

GOSPEL / BARABBAS

A Gospel Message by George Bates. The Meeting House. Randalstown. Co., Antrim. Northern Ireland. BT41. 3BE. UK.

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READING:- MATTHEW 27 : 15-26

Let me say just a word or two about the events leading up to this great scene of
THE MOMENT OF CHRIST'S REJECTION.

After Jesus Our wonderful Saviour, was betrayed and arrested in the beautiful Garden of Gethsemane, ...

where He prayed three times in an agony, and sweat (as it were) great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

*They took Him through "the sheep gate," on the very same journey that **the sacrificial lamb** would be taken at that time.*

First to Annas, the recognised lifelong Jewish High Priest, ...

*then to **Caiphas his son-in-law**, who had been elected as High Priest by the Roman authorities.*

Where the physical abuse really began in earnest.

... and then before the early morning gathering of the Jewish Sanhedrin.

*These "so called" **Spiritual Leaders of the Nation**, were not interested in having a **quiet time**, privately with **The Lord**, at that hour of the morning, to begin the day.*

They were seeking to destroy Him.

*Now while it was **still very early**, they take Him to the Roman Governor **Pilate**, where they made it clear that **they wanted Him dead**.*

*You will remember that after a **personal interrogation**, whenever The Son of God "**witnessed a good confession**."*

*before him. Pilate declared "**I find in Him no fault at all**." And he told the Jews to take Christ and to judge Him themselves, **which they could not do of course**. because the occupying Romans, didn't allow them to effect **the death penalty**.*

*Pilate then discovers that people associate the Lord Jesus with **Galilee**, and that was King Herod's jurisdiction.*

*So he feels that he can "**kill two birds with one stone**," by sending Jesus to him.*

On the one hand, body swerving this issue, and on the other hand, strengthening his previously weakening friendship with Herod, at the same time,

Which he does, only to find that Herod reaffirmed Pilate's original declaration of innocence, ...
... by sending Jesus back again, after his men of war had mocked and belittled him.

*Now we see this history changing scene emerging, as "**God manifest in flesh**" stands **accused** in the world's dock.*

The one who is on trial is God's Only Begotten Son.

In John 1:10 we read

"He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew him not. He came unto His own, and His received Him not".

Now as I glance down through these verses, that we have already read together ...

*In verse 15 of our reading, Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, is offering,
(what I have entitled as)*

THE GOVERNOR GIFT.

*This verse says **"Now at that feast the governor was wont (or desired,) to release unto the people a prisoner whom they would"**.*

This seems to be a remarkable thing for someone in a responsible position to want to do, to set a guilty prisoner free.

But it was Passover time.

It was time for the Blood of the Lamb to be sacrificially shed.

And every year it was the Roman government's custom, to free a prisoner, at the Passover feast time, to please the Jews.

It was a political expedient. Something like the tactics of our own government today.

So Pilate, ... trying once again to evade the responsibility of condemning an innocent man to death, offers Jesus Christ as a free gift to all of them, if they will receive Him.

*In verse 16 we saw **THE PRISONER'S POPULARITY**.*

Now remember that he wasn't up on a parking offence, or for jay walking.

He was a notorious criminal!

Proven to be Guilty of the very crime that Our Lord Jesus Christ was ***falsely*** accused of.
"Sedition" or crimes against the state.

*Its this Jewish revolutionary called **Barabbas**, that has kept haunting my mind for this meeting tonight.*

*He was a hero of the Jewish **cause**, in the days of Roman occupation in Israel.*

A terrorist against the Roman Army, who probably saw himself as a freedom fighter.

A paramilitary of his own day.

Matthew 27 verse 38 and 44 makes it clear that ***he was a thief! A robber!***

*But Luke's account, tells us that he was also **a murderer**.*

*People had heard about this character, and he was associated with organised crime. **He had innocent blood on his hands** and had taken human life, premeditatedly and wilfully.*

*He has a remarkable name "**Barabbas**". A name which means "**the son of the father**".*

*Our Lord Jesus Christ turned to a crowd of religionists one day (in **John 8:44**) and these **Cold, Dead, Formal, Christless, Lifeless religionists**, were arguing that God was their Father, because they were born of Abraham's stock!*

True blue Jews.

They had a false pride in their religious heritage!

They felt that they needed nothing because they just happened to be born God's people.

*Northern Ireland is full of **this unscriptural mentality** today.*

They don't want to repent and receive Jesus Christ as their own and personal Saviour.

*They don't care if He insisted "**Ye must be born again**" to enter the Kingdom and family of God.*

*They are just going to continue to make their own way to Heaven, in **their own man concocted way**, and that's the rock they'll perish on.*

*They take a great pride in praying what they call "**the family prayer together**".*

***"Our Father which art in Heaven"**, ...*

But listen to what God's Son says to these spiritually deluded souls, will you?, and bow to it in your own poor soul if it applies to you.

John 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do, he was a murderer from the beginning and abode not in the truth because there is no truth in him".

*Remember that these are not **the cast out dregs of society**, that Jesus is speaking to, but long robed religionists*

*You cannot call God your Father, unless you have been "**born again**" into His family, & Jesus said "**No man cometh unto the Father but by me**".*

***Now I'm not telling you that God doesn't want to be your Father.**
Of course He does.*

*It is **His all consuming desire** to save you and to become your Father, and make you His child.
Sure Calvary proves that.*

John 1:11-12

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

***But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name**".*

*In verses 17-18 of our reading we saw
THE PEOPLES PREFERENCE is the deciding factor!*

*We saw in **verse 15** that he wanted to release unto the people a prisoner "**whom they would**".*

They can accept THE LIFE GIVER or THE LIFE TAKER!

*It is entirely up to them, and whether you like it or not,
you personally are going to make a choice tonight also.*

A decision cannot save you, but there is a decision involved.

*Now I want you to notice in **verse 19 THE MAGISTRATES MESSAGE**
This message from his wife, came **at the precise moment that he sat down on the judgement seat.***

*Pilate was **poised** to sit in judgement, on the one who will reverse the positions one day, at **the Great White Throne of Judgement**, as Pilate will stand before Him.*

And I say that, because in

***Acts 4:27**, ...*

Pilate is named with Herod, as the enemies of Christ.

*Peter and John and the rest of disciples, **didn't justify Pilate's actions.***

***Matthew 27:19** says,*

" When he was set down on the judgement seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man:

for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him."

This was no ordinary sleep that Pilate's wife had, for it was during the day, and what a day that was.

It was a Divinely given revelation, ...

*and in the dream she was **"suffering many things"**.*

Was it a dream of the Great White Throne Judgement morning?

Was it a dream of Hell and its horrific torments?

*I don't know, but I do know that **it was an evidence of the Love and Mercy and Grace of God toward Pilate and his wife**, to give them such a warning.*

Almighty God didn't need to do that you know.

*Dear unsaved one has God been warning you in some way recently, of **your danger of eternal damnation, and your need of Christ?***

*Has He spoken **in Grace** through the suffering of someone close to you?*

Or by a loved one's faithfulness in warning you, to

"Prepare to meet thy God".

Pilate took no notice of God's warnings.

*God can speak to you through a lump on your body that wasn't there before, and it can help us to get our priorities right. **It's not always a dream.***

*Has God warned **you** poor sinner without Christ?*

*Have you **ignored and resisted and refused** God's warning voice?*

Verse 20 states that "The Chief Priests and Elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas and destroy Jesus".

I have called this

THE PRIESTS PERSUASION.

Whenever you're walking along the beach and you lift a large rock, you will be amazed at the seething mass of the lower forms of life, that are crawling about in there under the stone.

*I believe that God wants us to stop for a moment, and to pull back the curtain, **and expose exactly who the devil himself is using here, as his instrument behind the scenes, to effect the legalised murder of God's Only Begotten Son.***

*As we study carefully **THE MANIPULATION OF THE REJECTING CROWD**, it becomes clear that **empty religion** with all of its **ritualism** and **ceremonialism**, is a tool in the hand of satan, to destroy faith in Christ in the hearts of the fickle crowd.*

And it's just the same today.

Organised religion, without Christ, is a deadly counterfeit Christianity, that is designed to hinder the work of the Gracious Spirit of God in bringing souls to Jesus.

*Almost daily the newspapers are full **the abominable, stomach churning, activities of these wolves in sheep's clothing**, and it is driving away the multitudes who are in "**the valley of decision**" under conviction of sin, and are thinking of coming to the Saviour.*

*Because the devil whispers in their ears, as they are ready to turn from their wicked ways,
"Is this what you really want?"*

"Do you really want to become a part of that hypocrisy?"

*And of course, we **recoil** at the very thought of it, and don't realise that what we are **repulsed** by, is not true Christianity at all, but **the devil's red herring**.*

*I believe that Prince Charles is a perfect example of a genuinely searching soul, who has been rubbing shoulders with all **the pomp and vanity of Christless religion**, since he was born, and now he is turning to the false religions of the world **seeking for the truth**.*

Which all the time is under his very nose in the Bible.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ **warned us clearly** that these **reprobate religionists** would come to you in sheep's clothing, but they are wolves hungry for your souls.*

***"Blind leaders of the blind"** the Saviour called them.*

*And He said **"By their fruits ye shall know them"**.*

If their actions contradict their profession, than have nothing to do with them.

*Now remember, **they are not all like that!***

Some of them are genuine, honest, sincere, seekers of truth, who are simply going on the light and

understanding of the scriptures that they have, **and God has not finished with them yet.**
Like Saul of Tarsus persecuting Christians, and all the while thinking, that he was doing God a service.

But after his conversion on the Damascus road, Paul the Apostle thought it important to teach us,
in **2 Corinthians 11:13 - 15**

" For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Listen poor deceived soul, **get your Bible out and read the Holy Scriptures for yourself**, if you really want to know the truth that will **"set you free"**.
Close your ears to **man concocted religion**, and ask God to guide you, by His Holy Spirit through His word, into a saving knowledge of Christ.

It is well worth "going in for"

"... the gift of God (which) is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23
Verse 21 reveals **THE PEOPLES PREFERENCE**

"The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas."

They free **THE LIFETAKER**, and shout for the death of
THE LIFEGIVER.

They reject **The Son of The Father In Heaven.**

They receive **The son of the father the Devil.**

Every time you walk out of a gospel meeting unsaved, you reject the Son of God once again, and **every Response is recorded in Heaven.**

It is not only **Recorded**, but it is **Registered** and will stand and count for eternity.

You will be **Reminded** of the very choice that you make tonight, at the Judgement Bar.

AND WHO KNOWS IF TONIGHT IS YOUR LAST CHANCE OR NOT?

MAYBE THIS IS THE MOMENT OF YOUR OWN PERSONAL INDIVIDUAL REJECTION OF CHRIST RIGHT NOW!

In the case of Pontius Pilate.

The Holy Spirit of God has been reaching out to him, as he had that personal encounter with the Saviour Himself, and concluded that he could **"find no fault in Him"**.

Again, he was stunned whenever he heard Him called **"The Son of God"**.

In John 19:6-8

" Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify Him: for I find no fault in him.

*The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.
When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;"*

Then the warning message came from his wife!

*It had made so great an impression upon her, that she interrupted the proceedings to get the message to him.
So he realised something of the tremendous importance, that she attached to it.*

*We now know that this was **PILATE'S FINAL WARNING!** but he didn't know it.
God was going out in Grace to grasp this man's soul for the last time, in an effort to save him from falling into **the chasm of the open jaws of hell!**
But he was all taken up with everything that was going on **a human level.***

*Listen dear unsaved soul.
God is talking to you tonight.
You can become so caught up with **what you're doing,**
that you lose all sense of
where you're going.*

*There's another side to the coin of life, you know.
There's an eternal side!
It's not all entertainment and supermarkets, and going to the dentist.*

*Pilate probably rolled out of bed that morning, **aggravated** that the Jews had landed on his doorstep, at such an early hour, **and thinking that this was just another one of those irritating predicaments,** that he had to sort out, and get through in life's daily grind.*

*But the man's Eternal soul was in the very balance of Heaven or hell.
That was the reality of the thing!*

*If I could shine a spotlight upon **you**, and select **you** out from the rest of the crowd just now, and I was able to tell **you** truthfully that this was your last opportunity tonight of ever being saved.*

***You might die tonight!**
Or Jesus could come to the air, in "**a moment in the twinkling of an eye**", ...
and take away His waiting Church, whether dead or alive, and close the door in your face for eternity.*

*Or you could live for weeks, or even months, pumping fuel into your car at extortionate prices.
Getting your hair cut.
Going to the grocery shop.
Being so taken up with life on a human level, that you will never again take time to think about your eternal destiny, and you could die in go to hell forever.*

*God's word warns you for the last time tonight, dear unsaved one, "**boast not thyself of tomorrow,***

for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth".

You know that the Holy Spirit of God has been working through the circumstances of your life, to single you out from the crowd, and bring you to Jesus for years.

But you have chosen the robber, and rejected the Saviour.

Verse 22 reveals THE IRREFUSIBLE ENQUIRY.

Pilate says "What shall I do then with Jesus, which is called Christ?".

This is a personal choice that you must make.

Barabbas or Christ?

If you don't accept the Saviour tonight in this meeting, then you are rejecting Him, and if go out into eternity, then you are lost, for the response of your heart is recorded.

The issue is immediate, there is no room for putting this off.

Whatever way you move just now, you are making a deliberate decision.

Don't say "I'm keeping an open mind", for you are not.

In the days of Noah, if the people did not get into the Ark, and the door closed, and the judgement waters began to fall, it was no use screaming "I'm still keeping an open mind", for they were too late and there was no escape.

You are committing spiritual suicide!

Without hope, without remedy.

BARABBAS STANDS FOR EVERYTHING THAT IS OPPOSED TO GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE.

It is the Will of the Father in Heaven, that you should be saved and forever blessed!

It is the will of the father, the devil, that you should be cursed in everything that you are, and in everything that you do, and then LOST for all eternity.

Do you know what the devil's lie is?

You have plenty of time to think about this before you die, so don't be rushed into anything tonight.

Do you know the truth of the matter?

*Jesus is **the answer** that you have been searching for, for years, and the only condition that the Spirit of God places upon your invitation to come to Him, and be set Gloriously free is this, ...*

"Behold now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation".

Now that was

THE REJECTING CROWD.

*Think for a moment of
THE REFLECTING CRIMINAL.*

***What was the difference** between the hearts and thoughts and actions of the multitude who called down the judgement of God upon themselves, and their children, **and the individual** who was separated from the crowd and was amazingly set free from a death sentence that couldn't possibly have been avoided, humanly speaking?*

*I personally believe that it is **where you are in your own experience in life just now**, that will decide what you will do in this meeting this evening.*

*There are **PARALLEL PICTURES** here between the state of Barabbas, **in a physical sense**, and the state of a poor lost sinner **in a spiritual sense**, that I want to draw your attention to.*

Barabbas recognised his need to be saved from the penalty of death for his guilty sins.

*He has human blood on his hands, and he can remember it **vividly**, for he has had a few nightmares since he extinguished that life.*

Probably the life of a security officer.

Now the pigeons have come home to roost, and he sits like a caged animal in some filthy, stinking dungeon, awaiting a horrific death of his own,

and he will have no mercy from these soldiers who are looking forward to doing the job.

He knew that he deserved to die for what he had done.

So are we, in the sight of our Holy God.

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God".

"The wages of sin is death".

*Barabbas wasn't awaiting trial, but he had been caught, and was **"condemned already"**.*

So are you unsaved one!

John 3:18 states "He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but He that believeth not, is condemned already".

He was reaping what he had sown.

His wife and family were all gone. Sacrificed to the all important cause, that claimed and ruled his very life.

Is it some organisation that you belong to, that is stopping you from becoming a Christian?

It all stops at the grave!

They can bury your body with ceremonial honours, but what good is that if your poor soul is being tormented in the everlasting burnings of Hell in Almighty God's dishonour?

He had lost everything!

Barabbas couldn't do anything to save himself! And neither can we. "For by the works of the law, shall no flesh be justified". (Galatians 2:16)

*It is "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us".
(Titus 3:5)*

Barabbas heard the Good News!

*A messenger must have actually went to him and told him, ...
that **Christ was dying instead of him, and that he was a free man with an unconditional pardon.***

*The word "**Gospel**" means "**Good News**", and that's what I'm telling you just now.
"**Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures**".*

He has taken the punishment that was due to us, but we must repent and avail ourselves of this great Salvation which He has wrought and bought for us, in the depths of the deep, dark, sufferings of Calvary.

***That's what the difference was.** The shackles and chains on the body of Barabbas were heavy and degrading and painful.*

*The despair! The darkness! The mental anguish!
The misery and stench of his surroundings that made him sick!*

The hell hole that he couldn't get out of.

*The retribution that was ready to fall upon his head.
The ghost of his victim in his horrific nightmares.*

The hell that was moved to meet him at his coming.

*Sin is a robber that ravages and strips you naked of everything that God has blessed you with.
Have you been stripped?*

***Can you imagine Barabbas** watching his cell door being unlocked and opened, as the messenger declares,*

"You can go now Barabbas, you're a free man, for Jesus is going to die in your place, as a substitute, on the very Cross that was meant for you."

***Can you imagine him saying** "No I can't, for I am guilty, and I deserve to die!"*

I can't accept this for I couldn't live up to it". "It seems too easy". "Don't force me".

"You're intruding into my privacy". "I'll think about it".

"I'm as good as anybody else". "There are too many hypocrites".

"What about my mates?".

*Wouldn't that all be absolute nonsense? Yet these are the things that people say as we proclaim the gospel invitation to "**come**".*

*Now remember that **PHYSICALLY SPEAKING** Barabbas could say, as Jesus hung on the very Cross, that he should have died on, "**He took my place, he became my substitute, and he died for***

me".

"And Now I am absolutely free".

*But **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING**, he couldn't say that!*

Now again, let me emphasise, in case you are missing this.

We have no record of Barabbas ever being able to say that, in spirit and in truth.

As a matter of fact, after the death, and burial, and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, whenever Peter is preaching the gospel to multitudes of Jews in Jerusalem, he says

"But ye denied the Holy One and the just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you, and killed the Prince of Life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses". Acts 3:14-15.

That doesn't sound to me like Barabbas got saved, and became Peter's brother in Christ.

But many of us here tonight can say it in spirit and in truth.

Thank God, Jesus took my place and really died for me, under the judgement and condemnation of God for my sins. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him".

2 Corinthians 5:21

The old hymn that we sing so often in the meetings says

"Was it for crimes that I had done they nailed Him to the tree?

Amazing pity, grace unknown and love beyond degree".

"Behold the man"

Isaiah 53:3-6 "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all".

*How severely His Holy heart felt the hurt, and **the reproach**, as the people that he healed, and ministered to, in so many different ways, had turned their backs upon Him.*

You know, if they had said

***"We don't want you"**, that would have been bad enough, but think of the battering that they gave Him, and the torture that followed, and the mockery of His blessed person.*

There was no need for that.

*Then to so vehemently consign Him to death by crucifixion, **out of their sight, with a wave of their arm**, like chucking rubbish in the bin.*

Friend, it's diabolical!

It's despicable.

Then they nail Him to an Old Rugged Wooden Cross, and soak it with His precious ruby blood.

Are you going to consign Him to Calvary's Cross again tonight?

What you do with Jesus this evening, will settle what He will do with you later.

Our Saviour is here in the gathering right now.

He remembers every moment of it, for HE WAS THERE AT THE TIME!

And he took it all for you!

*If you reject Him before men, He will reject you before the Father which is in Heaven, and one day you will hear Him say "**Depart from me ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels**".*

But what you will do with Jesus this evening will also control the events of your life from this moment onwards.

Friend, our eternal life starts now, not when you die.

Don't allow yourself to be blinded to that fact for one moment longer.

*The devil will tell you "**You have made your bed and you're just going to have to lie in it**".*

That is an abominable lie.

*Our Lord Jesus said to a man one day "**Take up thy bed and walk**".*

And though he had lay there for 38 years, because he was paralysed, he did it!

Dear unsaved one, you're entire life will dramatically change, whenever you reject THE BARABBAS ALTERNATIVE, and accept THE CHRIST LIFE.

Just think of

THE MINISTRATION OF THE REACTING CHRIST.

He will exchange His life for your death.

I did that 33 years ago on the 8th January, Praise God!

Yes, I received eternal life and I will never perish, ...

*because that's what Christ promised to His sheep in **John 10:28**, and He cannot lie.*

Instead of a damned soul, I became a saved soul.

Instead of a condemned sinner, I was forgiven.

Instead of a broken heart, I received a new heart.

Instead of a guilty conscience, I have peace with God.

Instead of an insane mind, I have power, and love, and a sound mind.

Instead of despair, I have joy unspeakable, and full of glory.

Friend, what have you got that's worth going to hell for?

*Now I think that if he had become a Christian, then we would have been told of an important development like that in the Holy Scriptures, but
it was a short lived freedom that he enjoyed.*

With the fickle applause of his fellow Jews.

*He was physically free of course, but still **in bondage to sin, and under the curse of the broken law of God.***

*It is any wonder Our Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed, ...
"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed".*

*No man ever stood so alone, as He was forsaken by all!
The only wreath at His funeral, was upon His blessed brow. No pretty flowers! Just thorns!
His only shroud was His own ruby blood!
The only hymn was a hymn of hate called "Crucify Him."
You say "I can't give up my sin!" That's all right, you have just decided that you can give up your Saviour.*

HYMN "Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus I come to thee".

Extras.

I remember going to visit a friend of mine called Alby in hospital, the whites of his eyes were yellow, indeed almost brown.

Tessie, his Christian wife, had told me that the family were being called in by the doctor who wanted to speak to them concerning the blockage in his bowel or liver.

And although they were going to operate the next day, they were expecting the worst.

When Alby saw me coming into the ward, he filled up emotionally, as the tears came flooding into his eyes.

He knew what I had on my mind, as I came to see him.

*I asked him if he had thought of repenting before God for his sins and coming to the Saviour, and he said that he had been thinking about it for a long time now.
He reached for a Gideon New Testament at the bedside and pointed to a passage that someone had underlined and he said ...*

"I'm not much of a scholar George, for I was more often out of school than in it, but I have been reading that bit over and over again, and I've been asking the Lord to speak to me, but He isn't doing it".

Here's what he was reading

Romans 10:9-10 + 13

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

.....

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved".

I said "Alby, I don't know a better place that you could be reading".

"Well then, why will God not talk to me?" he said as he wept.

I said "But Alby, God has spoken very clearly to you".

"Well then, I must have been sleeping" he said, "for I did dose over for a short time, although I stayed awake half the night listening".

*I explained to Alby that he wouldn't hear an audible voice talking to him, but **God has a thousand ways of speaking to us, and calling us to come to Him.***

Through His Goodness, or sickness - operations - accident - bereavement - a romantic breakup - a broken heart - mental depression - fear of God's judgement and hell.

Alby McCord realised that God had been speaking to him loudly and clearly, and he was gloriously saved, and became a real live soldier of the Cross.

He read right through the Bible 4 times in less than 2 years, and he sang heartily with us on that last Friday, just minutes before the final heart attack that took him.

"My Lord knows the way through the wilderness, all we have to do is follow".

*Almighty God Himself is watching for your response just now, straight from the Eternal Throne, in Heaven, and He is calling to you **"Turn ye, turn ye, for why will you die".***

God the Father doesn't want you to live in torment and to perish in hell you know!

Jesus the Son gave His life to prevent that if you'll receive Him.

And the Holy Spirit can see no point either, in your poor ungodly head, plunging into the everlasting burnings forever.

God calls **"Why?"**.

Think of the carnage on our roads!

Think of the death beds, as people writhe with cancer, or heart disease, or whatever!

*There are people whose souls were in their bodies last week, and they are in hell tonight, and God calls **"Why"**.*