



**DEATH'S MASTER**

When Peter, the Apostle, preached to Cornelius' household, he said that Jesus of Nazareth was Lord of all. When Paul wrote to the Romans he said, "For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived that He might be Lord both of the dead and living." In our lesson we read "that the Son of Man is Lord also of the sabbath" (Luke 6:5). In the following story we read of one who knew the Lord Jesus as the Master even of death.

A Christian woman was dying in Mercy Hospital. She was attended by one of the sisters, who was very much astonished at the calm patience and peace of the poor sufferer. A friend of mine called to see her one day. The door was opened by the sister.

"How is Mrs. Reed today?" enquired my friend.

"She is very ill, sir," was the reply. The sister then gave the following details. "Last night she was seized with violent pain and I thought she was dying. I said to her, 'You are dying; shall I send for a priest or clergyman to prepare you for death?'"

"'Oh, no,' she said; 'I want no minister, for I am ready to die at any moment.'"

"'But,' I said, 'are you not afraid to die?'"

"'No, indeed, not a bit,' she replied.

"'Tell me why you are not afraid to die, when you have not been prepared by your clergyman, nor received the rites of the church,' I said.

"'Because,' she replied, joyously, 'I belong to death's Master. I am a poor sinner, saved by grace.'"

Let me ask you, "Do you belong to Christ—Death's Master or to Satan? Be honest now and answer to God as you read.

**The Obedience of Faith**

"Stretch out your hand," said the Lord Jesus to the man with the withered hand. That was the very thing he could not do! But he did what the Lord commanded. Had he walked across the synagogue to where the Lord Jesus was standing instead of obeying, the Lord Jesus would have said, "That's not what I told you to do—stretch forth your hand." Suppose, then, he had begun to grasp the copy of the law with his good left hand—would that have been

any use? Or if even out of reverence to God's holy law, he had lifted it to his lips and kissed it—would that have availed? No, the Lord Jesus said, "Stretch forth thine hand." When he, through faith in the word of the Lord Jesus, willed to do what had in the past been impossible, the miracle was performed. He stretched forth the hand that had never before obeyed the dictates of his mind. And not only was he able to stretch it out, but it was healed—whole like the other.

Many a sinner, awakened in the presence of the Lord to see their helpless condition has cried for help. The message has come to them, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Over and over again they hear, "Trust yourself to the Lord Jesus." But they do something else instead. They decide to read the Bible more carefully, to pray more diligently, to attend church more regularly, anything but what God has told them to do. But nothing will take the place of obeying God's command! And this is His commandment, "that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent." Do not shut the door of salvation in your face by refusing to obey God's command.

Many a saint has also tried to sidestep the clear commands of the Lord. Trusting the Lord Jesus as their Saviour they begin to notice the verses about baptism. They know they should be baptized—but what will their friends think. Or perhaps it is the family that just can't understand. The young Christian does not want to grieve his family. He does not want to make a clean break with the old life and the old friends. So, he tells himself, "I will witness to my family, I will witness to my friends. Surely that will take the place of baptism." But God's Word still says, "Arise and be baptized."

Another commandment of the Lord Jesus is given in Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26. The Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks for it, brake it, and said, "This is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me." But alas how many think it is more important to preach the Gospel than to simply gather together to brake the bread, partake of the cup, and thus remember their Lord! But His word remains and nothing will take the place of obedience to His commandment.

The Lord also spoke of a new commandment. "A new commandment I give unto you that ye love one another." The apostle Paul gives us a list of substitutes for love that are altogether worthless. "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of

angels, . . . though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, . . . though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, . . . though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing." The Lord's commandment was love. Nothing else will do.

Another commandment of the Lord's we all like to shirk: He said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." How easy it is to say, "I cannot preach, I cannot talk, or, certainly I can't talk to that one. I will give, or I will pray, or I will let someone else do the job." But the Lord said, "Preach," and He said, "Every creature." It is certainly clear, then, that none whom we contact are outside the realm of our responsibility. May the Lord give us grace to do as He says.

---

"Stretch forth thy hand," thy *palsied* hand,  
Fear not, it is thy Lord's command;  
Seek not from Him to hide thy sin,  
Confess and ask to be made clean.

"Stretch forth thy hand," thy *empty* hand,  
No gift of thine will God commend;  
The empty hand that shows thy need,  
Of this alone will He take heed.

"Stretch forth thy hand," thy *helpless* hand,  
Upheld by God thy soul shall stand;  
Fight not in thine own strength the foe,  
But trusting Jesus, onward go.

"Stretch forth thy hand," thy *dying* hand,  
When thou shalt come to Jordan's strand;  
Through all the billows Christ shall guide,  
And bring thee safe to Canaan's side.

"Stretch forth thy hand," on Christ believe,  
"Stretch forth thy hand," the power receive;  
He offers grace so full and free,  
"Stretch forth thy hand," He speaks to thee.

---

## Studies on

# The Cross of Christ

by J. M. DAVIES, South India

### III. PROPHECIES FULFILLED (continued)

#### 3. The manner of His death.

In Psalm 22 David had prophesied that the Messiah would be put to death by crucifixion. "They pierced my hands and my feet." This is a very remarkable prophecy for various reasons. Capital punishment was meted out by stoning in Israel. Achan was so put to death (Josh. 7) and even after the death of Christ the

Jews stoned Stephen (Acts 7). Why did they not take the law into their own hands and stone Christ? Pilate gave them the opportunity. John 19:6. But God was watching over His word to fulfill it.

Crucifixion was the method of capital punishment introduced by Rome, but when David wrote that Psalm Rome was not even a village on the banks of the Tiber. Yet with an exactitude characteristic of God alone the manner of the Lord's Death was given in detail.

4. His drink. In Psalm 69:21 it had been stated that He would be given gall for His meat and that in His thirst they would give Him vinegar to drink. This is another very remarkable prophecy. The first half was fulfilled before He was actually crucified. (Matt. 27:34). "They gave Him vinegar to drink mingled with gall." This He refused. It was evidently given as a kind of morphine with the intention of saving the sufferer some of the torture of that terrible death. Had He taken it, the enemies of the cross would have said that in reality He had never died, but had fallen into a swoon as the result of this drink.

The second half of the verse was fulfilled towards the close of the time He spent on the cross. "That the scripture might be fulfilled, He saith, I thirst" (John 19:28-30). The vinegar offered Him then He received.

5. His associates in death. Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:32-33. Isaiah had prophesied that He would be 'numbered with the transgressors,' and when the two thieves were crucified with Him, it was not with the intention of fulfilling the Scriptures or with any knowledge that they were doing so.

6. His Garments. With Divine precision David had prophesied by the Spirit of God that they would part His garments among them and that for His vesture they would cast lots. Psalm 22:18. How totally ignorant were the soldiers of the fact that when they did this they were fulfilling prophecy. (Matthew 27:35).

7. "They brake not His legs." The soldiers broke the legs of the two thieves, but because of the restraining hand of God they did not break the legs of the Lord. For, of the Passover Lamb it had been stated "Not a bone of Him shall be broken" (Ex. 12:46). This had been repeated in Psalm 34:20. God had made the wrath of man to praise Him, but the remainder of wrath He restrained. Jew and Gentile, referred to in Psalm 22 as the infuriated bulls of Bashan, and the dogs thirsty for blood, respectively energized by Satan, the ravening and the roaring lion, had done their utmost to heap ignominy and shame upon Him during the first three hours of His sufferings, but after that they were subdued and restrained.

---

WORDS OF FAITH — Second-class postage paid at Grand Rapids, Mich. Published weekly by Gospel Folio Press, Box 41, Grand Rapids 1, Michigan. \$1.50 per year. Special rates for quantities. Printed in the United States of America.

Continued Story . . .

## Three Comrades

by KRISTINA ROY

### INTRODUCTION

Petrik, Ondrejko, and Palko with their dogs Dunaj and Fido are great friends. They are cared for by the Bacha Filina (shepherd-overseer). The doctor who brought Ondrejko to the Bacha Filina is now trying to find a cottage for another patient of his.

"Listen, boy, that cottage of yours is just as if it had been built for that patient of mine," admitted Dr. H., after he had looked the cottage over inside and out. "I shall have some furniture brought here, carpets shall cover the floor, that it be not cold, and your bed and table we will put in the kitchen, that will be for her nurse. Though the windows are small there are three of them, so there will be plenty of sun all day long. And what surroundings! This beautiful valley with the background of green woods and high mountains! The spring is close to the house, and, too bad there is no bench beside it!"

The three boys cried, "We shall ask Bacha, and he will send Stephen."

"He can make a very beautiful bench," said Ondrejko. "We can go and watch the sheep for him in the meantime."

"Well, now; we shall see what can be done. But the bench must be put here. I would like to taste that water."

Palko ran for the flowered pitcher and a cup. They all drank their fill. The water was excellent. Then they sat beside the brook, and the doctor pulled cheese and bread out of his pocket. Each of the boys had his own bread—and quite a big piece at that. When Bacha cut the bread, he counted also on the appetites of Dunaj and Fido. The doctor divided the cheese. They ate the cheese and bread, and drank water.

Dunaj did not move his eyes from Palko, who shared with him faithfully. Greedy Fido ran from one comrade to the other and even sat down in front of the doctor, and not in vain. But when he came near to Palko, Dunaj growled at him, which certainly in a dog's language meant, "Are you not ashamed?" So Fido did not try it a second time.

The doctor saw how the children enjoyed their food and noticed that Ondrejko also ate with a good appetite. He suddenly began to say, "Palko, you said that you would carry wood to the cottage. That will not be necessary. I will have a cord of wood brought and cut, but if you would take care of bringing the flowers, that would be very good. The lady is to drink whey. As long as she is weak you could also bring that to her every morning. As soon as she is strong enough she will have to go to

the sheepfold herself, and ask for it at the hut. Now, what do you say? Will you help me so that she will get better soon?"

They all heartily agreed that they would do it.

"I will tell you what is the matter with her. For a long time she made day out of night. Thus she lacked many nights' rest. Now she would like to sleep, but she cannot! She is a sad, unhappy person, and has lived to see much sorrow. It will be well if you help me to cheer her up; then she will recover sooner."

"And does the lady understand Slovak?" fearlessly asked Palko. The doctor smote his forehead.

"You are a wise little fellow, boy. I didn't think of that. But wait! I overheard when she bought oranges, she spoke in Czech. Then you will be able to understand each other. Do you want to help me, boys?"

"We would like to very much," said Ondrejko.

"If Bacha will permit us," added Petrik. Palko thought that nothing would hinder him as long as he was there.

In good spirits the boys returned to the sheepcote. The doctor left them at the "Old Hag's Rock." They took from him a closely-written note for Bacha Filina, who readily enough agreed to everything. He even sent Stephen to build the bench, and also gave permission to the boys to carry whey and flowers to the sick lady.

Again it was Sunday. Very early in the morning they read a part of the Word of God, sang a song, prayed, and everybody went his way. Filina had an invitation from the manager of the Gemer estate. He had to go to the castle, and the boys said they would go to Palko's cottage, not to enter, because the doctor had the key, but to see if the wood had been already brought and where the draymen had stacked it. But who can describe their surprise when they reached the cottage. They saw all the windows opened and on the kitchen-table sat a large white cat. The fur around her head looked like a cap. Her eyes were blue and round like those of an owl. Her long broad tail hung out of the window. Around her neck she had a band decorated with small pearls, and a small gilt bell was hanging from it. When they saw her they were glad they had not brought the dogs along. Fido went with his master and Dunaj was somewhere roaming in the woods.

"Someone must live here already," remarked the surprised Ondrejko.

"Really, so it is. The cat would not be sitting there by herself," added Palko. They walked carefully around the cottage. In the yard they found the wood already cut and stacked. Then they took counsel together. If the ladies had already come, they must find flowers for them. The boys calculated that by the time they would return, the new inhabitants of the cottage would be up.

(To be Continued)

# BIBLE STUDY PAGE

## JESUS ON THE SABBATH DAY

Luke 6:1-11.

### 1. The Incident in the Cornfield (ch. 6:1-5).

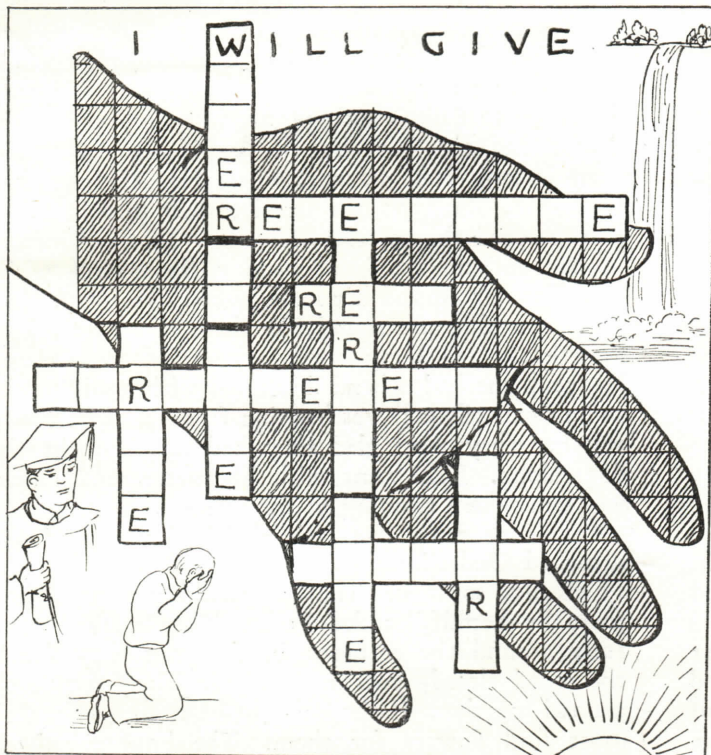
The difficult first verse probably refers to a special Sabbath more sacred than usual. "That Sabbath was a high day" (John 19:31), may also have been true of this Sabbath. If, that was so it would greatly aggravate the sin of the disciples in the opinion of the Scribes and Pharisees. In the other cases there was no open complaint; they "reasoned" and "murmured." Here they openly remonstrate with Jesus. He meets their remonstrance with a reference to Scripture. Of course they had read the story referred to, and had never thought of condemning David; although in eating the shewbread which was intended for the priests only, he had violated the law. They had always thought that David was justified, because he and his men were hungry. Now the disciples of Jesus, although they had broken no known law, are condemned for eating the corn because they are hungry. The law, and the Bible has always conceded that works of necessity and mercy were allowable on a Sabbath Day. Here the disciples were doing a work of necessity; therefore the objection of the Scribes and Pharisees was a trivial one. Again Jesus claims to be the Son of Man. As such He was Lord of the Sabbath. As Son of Man He is both humbled and exalted. As Son of Man He had nowhere to lay His head although He "was in a world His hands made." As Son of Man He kept the Sabbath for the sake of example, yet He was Lord of the Sabbath. It had no claim on Him although He had power over it. The Sabbath, like other things in the law, was a "shadow of good things to come." Christ was the substance and "in Him the shadows

of the law are all fulfilled and now withdraws." That is why the Lord's Day has superseded the Sabbath Day. The day has changed but the underlying principles are the same. If the Son of Man in humiliation had claims upon, and authority over, the Sabbath as Lord of the sabbath, what about the authority of the Son of God in resurrection as Lord of His own day?

### 2. The Man With the Withered Hand (ch. 6:6-11).

If the objection to what the disciples did on the Sabbath Day was trivial, the objection to what Jesus did here was cruel. To those men who opposed Jesus, the healing of this man was a small matter compared to the maintenance of artificial and unnecessary regulations. The Sabbath Day was designed to be set apart as a day for the worship of God and rest. On it, work was to be reduced to an absolute minimum. It could only be legitimately broken by works of necessity, as in the first part of our lesson, and works of mercy in this section. Even His critics would pull a sheep out of a pit on a Sabbath Day; and on the ground that a man was better than a sheep, it couldn't possibly be wrong to heal a man on that day. It could never be wrong to do a kind deed; but those enemies of Jesus forgot that. While keeping the law in letter they violated it in spirit. Those men "watched" Jesus with sinister intent "that they might accuse Him" Matthew 12:10 — Well, He would give them something to see. So He told the man to "stand forth," or "stand here," right beside Him. The man knew that the Scribes and Pharisees were watching Jesus and it took a good deal of courage to stand beside Jesus under their merciless gaze. Have we that courage in confessing Christ?

"Stretch forth." If the one took courage, the other took faith. The man hadn't done so for a long time, but he believed in Jesus and "he did so" (v. 10). Here we have what Paul calls "the obedience of faith." In the first part of our lesson we have liberty in the service of God, and in the second part strength for the withered spirit. Both are much needed in our day.  
H. K. D.



A Hand that never withers but "giveth and giveth and giveth again." Eight things He gives are Grace, Glory, Repentance, Water of Life, Wisdom, Rest, Forgiveness, Eternal Life. Fit these words in the acrostic.

## MEMORY VERSES

MEMORY VERSE — For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.  
Romans 5:6.

ALTERNATE MEMORY VERSE — To them that have no might He increaseth strength. Isa. 40:29b.

## Daily Scripture Readings

Lord's Day—Matthew 12:1-5. What did David do when he was an hungred?

Monday—Matthew 12:6-8. Who is Lord even of the Sabbath?

Tuesday—Matthew 12:9-14. What did Jesus do on the Sabbath that displeased the Pharisees?

Wednesday—Mark 2:23-28. What did Jesus say about the Sabbath?

Thursday—Mark 3:1-5. At what was Jesus grieved?

Friday—Luke 6:1-5. For whom alone was it lawful to eat in the house of God?

Saturday—Luke 6:6-11. What did the man do to be healed?