

THE CLOCK MAKER

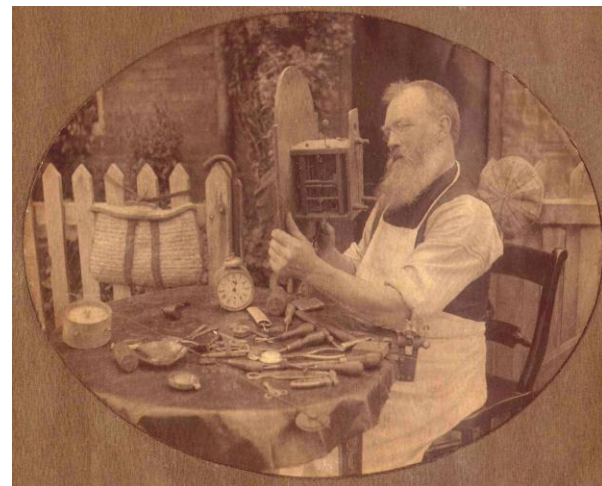
Once upon a time in a magical land far away, there lived a clockmaker, the greatest clockmaker of all and he made the most fantastic clocks. One was so well made of such perfect mechanism and electronics that it was to run forever. He put it in a beautiful place; a garden where for days without end, the clock would keep time. And so it was until the clock sensed sadness, a feeling that something was missing. The clockmaker you see had inserted in the clock a circuit that allowed it to become aware and to perceive emotions.

The clockmaker then removed from his creation a small part and fashioned another clock, somewhat smaller but equal in every way to the first clock. The clockmaker saw that it was good and there was happiness throughout the garden.

The clockmaker had an assistant who believed that he was a great and could change the clocks and take them for his own, so he entered the garden with the intention of stealing the clocks away from the master. Knowing that the software of the secret knowledge was in the garden, he convinced the smaller clock to take it and share with the other clock, even though the master had warned them that so doing would cause them not to run forever, but to rust and decay away.

When the clockmaker learned of this he sent them out of the garden and placed them in a land at once of beauty and ugliness, of sun and of darkness, of storms and death. They were to suffer and die alone with all the others to be created by the master. Later the assistant was banished to that same place where he worked to destroy the master's creations. So successful had the assistant become that most of the subjects followed him and ignored the rules of the clockmaker.

The clockmaker decided **to destroy all of them, but at the last** moment saved a few. Afterwards, he promised **that never again would he destroy his clocks**. Then He sent his son – who was the same as he – to **teach them the way that** they could inherit the magical kingdom of the clockmaker. His mission completed, the son left an invisible and magical spirit to be with them, and he then returned to the father. Because of what the son did, the clocks were assured of a place with the master in the magical land forever and ever.



Lee Donahue

Coming Home



*To my dearest family, some things I'd like to say,
But first of all, to let you know, that I arrived okay.
I'm writing this from Heaven. Here I dwell with God above.
Here, there are no more tears of sadness. Here, is just eternal love.
Please do not be unhappy just because I'm out of sight.
Remember that I'm with you every morning, noon and night.
That day I had to leave you when my life on earth was through.
God picked me up and hugged me and he said, "I welcome you."
"It's good to have you back again; you were missed while you were gone.
As for your dearest family, they'll be here later on.
I need you here badly; you're part of my plan.
There's so much that we have to do, to help our mortal man."
God gave me a list of things that he wished for me to do
And foremost on that list, was to watch and care for you.
And when you lay in bed at night, the day's chores put to flight;
God and I are closest to you in the middle of the night.
When you think of my life on earth and all those loving years; because you are
only human, they are bound to bring you tears.
But do not be afraid to cry, it does relieve the pain.
Remember there would be flowers unless there was some rain.
I wish that I could tell you all that God has planned.
But if I were to tell you, you wouldn't understand.
But one thing is for certain, though my life on earth is over,
I'm closer to you now, than I ever was before.
There are many rocky roads ahead of you and many hills to climb,
But together we can do it by taking one day at a time.
And when it's time for you to go from that body to be free,
Remember you're not going; you're coming here to me.*

By Carl

Being Freed to be Tied

When we are down and out and everything is chaining us down, we come to and cry out to the Lord to “Break the Chains”. We then stand amazed at the might power he has to set us free. We glory in the moment and we are feeling great and thankful. And then to honor God, we attend church and worship him. The one big mistake we make in the experience is what we do with the chains that he freed us from. We pick them up in case we might need them. We know the power of chains; and then when we continue to get closer to God, we get the chains and try to hold him back. We keep him from doing all the things he wants to do. We quench the Spirit that set us free. We take the detour that goes around the construction area of a life of holiness.

By Abe Baxter

Seven Places Jesus Shed His Blood

1. Garden of Gethsemane to redeem my will
2. Whipping post to redeem me from sickness
3. Crown of thorns to break the curse of poverty
4. Nail pierced hands to restore my dominion
5. Nail pierced feet to remove my authority
6. Spear pierced side to heal my broken heart
7. Bruised heel to break the power of iniquity

By Larry Tench

...In Control



The Evangel Newsletter

“...Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath compassion on thee.” Mark 5:19

Do You Love Me?

By Pastor Marsha

The Easter Season began with the cheering from the crowds and the waving of palm branches. They were shouting praises as Christ rode into Jerusalem. He was their expectation of a king. But the cheering did not last for long. At the end of the week, the tide had turned and then they were shouting to crucify Him. Why did the masses so radically turn against Him? How did the shouts of Hosanna on Sunday transform into the shouts of crucify Him on Friday? Jesus began to talk more and more about commitment. He dared to suggest that all people are worth loving. And then He began to talk more and more about a cross. Why did the cheering stop? People changed their “team.”

What happened that first Easter is an amazing story. A man had risen from the dead. The resurrection is simply too good to be true in some people’s eyes. There must be some rational explanation and yet it is true. Jesus Christ rose from the dead. He is alive today. There were credible witnesses of the resurrection. Lives were absolutely transformed by this dynamic event.

After Christ rose from the dead, he went to the Father in heaven to receive his glorified body. He came back to see his disciples. The first encounter with the disciples, Thomas was not present. He had separated himself from the disciples and missed the resurrection appearance. The second time Jesus made His appearance, Thomas was present with the disciples and this time he too witnessed the event. This time he believed. What can we learn from the life of Doubting Thomas? Jesus did not blame Thomas for doubting. We also learn that the most endearing things in life can never be proven. And lastly, we must move beyond doubt to faith. Remember this thought, NEVER DOUBT IN THE DARK, WHAT GOD HAS TOLD YOU IN THE LIGHT.

The story now picks up with Simon Peter and his friends in Galilee. They were waiting for some direction from God, but nothing has happened. Simon Peter gets impatient and decides that he is going fishing. The others go along with him. Out on the fishing boat that night, Peter has some time to think deep thoughts about what had happened after Christ was arrested. Simon Peter, the “rock”, had got scared and on that fateful night, he denied his Lord three times. They fished all night and no luck. As the dawn was breaking, they

could see someone standing on the shore. At first, they did not recognize that it was the Lord. He tells them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat. They did and they brought in a huge catch of fish. John turns and says to Peter, “It is the Lord.” Immediately, Simon Peter dives in and swims to shore. Jesus is repairing breakfast for them over a charcoal fire. At the end of the breakfast, the Lord takes Simon Peter off to the side for a personal conversation.

The Lord asks, “Simon, do you love me? The reply from Simon is, “Oh yes, Lord. You know that I love you”. The Lord then said to him, “Feed my sheep.” Three times, the Lord had asked this question.

Why did Christ ask this question three times? This three-fold affirmation of love was to wipe out the bitter memory of his three-fold denial. Jesus was saying to Simon Peter, “I believe in you. You are still the Rock. You can do it but you have to put your failure behind you. You are forgiven. Your slate is wiped clean. You can start over again.”

The Lord is speaking to us today and He asks, “Do you love me?” God is standing before us with his hand stretched out toward us. He is waiting for us to turnover our bad habits, our bad attitudes, our unforgiveness, our prideful nature, our bitterness, our lustfulness, and any other characteristic that does not live up to the standards of the Lord. He is willing to forgive us and put us back into right standing with the Holy Father. If we truly love the Lord, then we should be willing to submit to him. He loved us enough to give His life for us. We should be willing to give our lives so that we can live for Him and serve Him.

The Easter season is celebrated when a person who is lost in sin has come face to face with the risen Savior. They will die to the old way of life and then begin to live a new life with the Lord. They turn their will over to God and faithfully serve with their whole heart. Are you serving the Risen Savior?

Words from His Word

1 Thessalonian 5:12 We beg you, our friends, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian life. ¹³ Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ We urge you, our friends, to warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ See that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. ¹⁶ Be joyful always, ¹⁷ pray at all times, ¹⁸ be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not restrain the Holy Spirit; ²⁰ do not despise inspired messages. ²¹ Put all things to the test: keep what is good ²² and avoid every kind of evil.