

THOU SHALT CALL HIS NAME ... Jesus
THOU SHALT CALL HIS NAME ... Jesus (LUKE 1:3 1)

Many years ago, I heard a missionary describing what happened after she had spent a day among people who had never heard of Jesus. She had returned to the mission and lay awake thinking of the Indian women to whom she had spoken at the village well. Suddenly, she heard someone approaching the house, and, going out to investigate, met a man who asked: "Teacher, what was His name?" He said: "You told our women about a great Man Who healed the sick and was kind to everybody. What was His name?"

The young lady responded: "Jesus."

"Ah," he said: "That's it, that's it. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus," and repeating that name over and over again, the dusky visitor began the seven mile journey back to his village.

Jesus is the sweetest name I know:
And He's just the same, as His lovely name.
And that's the reason why I love Him so,
For Jesus is the sweetest name I know.

Through His Name... Instant Pardon (1 John 2:12)

John was an old man who loved to remember! He had seen and heard the Word; he had watched the growth of the church; and he had survived many storms. He smiled; his children were waiting to hear news of their spiritual father. What could he write to them? Suddenly, his face reflected the glory in his soul. He would tell them more about the Master and write about the precious Name. "I write unto you little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake" (1 John 2:12). In a moment they had received what a lifetime of effort failed to provide. John emphasized their sins had been forgiven - they were gone! Throughout their early life, those converts strenuously endeavored to obey the law, but the rigid requirements of Moses only condemned them. The observance of ritualistic procedure, the offering of turtledoves and lambs, only intensified the yearnings of their souls. They had struggled to reach the unreachable, and they cherished an impossible dream. Then they met Jesus, Who provided a gift which riches

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could never purchase. "Yes," said John, "I will tell them about the Lord."

The testimony of a Chicago derelict should never be forgotten. His drinking and debauchery had driven him from his family and home. Then one night he stumbled into the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago and heard someone singing: "There's a wideness in God's mercy." When the meeting was over, he went to the home where his wife lived with her father. He lay in the backyard all night hoping to catch a glimpse of his children. He said later: "As the eastern sky began to blush, the old song kept ringing in my ears. Then, instead of creeping up to the window, I just crept up to the feet of Jesus, and He didn't scold me; He knew I had been scolded enough. He didn't pity me, and He didn't give me any advice. He knew I'd had plenty of that. He just put His arms around my neck and loved me. And when the sun arose I was a new man."

Through His Name ... Inspired Prayer (John 14:13-14)

John was reminiscing again; his eyes were pools of thought! He was listening once more to Jesus. "Hitherto ye have asked nothing in my name." It was true that often he had gone to the

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temple to pray, but his petitions had only been passing thoughts. God remained inscrutable and distant. Then came the day when John met the Savior, who said: "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it" (John 14:13-14). The name of Jesus evidently commanded attention in heaven. It was the key which supplied admittance to every room in the heavenly palace, the operator who put through every call to the Father, the endorsement upon every check which guaranteed to supply the needs of Christians. The patriarchs had prayed, and often in a miraculous fashion, their prayers were answered.

The teaching of Jesus revealed new and wonderful truths about the privileges of intercession. It was simple, sure, sacred. Men could pray at any time, anywhere; the Father was not in a remote part of the heavens; He was close to every follower of the Savior. The Name of Christ guaranteed a welcome in the

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very Holy of Holies, and introduced an experience hitherto unknown.

Some years ago, a ship was wrecked off the coast of Essex, in England. A thick fog obliterated the coast line, and, as a last resort, the captain ordered his men to tie themselves to the rigging of the vessel. Finally he said: "I have done everything to save you." A boy replied, "Skipper, you have not prayed!" The captain then offered a simple, but desperate prayer for deliverance. He looked at his watch and the time was 1:25 A.M. Unknown to the crew, at that precise moment a coastguardsmen peering through the fog saw the ship, and reported the matter to the authorities. A lifeboat went to rescue the sailors, and the captain, publicly thanking God, mentioned the time when he prayed for help. The coastguardsmen overheard the captain's statement and knew God had miraculously answered prayer. Even weather conditions can be changed by the mighty Name of Jesus. (Reprinted from the author's book, Bible Windows, pages 83-84, Kregel Publications.)

Through His Name ... Increasing Power (Acts 3:16)

John was smiling; he was with his brother Simon Peter walking to the temple. They saw a beggar sitting by the wayside. The poor man lived on the fringe of things; he knew about the sanctuary, but was content to live outside! He knew the priests, but never availed himself of their services. Perhaps he gave donations for the upkeep of the sanctuary, but his real interest was making money! He was a businessman who appreciated the temple because it brought him into contact with gullible people. Perhaps he was an untrained psychologist, and knew that people going to worship would be likely to help his cause; it made them feel good! Had the beggar lived in modern times, he might have raised millions of dollars. When he saw two men approaching, his eyes shone. When John remembered the incident, he smiled. His brother Simon Peter had been equal to the occasion.

"And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I

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none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up; and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and entered

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with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God" (Acts 3:4-8). The memory of that remarkable miracle could never fade. Power through the name of Jesus had accomplished the impossible. The beggar, who had been lame from birth, found new agility and desire. He discovered a new type of wealth as he drew nearer to the altar of God.

I shall never forget the businessman in South Africa who entertained his friends at a special bar installed in his home. He was a church member who lived a beggar's life on the outside of reality. After his conversion, he removed the liquor and transformed his bar into a pulpit! Life in a gutter is never attractive!

Through His name... Indomitable Passion (3 John 7)

John's mood had changed; his smiles had given place to indignation. Conditions within the churches had altered. Small men with enlarged egos were usurping authority, and the cause of Christ was in jeopardy. Brave young men had become evangelists, but, unfortunately, a man named Diotrefes had been a stumbling block to the crusaders. John disliked this attitude and said: "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrefes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, received us not." The apostle's face was sad; it was a disgrace that any man should refuse to help Christ's ambassadors, who, "for his name's sake . . . went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles." These evangelists were risking their lives every day; the possibility of their becoming martyrs was real. Others were destined to be fed to ravenous beasts, or burnt at stakes in the emperor's gardens. That was to be expected, but to face beasts of another kind within the churches was unacceptable.

Dictators had become important, and any who opposed them were removed. Other preachers might have turned back, but these intrepid evangelists were unafraid. They loved Christ, and "for His name's sake" went forth depending upon the promises

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of the Lord. The fire within their hearts could not be extinguished.

During the ministry of the China Inland Mission, a doctor from a missionary hospital told a remarkable story. One of his patients had cataracts removed from his eyes. Gratefully, the man returned to his home. A few months later, 48 blind men, each clinging to a rope, were led into the hospital compound by the former patient. They had walked 250 miles to meet the great doctor. Energized by an increasing compassion, the first patient had "evangelized" his area to tell to blind people the glorious news. He not only informed his friends; he led them, at great cost, to the source of his blessing. The wonderful Name of Jesus has always supplied the inspiration which made such acts possible.

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