

FIVE DAYS: AFTER I HAD AMPUTATED THAT DEAR BOY'S ARM AND LEG HE SENT FOR

"ME, AND IT WAS FROM HIM THAT DAY I HEARD THE FIRST GOSPEL SERMON." DOCTOR, "HE SAID, "MY TIME HAS COME. I DO NOT EXPECT TO SEE ANOTHER SUNRISE, BUT, THANK GOD, I AM READY TO GO, AND BEFORE I DIE I DESIRE TO THANK YOU WITH ALL MY HEART FOR YOUR KINDNESS TO ME, DOCTOR, YOU ARE A JEW, BUT YOU DO NOT BELIEVE IN JESUS. WILL YOU PLEASE STAND HERE AND SEE ME DIE, TRUSTING MY SAVIOUR TO THE LAST MOMENT OF MY LIFE?"

I TRIED TO STAY, BUT I COULD NOT, FOR I HAD NOT THE COURAGE TO STAND BY AND SEE A CHRISTIAN BOY DIE REJOICING IN THE LOVE OF THAT JESUS WHOM I HAD BEEN TAUGHT TO HATE, SO I HURRIEDLY LEFT THE ROOM, ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES LATER A STEWARD WHO FOUND ME SITTING IN MY PRIVATE OFFICE COVERING MY FACE WITH MY HAND, SAID,

"DOCTOR, CHARLIE COULSON WISHES TO SEE YOU."

"I HAVE JUST SEEN HIM," I ANSWERED, "AND I CANNOT SEE HIM AGAIN."

"BUT, DOCTOR, HE SAYS HE MUST SEE YOU ONCE MORE BEFORE HE DIES." I MADE UP MY MIND TO SEE HIM, SAY AN ENDearing WORD, AND LET HIM DIE, BUT I WAS DETERMINED THAT NO WORD OF HIS SHOULD INFLUENCE ME IN THE LEAST SO FAR AS HIS JESUS WAS CONCERNED. WHEN I ENTERED THE HOSPITAL I SAW HE WAS SINKING FAST, SO I SAT DOWN BY HIS BED, ASKING ME TO TAKE HIS HAND, HE SAID, "DOCTOR, I LOVE YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE A JEW; THE BEST FRIEND I HAVE FOUND IN THIS WORLD WAS A JEW."

I ASKED, "WHO WAS THAT?"

HE ANSWERED, "JESUS CHRIST TO WHOM I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU BEFORE I DIE. FIVE DAYS AGO, WHILE YOU AMPUTATED MY ARM AND LEG, I PRAYED TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TO SAVE YOUR SOUL."

THESE WORDS WENT DEEP INTO MY HEART. I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW, WHEN I WAS CAUSING HIM THE MOST INTENSE PAIN HE COULD FORGET ALL ABOUT HIMSELF AND THINK OF NOTHING BUT HIS SAVIOUR AND MY UNCONVERTED STATE. ALL I COULD SAY TO HIM WAS, "WELL, MY DEAR BOY, YOU WILL SOON BE ALRIGHT." WITH THESE WORDS I LEFT HIM AND TWELVE MINUTES LATER HE FELT ASLEEP.

HUNDREDS OF SOLDIERS DIED IN MY HOSPITAL DURING THE WAR BUT I ONLY FOLLOWED ONE TO THE GRAVE-- THAT ONE WAS CHARLIE COULSON, THE DRUMMER BOY, AND I RODE THREE MILES TO SEE HIM BURIED. I HAD HIM DRESSED IN A NEW UNIFORM, AND PLACED IN AN OFFICERS COFFIN WITH A NEW UNITED STATES FLAG OVER IT.

AT THE CLOSE OF THE CIVIL WAR I WAS DETAINED AS INSPECTING SURGEON, AND TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE MILITARY HOSPITAL IN GALVESTON, TEXAS, RETURNING ONE DAY FROM AN INSPECTING TOUR, AND ON MY WAY TO WASHINGTON, I STOPPED TO REST A FEW HOURS AT NEW YORK. AFTER DINNER I STEPPED DOWNSTAIRS TO THE BARBER'S SHOP. ON ENTERING THE ROOM I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE HUNG AROUND THE ROOM SIXTEEN BEAUTIFULLY FRAMED SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

NO SOONER HAD THE BARBER PUT THE BRUSH TO MY FACE THAN HE BEGAN ALSO TO TALK TO ME ABOUT JESUS. HE SPOKE IN SUCH AN ATTRACTIVE AND LOVING MANNER THAT MY PREJUDICES WERE DISARMED, AND I LISTENED WITH GROWING ATTENTION TO WHAT HE SAID. ALL THE WHILE HE WAS TALKING, "CHARLIE COULSON, THE DRUMMER BOY," CAME WELING UP IN MY MIND, ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN DEAD FOR TEN YEARS. I WAS SO WELL PLEASED WITH THE WORDS AND DEPARTMENT OF THE BARBER THAT NO SOONER HAD HE DONE SHAVING ME I TOLD HIM NEXT TO CUT MY HAIR, ALTHOUGH WHEN I ENTERED THE ROOM I HAD NO SUCH THOUGHT OR INTENTION. ALL THE WHILE HE WAS CUTTING MY HAIR HE KEPT STEADILY ON PREACHING CHRIST TO ME, AND TELLING ME THAT ALTHOUGH NOT A JEW HIMSELF HE WAS AT ONE TIME AS FAR AWAY FROM CHRIST AS I WAS THEN.

I LISTENED ATTENTIVELY, MY INTEREST INCREASING WITH EVERY WORD HE SAID TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT I ALLOWED HIM TO DO ALL THAT ONE IN HIS PROFESSION COULD DO FOR A GENTLEMAN AT ONE SITTING. THERE IS, HOWEVER, AN END TO ALL THINGS, AND MY TIME BEING SHORT I PREPARED TO LEAVE. I PAID MY BILL, THANKED THE BARBER FOR HIS REMARKS, AND SAID, "I MUST CATCH THE NEXT TRAIN." "HE, HOWEVER, WAS NOT YET SATISFIED. IT WAS A BITTERRCOLD FEBRUARY DAY, AND THE ICE ON THE GROUND MADE IT SOMEWHAT DANGEROUS TO WALK ON THE STREETS. IT WAS ONLY TWO MINUTES' WALK TO THE STATION FROM THE HOTEL, AND THE KIND BARBER OFFERED AT ONCE TO WALK TO THE STATION WITH ME. I ACCEPTED HIS OFFER.

HIS ARM IN MINE TO KEEP ME FROM FALLING.

HE STILL CONTINUED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT HIS "DEAR SAVIOUR" AND SAID HE FELT IT HIS DUTY, WHENEVER HE CAME IN CONTACT WITH A JEW, TO TRY AND INTRODUCE TO ONE WHOM HE FELT WAS HIS BEST FRIEND, BOTH FOR THIS WORLD AND THE WORLD TO COME. ON LOOKING