to sleep during the night. Your arguments seemed quite conclusive, and my own personal experiences corroborated what you said. Do tell me something more about this matter."

It was plain to be seen that the Spirit of God had touched this man's life. The light of God's Word had shone into his dark soul. The Word of God had revealed to him his own utter insufficiency, and he was now ready for God's remedy. I said to him, "You may ask me any question that you wish concerning death, the grave, hell, heaven or eternity, and I will endeavor to answer you from the Scriptures. I believe that God has told us in His Word everything that you may want to know concerning death and the hereafter. It is really not necessary for you to attempt to talk with dead in order to obtain information, for you already have it in your Bible.

"I know it," he replied, "and that is what troubled me last night. I realize that I do not know my Bible, nor the teachings of God, and therefore am in the dark myself."

The way was now open for me to present the precious truth of the saving power of Christ Jesus. Opening my Bible to John 8:12, I read the words of Jesus, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." I also turned to John 12:46 and read, "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness."

"You will see from this, Mr. W—, that light does not come from the dead, but from the living Lord. The Lord Jesus knew very well that there would be darkness in human intellects, and that the fog of doubt, superstition and ignorance would cloud men's vision. Therefore, He came Himself to bring light to human hearts. If you will trust the Lord Jesus with your soul and heart and life, He will in some mysterious

way give you the light of life.

He did not hesitate at all, but immediately replied, "I believe you are right. Certainly I have had no true light in the past, though I have sought it for years. I will trust Jesus Christ just now and will test His Word. I believe He told the truth and will give me light."

We considered together John 3:16, with John 5:24 and John 10:10. These Scriptures satisfied his heart. He left my desk saying, "Thank you, Doctor; I belong to Jesus Christ."

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