

She Sought the Doctor, But Found Christ

by Walter Lewis Wilson, M.D.

MRS. C— had been ill for some time. The doctor had placed her upon a rather strict diet in order to overcome certain digestive disturbances. On this particular occasion, she had left her home in London, England, near the business district of the city, just to take a walk in the cool of the evening, before preparing to retire early. As she passed a large music hall, she noticed on the bulletin board that a certain physician would give an address that evening and that the public was invited. This announcement attracted her attention, for she thought that the address would be concerning health matters and possibly she would be helped by the counsel which this doctor would give.

It was a bit early and she did not wish to sit in the auditorium too long, so she strolled about the neighborhood, meditating on her ills and seeking to find some relief through hopeful anticipation. She knew that something was wrong, but did not know exactly what the trouble was. There was a yearning in her heart for something she had never found. There were unsatisfied desires in her life which she could not describe and did not understand. She felt that if she could only find the right food or the right medicine, then she could live a happy, comfortable life, and be of some use to her friends. She had tried traveling, but returned home with the same unsatisfied cravings. Of course, she was wondering what this doctor would have to say and whether she would be able to carry out his instructions. She thought of special heat treatments or perhaps the use of special lights. She rather dreaded the fact that perhaps he might suggest things that were beyond her financial ability to procure. She wondered whether he would prescribe a drastic change in her diet list. She thought of all the things she had tried and then laid aside. As she returned to the music hall, her mind was in quite a turmoil though filled with expectancy.

Friends began to gather and promptly at eight o'clock to her great astonishment a gentleman took his place at the piano and a song leader came to the platform and announced a gospel hymn. She could hardly understand why a gospel hymn would be sung at a health meeting. She did not know the hymn, for she had not attended church for many years. Most of those present knew the hymn and sang it heartily, while she sat silent and wondered. Another song was announced and sung, and then to add to her surprise a gentleman was called upon to pray for God's blessing on the meeting. By this time she was feeling quite

uncomfortable. She began to wonder what strange health club this was. She felt inclined to make her way out of the room, because she did not feel at home in this atmosphere. She was afraid she was among religious fanatics who might call upon her to come up on the platform and let them demonstrate over her in some religious performance. She was frightened at the thought of it and became quite nervous.

After the gentleman in charge of the service had made a few announcements, he introduced the speaker who was a physician. Now Mrs. C— felt a bit more at ease. She decided that for a while at least she would not be called upon for any purpose, but would listen to the doctor tell about the harmful effect of starches and the good effect of carrots, etc. He would probably tell her to take sulfur baths, to drink lots of fruit juices and to take a quiet rest in the middle of the day. She was greatly surprised, however, when the doctor opened his Bible and read the text, "For he is our peace" (Ephesians 2:14). Of course, it was peace that she wanted. It was rest that she was seeking, and she had come to find tranquility of spirit. The doctor called attention to the word "He" in the text and informed the audience that this man who is the peace of the heart is the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Great Physician.

In proceeding with his message, the speaker impressed upon the hearers the need of knowing this Saviour, not only by reputation but also by personal experience. He said to them, "You may know about a wonderful physician with unusual skill. You may know of patients to whom he has given unusual service. You may discover by investigation that he is at the top of his profession, unexcelled in skill and ability. Knowing all of this will be of no benefit to you, unless it leads you to bring your case to him and commit yourself to his care. It is only then that this specialist will be able to bring to you the healing of his skillful hands and the treatment he is so able to prescribe."

The argument which was thus presented appealed to our friend, for she had done that very thing. She had heard of a physician who was especially skilled in handling cases of indigestion. She had gone to see him personally and had committed her case to him. He had told her as he diagnosed the symptoms that her case was one of nervous indigestion. He had advised her to build up her nerve supply by rest and diet, and assured her that the unhappy symptoms would disappear when her nervous system was restored to normal. She felt that his diagnosis and prognosis were correct, but the question that puzzled her was how to bring it about. She was quite discouraged with the food program, for it did not seem to be doing the work. Now she was

hearing a physician tell about another Physician who would give rest to those who came to Him, and would give peace to those who trusted Him. She did not hear much more of the sermon. Her mind was so occupied with this new thought that she could not concentrate on anything else. She wondered why her own doctor had never told her about this strange new Physician who produced such a wonderful effect upon the hearts and lives of all those who came to Him. What a blessing it would be to humanity if all medical men knew the Lord Jesus, and would take their patients to Him for the remedy which the soul so sorely needs!

I was the doctor who gave this message. At the close of the service, Mrs. C— made her way forward to speak to me personally. Upon reaching my side, she said, "Doctor, I came to this service tonight expecting to hear a message that would help my body. I thought you would talk on a medical subject. Instead of that you talked about the need of the soul and the Saviour. After listening during this hour, I have come to the conclusion that you have just what I want. Do tell me how I may obtain this rest and peace that you have been talking about. How can I obtain that knowledge of Jesus that you have described?"

There was no question about her sincerity. The Lord had revealed to her the true condition of her heart and life, and now she was ready for God's remedy. I took her to one side where we could sit apart from the crowd, and opening the Scriptures, read to her, "He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away" (Luke 1:53). I explained to her that those who are hungry for the things of God may expect to receive that which He freely gives. We then turned to John 6:35, "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." This passage of Scripture was used of the Spirit to fill her heart with hope, and she said, "Certainly that is plain enough. Christ has come to be bread to me and that is what I want. Still it is not clear to me how I may have Him, and how it is that He will satisfy my needs."

The difficulty which this lady experienced is a common one. God foresaw the weakness of our thinking and gave us the Scriptures to enlighten us. I opened my Bible again to I John 5:12, and read, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." I then explained to her that we accept the Lord Jesus as a gift from God. Since God has given His Son to us, we by faith receive Him, turn ourselves over to Him, place our case in His care and then call Him our own. This seemed to clear the matter fully, and she said,

"That seems quite plain to me now. I will take God's gift. Jesus is the Physician I need. I know He will satisfy my heart and save my soul. I believe in Him fully. How I wish I had known about Him years ago! Thank you so much for bringing me to Him."

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