

# DR. CHAPMAN'S SERMON

A SUNDAY DISCOURSE BY THE NOTED PASTOR-EVANGELIST.

Subject: A Lost Saviour—A Companion Picture to a Masterpiece, Which Dr. Chapman Suggests—The Awfulness of Being Without Christ.

NEW YORK CITY.—The Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman, D. D., the popular pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church, who is remarkably successful as an evangelist, has prepared an interesting sermon upon the subject "A Lost Saviour." It is preached from the text, "They have taken away my Lord." John 20: 13.

One of the masterpieces in the Louvre presents to us a picture of Christ upon the cross. His head is upon His breast; underneath His arms the little birds are flying for a place of refuge, and in the deepening shadows there is seen a woman kneeling with loving lips and hands pressed against His bleeding feet. Travelers stand before this painting with tear-wet cheeks and go away with burning hearts. If I were an artist I should paint a companion piece with this text as the theme. I would not put tears upon her cheeks who speaks the word because the flowing of tears would prove a relief. When we cannot weep our grief is severest, but I would represent her with agony in her eyes and deepest sorrow in every expression of her face. If I could I would paint the sob as she cries out, "They have taken away my Lord." I have seen the distress of a mother bird when her little one was gone, the despair of the deer when its companion was killed, the agony of the wife when her husband was taken, the sorrow of a mother when her baby was dead, but this text represents all these distresses put together, and we have a story which cannot be expressed in words.

The speaker is Mary Magdalene, one of the inhabitants of Magdala, she who was possessed of seven devils. She was the sinner in the house of Simon, the Pharisee, who washed the Saviour's feet with her tears, anointed them with precious ointment and covered them with kisses. When Simon objects the Master rebukes him with the story of the two debtors, one forgiven much, of the other little. She became one of the attendants of the Master. She followed Him from Calvary to Jerusalem to the scene of the crucifixion. Early the third after the crucifixion, with the wife of Cleophas, she goes to the sepulcher to see His body. She finds the tomb empty, and then cries out in agony, "They have taken away my Lord." What a change there is wrought in Mary Magdalene. She has been a sinner of the worst sort. Tradition makes her a servant in the house of sin in the place where she lived, but she has become a saint, and wherever the gospel has been preached her story has been told. What a Saviour we have; One who calls out the best there is in us always. Saul, of Tarsus, by nature is bitter and cruel, but he catches a vision of Christ and becomes gentle as a woman, delivering his message with tears of real sorrow because of the lost condition of the world. Peter is an ignorant fisherman, but catches a vision of his Master and becomes one of the greatest preachers in the world's history. The thief on the cross is profane, and doubtless causes Christ a new pang of agony with his profanity, until turning his head he catches a vision of that blessed face and cries out, "Lord, remember me."

Kindred texts. I have been looking up the Bible these past days and have been greatly interested to see how many kindred subjects to this are to be found in God's word.

First, Adam and Eve. They are in paradise; everything about them is beautiful. Even God Himself saw that it was very good. The music of the birds is the sweetest; the fragrance of the flowers is the best; there is no curse upon Eden, when suddenly the cloud appears, the moving of the serpent is heard and there is a great change. Adam and Eve are driven thither from the garden. Genesis 3: 23-24, "Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man, and he placed at the gate of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

Second, the Ark of the Covenant. This was a small chest overlaid with gold, four and a half feet long, two feet nine inches wide and the same measure in height. Within it were the tables of the law. It was carried by the priests as occasion required from place to place. So sacred was it that it was death for any one to look upon it but the priests, and so it was carefully covered. It represented to them the visible presence of Jehovah. It was carried about by the children of Israel on their travels through the desert as they entered the channel of the Jordan, and was taken thirteen times around Jericho in six days, but now the Philistines have come up against the children of Israel and the ark is taken. Old Eli is waiting for tidings of the conflict. His seat is by the road side that he may hear the more speedily. At last there is a great shout of horror, and a man of Benjamin is seen running, with his clothes rent and earth upon his head. There is trouble, and he can imagine the extent of it. Listen to him as he cries out, "Israel has fled before the Philistines," and the face of old Eli pales. Hophni and Phinehas are slain, and the old man begins to shake in an agony, but horror of horrors, the ark of God is taken! 1 Samuel 4: 18, "And it came to pass when he made mention of the ark of God that he fell from off the seat backward to the side of the gate, and his neck brake and he died; for he was an old man and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years." Tell us that the sun will not shine again, that the rain will not fall, that the stars are dead, that the moon will refuse to shine, but you will bring to us no such tidings as came to Israel when the news was carried that the ark was taken. It is as if God had departed from our own land. It is an awful thing to be without hope and without God in the world.

Third, the Lost Bible. During the reign of Josiah, who began to reign when he was eight years old, the repairs to the temple were begun, and in the midst of this work the book of the law was found. 2 Kings 22: 8, "And Hilkiah, the high priest, said unto Shaphan, the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan and he read it. This was doubtless the very book which Moses had commanded to be placed in this sacred spot. Deuteronomy 31: 26, "Take this book of the law and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord, your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee." It might have been carelessly mislaid, but what a narrow escape. However, we need not tremble, for He who cared for Moses when he was in the ark and for His own Son when He was cradled in the manger will care for His book. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My word shall

never pass away." However, some of us have lost our Bible. We have lost it because we have been absorbed by fiction or worldliness, or we have permitted some sin to lay hold upon us. We have lost our Bible, and if we have our position is as sad as Mary in the garden when she said, "They have taken away my Lord."

Fourth, Lost Fellowship. Luke 2: 42-45, "And when He was twelve years old they went up to Jerusalem, after the custom of the feast, and when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and His mother knew not of it. But they, supposing Him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances. And when they found Him not they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking Him. Mary and Joseph have made a journey to the feast and from homeward bound. As they move out from Jerusalem up toward Galilee they are busy with the scenes about them, doubtless conversing with those who are traveling with them, when suddenly they begin to look about for the child Jesus. Where can He be? Every search fails to locate Him. Wearily they trudge back to Jerusalem, and there they find Him with the wise men! Many of us have lost fellowship with our Saviour. Time was when we were close to Him, when we walked in sweetest communion with Him, but now we have been busy about other things and we have lost the old joy. Let us learn from the lesson of this morning that if we have missed step with Him we must go back to Jerusalem, or that is, the place where we lost Him and begin over again the old life of peace and joy. God pity the man who is crying out in his heart to-day if not with his lips, "They have taken away my Lord."

Fifth, a Lost Saviour. Matthew 27: 3-5, "Then Judas which had betrayed Him, when he saw that He was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, 'I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? See thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.' You have seen a storm held back by the force of the wind, when suddenly the wind ceased and the storm would break with all its fury. This was like Judas. I doubt not in all his following after Jesus that again and again he was filled with the desire to be true to Christ, but the time passes and he is false to the appeal of his conscience, and suddenly the Master withdraws from him and all the storm of his awful spirit of betrayal breaks upon him, and Judas hangs himself. There are some of us who have been resisting Christ, for this spirit has influenced us. We are persuaded of His divine character. Some day His divine hold upon us may be broken. It would be an awful thing for us to have to say, 'They have taken away my Lord.'"

The text again. Let us now think together especially of Christ's care. There are some texts very like it in the Bible, as for example, "Take not Thy holy spirit from me," "Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation," "Without God, without hope in the world," for only those can appreciate Mary's position who have been in the same place with her, and the most of us have been there, and there have been times without number when we felt that all was lost, that our position was hopeless. Notice first of all the weakness of Mary's faith. If she had but stopped to consider she would have remembered His word that He must rise again. If in the dark hour of trial we would pause for a moment to think of His messages we shall be delivered from this awful fear. Oh, that God would strengthen our faith in the hour of trial. Notice also the strength of her love. Nothing could keep her away from Christ; the Jewish soldiers had no terror for her; she would see His body, for she loved that. There are certain things that cause us to lose conscious fellowship with Christ.

First, physical weakness. Whenever the body is weak be sure to watch and pray, for the devil will easily overthrow us at this time.

Second, weakness of faith, but since faith is the gift of God it becomes weak only because of lack of exercise, and it is not necessary that any of us should fail because of this.

Third, sin. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." It is not given to great minds alone to see Him, nor great hearts to feel His presence, but to pure hearts, and this blessing is within the reach of us all.

There is a story written by Dr. Henry Van Dyke entitled "The Lost Word." It gives an account of one Hermas, the son of Demetrius, who became a Christian. Because of this his father, a man of large wealth, disinherited him. He becomes a disciple of John, and at last wearied of his discipleship, and utterly discouraged he wanders back in the vicinity of his old home. There he meets a magician, who reads his fortune in a leaf, and finally promises if he will give him but one word out of his vocabulary that he will restore him to the old job that once was his. The promise is at last made, and suddenly Hermas is in his home again without the one word, and the one word is the name of his Lord. He finds his father dying and the old man hinders his return and cries out, "My son, when you left me you found something that made your life beautiful. Mine has been a failure; will you not tell me what I must do now, for I am to die," and unconsciously the boy began, "Father, you must believe in—," and behold, the word had gone from him. He had parted with it, and he stands shamed in the presence of his dying father. He marries a beautiful girl, and God gives him a lovely child. They are seated one day in the garden with their hearts overflowing with gratitude, when the wife suggests that they kneel down and express their thanks for all their treasures, and again he begins, "We thank thee, oh—," and speech fails him, for he has sold his Lord and he cannot even recall His name. He is a competitor in the chariot races and wins the prize, but cares nothing for it, because his heart is heavy. He takes his little son in the chariot with him and whisks about the course. The horses become unmanageable and the child is thrown from the chariot and seriously injured. Nearer dead than alive he is carried back to the palace, and the father kneels down by his bedside. There is no hope now except in prayer. He cries out, "Spare him, oh, spare him, oh—," and there is no word to fill the place, for he has sold his Lord. Then suddenly his old master, John, appears, and after tears of repentance he is restored again to his priceless position. Is this not an illustration for many of us who have in an unguarded moment because of our love for the world and our desire for power parted with Him who alone can satisfy the soul. It is an awful thing to be without Christ. God save us from the cry of Mary, "They have taken away my Lord."

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I want to inform you, in words of highest praise, of the benefit I have derived from Ripans Tablets. I am a professional nurse and in this profession a clear head is always needed. Ripans Tablets do it. After one of my cases I found myself completely run down. Acting on the advice of Mr. Geo. Bowser, Ph. G., 222 Newark Ave., Jersey City, I took Ripans Tablets with grand results. Miss BESSIE WINDMAR.

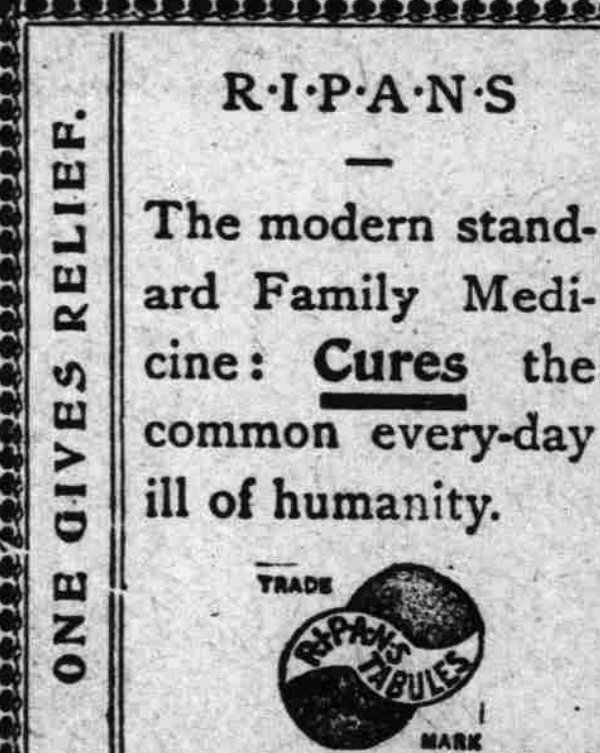
Mother was troubled with heartburn and sleeplessness caused by indigestion, for a good many years. One day she saw a testimonial in the paper endorsing Ripans Tablets. She determined to give them a trial, was greatly relieved by their use and now takes the Tablets regularly. She keeps a few cartons Ripans Tablets in the house and says she will not be without them. The heartburn and sleeplessness have disappeared with the indigestion which was formerly so great a burden for her. Our whole family take the Tablets regularly, especially after a hearty meal. My mother is fifty years of age and is enjoying the best of health and spirits; also eats hearty meals, an impossibility before she took Ripans Tablets. ANTON H. BRAUER.

I have been a great sufferer from constipation for over five years. Nothing gave me any relief. My feet and legs and abdomen were bloated so I could not wear shoes on my feet and only a loose dress. I saw Ripans Tablets advertised in our daily paper, bought some and took them as directed. Have taken them about three weeks and there is such a change! I am not constipated any more and I owe it all to Ripans Tablets. I am thirty-seven years old, have no occupation, only my household duties and nursing my sick husband. He has had the dropsy and I am trying Ripans Tablets for him. He feels some better but it will take some time, he has been sick so long. You may use my letter and name as you like. Mrs. MARY GOODMAN CLARK.

I have been suffering from headaches ever since I was a little girl. I could never ride in a car or go into a crowded place without getting a headache and sick at my stomach. I heard about Ripans Tablets from an aunt of mine who was taking them for catarrh of the stomach. She had found such relief from their use she advised me to take them too, and I have been doing so since last October, and will say they have completely cured my headaches. I am twenty-nine years old. You are welcome to use this testimonial. Mrs. J. BROOKHUIS.

My seven-year-old boy suffers with pains in his head, constipation and complained of his stomach. He could not eat like children of his age do and what he did eat did not agree with him. He was thin and of a sallow color. Reading some of the testimonials in favor of Ripans Tablets, I tried them. Ripans Tablets not only relieved but actually cured my youngster, the headaches have disappeared, bowels are in good condition and he never complains of his stomach. He is now a red, chubby-faced boy. This wonderful change I attribute to Ripans Tablets. I am satisfied that they will benefit any one (from the cradle to old age) if taken according to directions. R. W. FAIRC.

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