



# Humility: *The quality of a wise man!*

*"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness" (James 3:13-16).*

Apostle James sets down the criteria by which persons with heavenly wisdom and earthly wisdom can be easily identified. Heavenly wisdom produces gentleness, peace and order while earthly wisdom produces strife and bitter envy.

Apostle James classifies 'WISDOM' into two categories: 'Heavenly wisdom' and 'Earthly wisdom'. He also sets down the qualities by which these types can be identified. A person who has 'heavenly wisdom' can be identified by his deeds done in humility. But the other type with 'earthly wisdom' will display bitter envy and selfish ambition in his actions. The criteria placed before us by the apostle are quite simple and unequivocal. We know the type without any doubt when we see one! James calls a person with wisdom from above as a 'peacemaker'. Hence it is obvious that if someone creates strife in the community out of envy and selfish ambition, his so-called wisdom is 'earthly, unspiritual and demonic'.

Jesus is the wisdom of God and He was meek and gentle in all His actions. He suffered personal insults meekly and did not open His mouth against false accusations. But we cannot assume that this meekness made Him a doormat in the face of evil. He cleansed the Temple with a whip and rebuked the Pharisees. The scriptures describe Moses as "very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth" (Numbers 12:3). He never became angry when he was personally insulted. But we do not see his meekness when he broke the tablets of commandments or when he ordered Levites to destroy rebellious people. Heavenly wisdom teaches a person to be humble when

confronted with personal insults, but to be courageous to stand against evil.

**Contrasts of heavenly wisdom and earthly wisdom:**

**a) Their origins are different.** One is from God (James 1:17) and is received by prayer (James 1:5). The other is earthly and according to the world's standards which is foolishness to God (1 Cor. 1:20).

**b) Their nature is different.** Heavenly wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, merciful and impartial. Earthly wisdom is full of bitter envy, self seeking and thinking highly of power, position, privilege and prestige. It is devilish as it prompted Satan and his angels to rebel against God and tempted even the disciples of Jesus to argue over who would be the greatest in the kingdom.

**c) Their fruits are different.** One produces peace instead of confusion and bears the fruit of righteousness. The other causes strife, quarrels and confusion and every evil thing.

*As Pentecostal believers, what kind of wisdom do we possess? Are we peacemakers and gentle in our deeds? Or, do we create strife out of envy and selfishness for power and privileges? Let us ponder for a moment and decide which category we belong to! If we lack heavenly wisdom, ask God "who gives generously to all".*



**Johnson  
K. Samuel**

**"Humility: The quality of a wise man"**

# Faith

## - that draws man to God -

The modern preachers (especially those ones on the TV) have popularized a particular version of 'faith.' According to them we need faith in order to God to do miracles. Some of them even tend to preach that the miracles are proportionate to the size of ones'faith. This is often implied in expressions like 'level of faith'etc that we often hear on the TV.

In this popular conception 'faith' is portrayed as something that triggers God's power. Unless we exercise our faith we cannot receive God's power through miracles. Doesn't this imply that the omnipotent God is helpless to do a miracle for us! Certain stories in the Bible are used to support these positions. Often quoted is the faith of the woman suffering with a flow of blood who received her healing by touching Jesus' garments secretly (Mark 5:24-34). The faith of the centurion is also often cited (Matthew 8:5-13). He received a miracle because he 'exercised' his faith.

Often times preachers quote Jesus' statement to the woman with a flow of blood, 'your faith has healed you' to say that it is our faith that works miracles! If faith that is situated in the receptor is the condition for the power of God to act for the benefit of someone then the miracles looks like an illusion. If faith is something that makes a person just believe that the miracle has happened then faith is similar to to the effect that placebo has on a patient.

These stories need to be re-examined. But before that we also need to look at other instances where Jesus did a miracle for those who did not have any faith or were unable to exercise their faith to trigger a miracle! What about Jesus stilling the storm in Lake Galilee? From the statement of Jesus, 'Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?' (Mark 4:40) it is

reasonable to conclude that they did not expect a miracle from Jesus. Their surprise confirms the fact this fact (4:41). They never knew that Jesus had control over the storm, the sea and the waves until he stilled the sea! The disciples had cried out to Jesus who was sleeping at the helm of the boat: 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' This was not a request but a complaint. Actually, they were asking Jesus to help them bail out water as the waves were dashing against the boat. They never believed that Jesus had the power to still the storm. Still there was a miracle, in spite of their lack of faith.

When Jesus raised Lazarus who ever believed that was possible? Martha agreed saying that he will certainly raise up in the resurrection at the end times but not now (John 11:24). The disciples did not believe that it will be possible (John 11:12-16). They also pointed out that it has been four days now since he is buried. Martha even pointed out that, 'Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days' (John 11:39). This miracle happened in the context of utter lack of faith in Jesus.

Then there are a host of people who were not in a mental state to seek Jesus' help or had nobody to seek God's help for them. The demon-possessed resisted healing (Mark 5:7). The dead people whom Jesus raised couldn't exercise their faith.

Jesus also helped people who had no knowledge of him or his healing powers. The man at the Bethesda pool didn't know that Jesus can heal him. He believed



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God works miracles whether we have faith or not. God's power is not triggered nor dependent on our faith. Simply put, God cannot be manipulated by our faith! God works as he wills, unconditionally

that he can be healed by the pool and his complaint was that he had nobody to help him enter the pool at the right moment. His response to Jesus question 'do you want to be healed' was one of despondency (John 5:7). His faith was fixated on the healing power of the pool. However, he had come to accept the fact that there are logistic difficulties for his healing. He was losing his faith in the miraculous power of the pool and had no faith in the healing power of Jesus who was standing nearby. He probably didn't know who Jesus was and what he is capable of. Still he was healed. Who exercised faith and whose faith healed him?

These observations lead us to certain inevitable conclusions. Our faith is not the basis for the miracles. God works miracles whether we have faith or not. God's power is not triggered nor dependent on our faith. Simply put, God cannot be manipulated by our faith! God works as he wills, unconditionally.

A second observation is God does miracles with a purpose. The main purpose is that it will create and nurture faith in those who received and witness the miracles. In other words the purpose is that we may put our trust in him. Thus viewed faith is the product of miracles not vice versa.

One of the essential components of the miracles stories in the Gospels is the faith that it generated in those who witnessed them. As it generated faith in God it also made the witnesses and those who received the miracle to glorify God. This is very well summarized in Matthew 15:29 as: 'And great multitudes came unto him, having with them some lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them; insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see. And they

glorified the God of Israel.'

If then what is the role of faith in Christian experiences of God's power? Faith is that connects a person with God. First of all, it is something that draws a person to God. The woman with a issue of blood came closer to Jesus enough to touch him because he had 'reports of him.' She believed that Jesus could heal her if she just touched the edge of his garments. Faith drew her to Jesus. The centurions faith was much stronger. He knew that a word from Jesus was enough to heal his servants. There are a number of people who don't draw to him and they miss a miracle. They don't draw to him but their doubts and questions deprive him an opportunity to do miracles for them. This is what happened when Jesus visited his own home town. The Bible says, he 'couldn't do' any miracles in that place because of their

unbelief. Since people knew him as a carpenter and as the son of an ordinary woman like Mary they did not bring their sick and demon-possessed to him. Thus they denied him an opportunity to help them. That is why 'he could not do' any mighty works there. Faith that draws us to God is essential.

The second aspect of faith is that it is a

response to God's power displayed through miracles. In another sense it draws us closer to God. Moses had no knowledge of faith in Yahweh when he saw the burning bush. But he drew close to the bush (in fact to the presence of God) to see what is going on—why the bush burns but is not consumed (Exod 3:1-7). God does what he want to do irrespective of or unbelief. But he expects us to respond to him in faith. The people who were healed by Jesus went around sharing the goodnews about Jesus. The people who witnessed miracles put their trust in Him. They became of people of faith because they experienced the power of God in their life. *It is not faith triggering God's power but God's power triggering our faith. And faith thus triggered grows on its own even when there are no miracles.*

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# God's Book for Mankind:

- Part 4 -

## Importance of the Word of God

The Word of God shall never pass away, it is settled for ever and stands for all eternity. The Word of God cannot be imprisoned even if the believer and minister of the word are imprisoned.

The word of God is of great importance to live a victorious Christian life. Faith comes by hearing

and believing the word of God. We need to know the word of God to know what is right and wrong, so we can avoid errors and obey the truth. The Word of God strengthens us to resist the devil and overcome temptation. The Word of God is essential for healthy growth and maturity. The word washes and cleanses, guides and directs. The word is essential for spiritual effectiveness. We need to know the word to communicate it to others.

Every one should approach the Bible with an open mind and an attitude of humility and obedience. Allow the word to speak and transform you into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ.

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### Some Symbols of the Word of God

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**Mirror:** The word of God is likened to Mirror because it reflects the mind of God and the true condition of the human heart. (James 1:23-24)

**Seed:** It is called seed because when it is properly planted and cared for it brings forth life, growth and fruit. (I Peter 1:23; Matthew 13:18-23, 38)

**Water:** It is likened to water because it washes away that which is filthy and dirty in the human heart, mind, and quenches the thirst of every soul, and brings refreshment and rejuvenates the tired soul. (Psalms 119:9; 42:1; Proverbs 25:25; Isaiah 55:10; Ephesians 5:25-27; Hebrews 10:22; Revelation 22:17)



**Rain and Snow:** It is called rain and snow because it enables growth and refreshes. ((Isaiah 55:10-11)

**Sword:** The Word of God is called the Sword of the Spirit because of its piercing power. It cuts powerfully upon sinners and saints. It is the mighty weapon against

Satan. The only offensive piece of armor mentioned in the full armor of God is the sword of the spirit which is the Word of God. (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12)

**Lamp and Light:** It is called a lamp and light because it shows where we are spiritually and morally and it guides us in our life in a spiritually dark world and keeps us from stumbling and falling. (Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 6:23; II Peter 1:19)

**Silver and Gold:** It is likened to precious metals such as silver and gold because of its worth and value. (Psalms 12:6 19:10; 119:127)

**Milk, Meat, Wheat, Honey and Solid Food:** It is compared to nourishing food items because it provides strength and stamina for the inner person. It is the real soul food. (I Corinthians 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:12-14; Psalms 18:16; 147:14; Hebrews 5:11-12)

**Fire:** It is likened to fire because of its ability to burn in the human soul and its purifying and consuming abilities. (Jeremiah 20:9; 23:29; Luke 24:32)

**Hammer:** It is compared to hammer because of its ability to break that which is evil and construct and build up. (Jeremiah 23:29)

*Let us utilize the Word of God for our good and for the glory of God.*

## Bible Study



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Here is the fourth part of the Bible Study series on the Books of the Bible by Dr. Varghese

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# Witnessing to Children



**Rev. Dr. Shibu Samuel**

Rev. Shibu has earned doctorate as "Doctor of Science in Counseling Psychology" and is a Professional Chaplain and Counsellor. He pastored an American Church in Canton, Michigan for 8 years and is currently Senior Pastor of Philadelphia Pentecostal Church of Dallas (IPC).

Christ gives high priority to Ministry to Children and Parents bear the responsibility to raise their children for Christ

*Jesus looked at the women who were mourning, said:  
"Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourself and for your children" (Luke 23:28)*

The passage quoted above really touched me. Here Jesus is specifically telling us that we need to concern about our children, so that later we do not need to worry. If we do not take it seriously about our children, then later we will regret. That's why the Lord said: "do not weep for me, but weep for yourself".

Children are very important to God because children are often trusting and accepting and they are open to learning about Jesus. As they learn about Jesus, His life, death, and resurrection, they also learn to respond to His love. Jesus recognized the unique characteristics of children when He said, "Unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3).

I want to bring three points with regard to witnessing to children.

## 1. Christ gives high priority to Ministry to Children (Mark 10:14):

Jesus was talking to His disciples who were trying to keep children from "getting in the way" of what Jesus was doing. This probably sounds familiar, since we also can be impatient with children or frustrated when they force us to alter our adult plans. Jesus, however, valued the opportunity to develop a relationship with children. He used children as an example of how we should come to God - trusting and depending on Him for all of our needs. We may pass by children in favor of meaningful conversations with adults. This was not Jesus' model. While all Christians are called to help children learn about Jesus, Christian parents are in a unique position to influence their children for Christ.

## 2. Parents bear the responsibility to raise their children for Christ (Deut. 6:6,7):

The Bible often speaks about training children both through teaching and example. Though attending Sunday school and weekly worship services is important for children, a parent's example of Jesus' love and God's principles in everyday life is more important. Parents can only provide this example when they have their own deep and personal relationship with God. If both parents are in close relationship with God, then their home is more likely to be peaceful, stable

and God-centered. Children raised in this kind of environment can see what God is truly like and have an opportunity to develop their own personal relationship with Him.

The Book of Proverbs talks about raising children in God's way: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Proper training results in positive habits that can last a lifetime. If we want our children to learn about God, we need to provide an atmosphere that encourages their spiritual development. Parents have a great responsibility to teach their children the Word of God and how to please God.

A child is ready for commitment to Christ as soon as he or she understands the meaning of sin and that Jesus is our Savior from sin. Be ready to explain the gospel in simple terms that a child can understand. Use the Bible, making sure that the child understands the meaning of each verse about God's plan for salvation. The next section will help you teach a child about salvation and how to pray to trust Christ. Follow these Bible verses and steps.

## 3. How to lead children to faith In Christ

Explain to the child that God made the world and each person in it (Gen. 1:1). Walk the child through the Bible verses and explanation of the gospel message in the topic of Salvation.

Invite the child to pray with you to trust Jesus Christ. The following is a suggested prayer to pray with children:

*Dear God, You said that I sinned and need forgiveness. I am sorry for doing wrong things and pleasing myself instead of you. I ask Jesus to come into my life to be my Lord and save me from my sins. Amen.*

Don't stop there. Encourage the child to read the Bible, to talk to God (pray) daily, and to go to Sunday school and church each week. Offer a beginning Bible study that will help the child understand his or her commitment more fully. Memorize Bible verses together. All these things will help to ensure that "when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Let me conclude here by saying that as parents, it is our duty to encourage and sacrifice our time for bringing our children to Sunday school and other activities of our church.

# Trace the HEART of GOD when you cannot SEE HIM

*"Look, I go forward, but He is not there, and backward, but I cannot perceive Him; when He works on the left hand, I cannot behold Him; when He turns to the right hand, I cannot see Him. But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold"*  
(Job 23:8-10)



**Dr. Shibu  
Cherian**

Eliphaz exhorted Job to admit that his sufferings resulted from sin (Job 22:1-11) to which Job disagreed. However, when Eliphaz reminded that God is in heaven (v. 12) - this statement may have triggered Job's lament about God's inaccessibility. First of all, Job wanted to



make it clear that his suffering was even worse than it appeared or than he could describe (Job 23:1-2). This made it all the more urgent that he be able to confront God in a legal setting and arrive at a fair resolution of his case. Job believed that if only he could meet God face to face, he could persuade Him of his innocence (vv. 3-7). Of course, that was not possible, as Job could not see God anywhere he turned - whether it was forward or backward or at his left hand or at his right hand (vv. 8-9).

When Job could not see God around him, he then traced the heart of God. In the very next statement Job declared that God knows the way that he is taking at this time. Job then hit the core of his problems so far - God was testing him as gold is tested through all his afflictions. However, he will surely come out his distress one day - more valuable and more precious - free from all his impurities.

Here are three precious lessons that we can learn from Job's life:

1. At the most difficult times, we should trace the heart of God even when we cannot visualize His presence anywhere around us.

2. God will provide us the

strength and comfort to see us through our troubles.

3. God will also intervene in our lives and with His peace fill up the place that is emptied of the comforts of this life.

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* (Phil 4:6-7)

*"Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved."* (Psalms 55:22)

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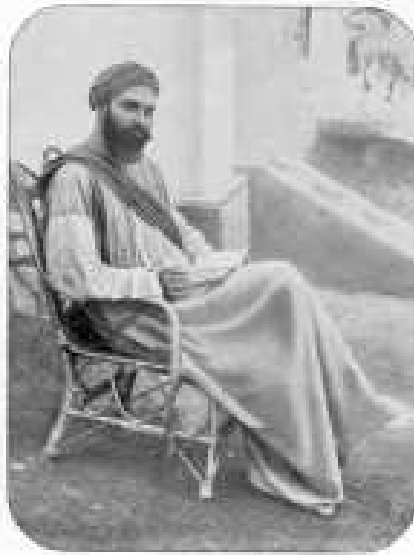
# **Sadhu Sundar Singh:**

## *A modern Saul who met Jesus*

Several books on the life and teachings of Sadhu Sundar Singh are available in book shops. But we think it will be interesting to readers of "Suvantha" Magazine to get a glimpse of the miraculous conversion and ministry of the great Indian missionary who was born on 3rd September 1889 in a wealthy aristocratic family in Patiala, Punjab and who is believed to have died in the foothills of the Himalayas in 1929.

### 1. A miracle of conversion

Sundar was the son of a wealthy aristocrat belonging to India's proud Sikh religion. Here was a young man who was bitterly opposed to Christianity; and two days ago he had burnt the New Testament publicly to demonstrate his animosity to the Western religion. He had been going to the American Presbyterian school in his native town Rampur in Punjab, as the nearest government school was three miles away. His antagonism to Christianity grew when he discovered that Bible was taught in classes among other subjects. Sundar stubbornly refused to read the New Testament when the Scripture hour arrived. He formed a gang, intending to break up the school and to drive the missionaries out of town. He prevailed upon his father, Sher Singh, to enroll him at the other government school, thus volunteering to tramp the six miles daily. However, a malaria forced him later to quit that school. Once again the teenager had to enroll at the Christian school, though with great reluctance. But, he expressed his fury at this time in a different way. He bought a New Testament, and in the presence of the gang, he burnt the book to ashes over



**Sadhu Sundar Singh**

an open fire. Sundar was rebuked by his father for doing so, but he would not be persuaded by the parental advice.

The burning of the New Testament was the last gesture against Christ in the life of this modern Saul. Soon young Sundar found himself seized by an agonizing restlessness, which led him to a passionate search for truth. This

inner struggle went on for the following two days, increasing up to a miserable point. On the third day, when he could bear it no longer, our hero got up at 3:00 o'clock in the morning, took a bath, and kept praying the following prayer over and over: "If there be a God, you must show me the way of salvation, or I will commit suicide."

The experience in the early hours of that morning on December 18, 1904, formed the great turning point of the life of this aristocratic youth, who was to become the 'Beloved Apostle of India.' Sadhu Sundar Singh, as he was known to Christendom, later wrote on the experience as follows:

"My intention was, that if I got no satisfaction, I would place my head upon the railway line when the 5:00 o'clock train passed by, and kill myself. If I got no satisfaction in this life, I would get it in the next. I was praying and praying but received no answer; and I prayed for half an hour longer, hoping to get peace. At 4:30 A.M. I saw something of which I had no idea, previously. In the room where I was praying I saw a great light. I thought the place was on fire. I looked around, but could find nothing. The thought came to me that this might be an answer that God had sent me. Then as I prayed and looked into the light, I saw the form of



**Rev. Dr. John Cherian**, former Dean, Southern Asia Bible Institute, Bangalore, wrote this brief biography of Sadhu Sundar Singh many years ago as he was profoundly influenced by the miracle life of that great Indian saint.

Most of the miracle stories written here were narrated to him by his father, Pastor K.C. Cherian (Vettiyar) who came to the Lord through the ministry of Sadhu Sundar Singh. We are sure, readers of 'Suvantha' Magazine will be delighted to read about that great apostle of Jesus Christ.

the Lord Jesus Christ and heard a voice saying in Hindustani: 'How long will you persecute me? I have come to save you. You were praying to know the right way. Why do you not take it?' So I fell at his feet and got this wonderful peace, which I could not get anywhere else."

The Damascus road experience had come into the life of Sundar Singh. To Paul, the divine voice said: "Why persecutest thou me?" To Sundar it was: "How long will you persecute me?" To Paul the voice said: "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." To Sundar it was: "I have come to save you." Paul was prostrated on the earth; Sundar fell at the feet of the Christ who spoke to him (Acts 9:35).

At about quarter to five, Sundar rushed out of the room, and seized his father, who was sound asleep, by his shoulders. Leaping out of the bed, Sher Singh clutched his boy's arms and asked: "What's the matter?" Sundar said: "I have seen Jesus - I am a Christian. I can serve none else but Jesus." Then he related to the elderly man the experience of his meeting the Lord Christ in a human form. Sher Singh patiently listened to the story, then he said: "You are half asleep, boy, or else you have gone mad. Go back to bed. You come in the middle of the night and say you are a Christian; and yet, it is not three days past that you burned the Christian book.

Neither Sundar's father, nor even the Christians in his town were prepared for such a sudden change in our hero's life. Even as the Christians of Jerusalem feared Saul, not believing that he had changed, the missionaries and Christians of Rampur feared for a time, reluctant to accept him; but, they were soon convinced of his loyalty to Jesus Christ.

Most furious persecutions followed. But, the young convert was adamant. The personal meeting with Christ had been

a burning experience in his soul, and he could never again doubt its validity. C. F. Andrews, in writing on Sadhu Sundar Singh, quoted his own later explanation: "What I saw was no imagination of my own. Up to that moment, I hated Jesus and did not worship Him. If I had been thinking of Buddha or Krishna, I might have imagined what I saw, for I was in the habit of worshiping them. - No it was no dream. When you have just had a cold bath, you don't dream. I have had visions,

Non-biblical parallels are abundant in the lives of such men of God as Augustine, Finny, Alexander Dowie, Stephen Jeffreys, Smith Wiggelsworth and others. That Christ can reveal himself in a physical human form is clear in his post-resurrection appearances to the Apostles, and to "above five hundred brethren at once," and to John in Patmos, most of whom were eye-witnesses, living at the time Paul wrote about it (1 Cor. 15:6).

and I know how to distinguish them. But Jesus I have only seen once." Sundar Singh consistently held that it was an objective, external event, which came before his eyes in an unexpected form. C. F. Andrews described this experience as an objective 'outward event.' Cyril Davey and Mrs. Arthur Parker who also wrote his biography, give us the same description.

This story is indeed descriptive of the Christian faith, as the Biblical narratives of Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah, Paul, John and others relate such experiences. Non-biblical parallels are abundant in the lives of such men of God as Augustine, Finny, Alexander Dowie, Stephen Jeffreys, Smith Wiggelsworth and others. That Christ can reveal himself in a physical human form is clear in his post-resurrection appearances to the Apostles, and to "above five hundred brethren at once," and to John in Patmos, most of whom were eye-witnesses, living

at the time Paul wrote about it (1 Cor. 15:6).

For a few days the Singh family applied great pressure, both by entreaty and compulsion, to persuade our hero to reject his new faith, and to restore his pride as a member of the Sikh community. His uncle, a very reputed man, took him into his palatial house, led him to a deep cellar and unlocked a large safe. It was filled with rolls of currency, bank-notes, jewels, etc. Then the dignified man made to Sundar the most humble entreaty, asking not to disgrace the family. He promised him all that the safe contained, if he would comply. Sundar suddenly remembered the face of Christ, and with tearful eyes he reaffirmed his determination to follow the Lord.

Later the Raja (King) summoned him to appear before the bar of the State Assembly to account for his conduct. Once again Sundar

voiced his intention to live for Christ. Like Paul, he proved to be "a chosen vessel unto (God) to bear (His) name before Gentiles and kings."

The day came when Sundar was driven out of his home as an outcast. Soon after the sun kissed the western hills that evening, Sundar picked up his Bible. Sher Singh declared that he was no longer a member of the family. (Later, Sher himself became a Christian.) Sundar spent that cold night under a tree with no warm clothes or food. Soon he was received at the American Presbyterian Mission in Ludhiana. He traded the luxury and comfort of his home for a humble life in which he did not know where his next meal was to come from. Like Paul, he was now prepared to say, "I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." ●

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**An ancient town discovered!**

A town dating back more than 2,000 years has been discovered on the northwest coast of the Sea of Galilee, in Israel. Ken Dark, of the University of Reading in the U.K., whose team discovered the town during a field survey, says, the town may be Dalmanutha described in the Gospel of Mark (Mark 8:10-13). The evidence the team found suggests the town was prosperous in ancient times. Evidences of weights and stone anchors, along with the access to beaches suitable for landing boats - all imply an involvement with fishing. The researchers found that the southern side of the town lies only about 500 feet away from another ancient town known as Magdala. Prof. Ken Dark is not certain that the newly discovered town is Dalmanutha, but there is evidence to support the idea. From the remains found, researchers can tell the newly discovered town would have been a sizable, thriving location in the first century A.D. These remains included a number of ancient Roman column fragments. This settlement may have



**Roman column fragments**

contained masonry buildings, some with mosaic floors and architectural stonework, according to Prof. Dark. The finds also included a pagan altar, made of light-gray limestone and used in religious rituals by those of a polytheistic faith.

*Archaeological discoveries provide evidences for the historical accuracy of Biblical narratives!*

**Swaminarayan Sansthan, Maninagar, on a buying spree!**

According to a recent report in Times of India, the Shree Swaminarayan Sansthan is buying unused churches across the globe. After acquiring churches in Los Angeles, California last year, the organization has acquired two more churches - one in Canada and the other in the US. These churches would be thrown open for the devotees next year after the idol of Swaminarayan bhagwan is installed in these churches. The sect has paid 1.9 million Canadian dollars for buying an over 100-year-old church located in Ontario, Canada. The church, built over 9,000 sq. ft, comes with a community hall and a house. Similarly, the Sansthan has bought a defunct church in Kentucky, US. paying 9.50 lakh US dollars. This church is spread over four acres of land.

Sansthan spokesman said, churches have been acquired for the purpose of spreading global peace and brotherhood and integrity. Gujaratis constitute one of the largest immigrant communities and the growing number of Swaminarayan temples all over the world only underline the financial clout of the community. The Sansthan has 12 temples abroad. Most of the churches acquired are situated in prime areas and in a rundown condition. In 1998, when a 70-year-old church was bought and

turned into a temple, the glass paintings which had images of Jesus Christ and Mother Mary were retained. "People from different faiths visit this temple," says a trustee of Swaminarayan Temple Trust in the UK.

*This is a clear indication of the decline of Christianity in the West. The traditional churches are not able to maintain their church properties due to lack of membership and resulting loss of income. Traditional churches are not able to fulfil the spiritual needs of people and hence their membership dwindles. Young people are losing interest in rituals which do not satisfy their spiritual hunger. Beautiful, majestic Church buildings thus become readily available to anyone who has money!*

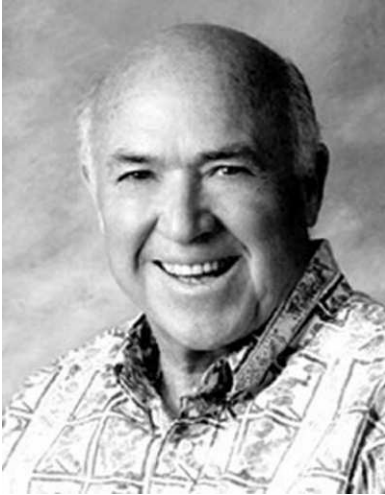
**Pope advocates good works for salvation!**

Pope Francis says that atheists could also take moral decisions just like religious people. He adds: "The question for people who do not believe in God is to listen to their consciences. Also for those without faith, sin is going against your conscience. Listening to it and obeying it means making up one's mind about what is good and evil". On another occasion, he said non-believers could be redeemed just like Catholics - a statement that was quickly denied by a Vatican spokesman who said that anyone who refuses the Catholic Church "cannot be saved". When a reporter told him that he was an atheist, Pope said: "But do good: we will meet one another there".



*The "infallible" pope is trying to rewrite Scriptures!!*

**Pastor 'Chuck' Smith dies at 86**



Pastor Charles Ward "Chuck" Smith, founder of Calvary Chapel, teacher and author died of Lung cancer. He started his ministry in 1965 with a mere 25 people. God blessed his simple and consistent style of teaching straight through the Bible and today Calvary Chapel draws over 10,000 attendees weekly. 'Chuck' and Calvary Chapel have played an important role in the evangelical movement in the past century. At its beginning, Calvary Chapel operated as a cross-cultural missions organization that bridged the "generation gap". Calvary Chapel was a hub of the

"Jesus People" phenomenon that existed at that time and was featured in Time Magazine for its success among "hippies" and young people. Calvary Chapel pioneered a less formal and contemporary approach in its worship and public meetings; for example, it did outreaches on the beach, and baptisms in the Pacific Ocean. Much of Contemporary Christian Music has its roots in Calvary Chapel worship music.

Chuck Smith is the author and co-author of several books which include *Answers for Today, Calvinism, Arminianism & The Word of God, Charisma vs. Charismania, Comfort for Those Who Mourn, Effective Prayer Life, Harvest, Living Water, The Claims of Christ, The Gospel According to Grace, Why Grace Changes Everything, Love: The More Excellent Way, and The Final Act.*

*His popular commentary on each book of the Bible, titled 'Through the Bible' series is available on the internet and can be downloaded in mp3 format. His talk is very clear and interesting and can be easily understood.*

**Gospel works in prison, too!**

The American Pastor Saeed Abedini who is in an Iranian prison is still preaching the gospel according to his wife, Naghmeh. She was speaking to

students in Liberty University. She said, in spite of being tortured and asked to deny his faith in Christ and return to Islam, Pastor Saeed has been a light for Jesus in Evin Prison, one of the worst in the world. She added: "They've told him many times that they would free him and allow him to return to our family, the kids and I, if he would deny his Christian faith, and he's stood strong in that prison. He has led many - over 30 people - to Christ in that prison".



**Pastor Saeed & Family**

**"Be not deceived; God is not mocked"**

**Here are some men and women who mocked God:**

**JOHN LENNON:**

Some years before during his interview with an American Magazine, he said: "Christianity will end, it will disappear. I do not have to argue about that. I am certain. Jesus was OK, but his subjects were too simple, today we are more famous than Him" (1966).

Lennon, after saying that the Beatles were more famous than Jesus Christ, was shot six times.

**THE MAN WHO BUILT TITANIC:**

After the construction of Titanic, a reporter asked him how safe the Titanic would be. With an ironic tone he said: "Not even God can sink it"

The result: I think you all know what happened to the Titanic.

**MARILYN MONROE:**

She was visited by Billy Graham during a presentation of a show. He is a preacher and Evangelist and the Spirit of God had sent him to preach to her. After hearing what the Preacher had to say, she said: "I don't need your Jesus"

A week later, she was found dead in her apartment.

**BON SCOTT:**

The ex-vocalist of the AC/DC. On one of his 1979 songs he sang: "Don't stop me, I'm going down all the way, wow the highway to hell".

On the 19th of February 1980, Bon Scott was found dead, he had been choked by his vomit.

*Many more important people have forgotten that there is no other name that was given so much authority as the name of Jesus. Many have died, but only Jesus died and rose again, and he is still alive. JESUS!!!*

**- Contributed**

# Children's

CORNER



## Let us live to please God



The Parable of the rich man and the beggar Lazarus has a great

lesson for the Christians of this age (Luke 16: 19-31). The rich man was well fed, well dressed and well honoured before the society. On the contrary poor Lazarus was most wretched in the eyes of the world. He had little to eat, few clothes to wear and insignificant in society. Probably the rich man had many friends and honourable position in that society. But nobody cared to befriend Lazarus nor for his needs. Yet Lazarus had a right relationship with God while the rich man might have cared little for having a relationship with God.

Dear children, this earthly life is fleeting but the life hereafter is

eternal. We have to live now to please God, than to make a name for ourselves here in this fleeting life. Jesus said this parable to point out the importance of living in obedience to God's Word so that you will not be lost eternally. The rich man had everything he wanted and desired, but he did not bother to have a right relationship with God. Jesus said

"not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is heaven." (Mat. 7:21). Therefore do not worry too much about what you can acquire here for yourself, BUT be very careful to obey God's Word and live a life that is pleasing to God." In this earthly life, even if you have riches and positions and fame and all that you desire, yet if you did not live right before God, you will be lost eternally like the rich man in this parable. Let God help us to make the right choices, so that we live worthy to inherit eternal life with God. ■



Shiny Aunty

Peter denies Jesus three times before the cock crows two times

Jeff Sam Scariah  
Kerala

Though He had done no crime. They handed him for crucifixion

Pheba Susan Sam  
Kerala

Jonah prophesies to the people of Nineveh

Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed

People of Nineveh repented put sack cloth cried to Mighty God

Banage P.K.