

Yet this was only the beginning of His condescension! It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take human nature even when Adam stood in innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam, He accepted the results of heredity. We can see what these results were in the history of His earthly ancestors. He came with just such a heredity to share our temptations and give us the example of a sinless life.

Satan hated Christ. He hated the One who pledged Himself to redeem sinners. Yet into the world where Satan claimed the right to rule, God permitted His Son to come as a helpless baby, subject to the weakness of humanity, to meet life's dangers just like everyone else, to fight the battle as every child of humanity must fight it—at the risk of failure and eternal loss.

4

The heart of the human father looks into the face of his little child and trembles at the thought of life's dangers. He longs to shield him from temptation and conflict. To meet a bitterer conflict and more fearful risk, God gave His only Son.

"In this is love." Wonder, O heavens! and be astonished, O earth!

"While Shepherds Watched" (or "Only the Shepherds Cared") is a selection from the book "Humble Hero," a condensed edition of "The Desire of Ages" by E. G. White.

5

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED

A selection from "Humble Hero"

"While Shepherds Watched"

In the very fields where the boy David had led his flock, shepherds keeping watch by night talked together of the promised Savior and prayed for His coming. And "an angel of the Lord stood before them. ... Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"

When they heard these words, dreams of glory filled the minds of the listening shepherds. The Deliverer has come! They associated power, exaltation, and triumph with His coming. But the angel prepared them to recognize their Savior in poverty and humiliation: "You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying

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in a manger."

The heavenly messenger had quieted their fears. He had told them how to find Jesus. He had given them time to become accustomed to the divine radiance. Then the whole plain lit up with the bright shining of the angels of God. Earth was hushed, and heaven stooped to listen to the song—

*"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, good will toward men!"*

Oh that today the human family could recognize that song! The song the angels sang will grow louder to the close of time and echo to the ends of the earth.

As the angels disappeared, the shadows of night once more fell on the hills of Bethlehem. But the brightest picture human eyes ever saw remained in the memory of the shepherds. They

2

"said to one another, 'Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.' And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger."

They left with great joy and told everyone they met the things they had seen and heard. "And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds."

Heaven and earth are no wider apart today than when shepherds listened to the angels' song. Angels from the courts above will accompany those in the common occupations of life who respond to God's leading.

In the story of Bethlehem is hidden *"the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God."* (Romans 11:33.) We are amazed at the Savior's sacrifice in exchanging the throne of heaven for the manger. Human pride stands rebuked in His presence.

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WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED

A selection from “Humble Hero”

near to those who humbly seek for divine guidance.

The foundation of the Christian church began with the calling of John, Andrew, Simon, Philip, and Nathanael. John directed two of his disciples to Christ. Then one of these, Andrew, found his brother. Philip was then called, and he went in search of Nathanael. These examples teach the importance of making direct appeals to our family, friends, and neighbors. There are those who have never made a personal effort to bring even one soul to the Savior. Many have gone down to ruin who might have been saved if their neighbors, ordinary men and women, had put forth personal effort for them.

In the family, the neighborhood, the

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town where we live, there is work for us to do. As soon as someone is converted, a desire is born within him to tell others what a precious Friend he has found in Jesus. bring even one soul to the Savior.

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"We Have Found Him" (or "Nathanael's Secret Prayers Are Heard") is a selection from the book "Humble Hero," a condensed edition of "The Desire of Ages" by E. G. White.

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"We Have Found Him"

When Philip called him, Nathanael had gone alone to a quiet grove to meditate on the prophecies concerning the Messiah. He prayed that if the One John had announced was the Deliverer, God would help him to know this. The Holy Spirit gave him assurance that God had come to His people. Philip knew that his friend was searching the prophecies, and while Nathanael was praying under a fig tree, Philip discovered his refuge. They had often prayed together in this secluded spot, hidden by the foliage.

Philip's message, *"We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the*

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prophets, wrote," seemed to Nathanael to be a direct answer to his prayer. But Philip added, "Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Prejudice arose in Nathanael's heart, and he exclaimed,

"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

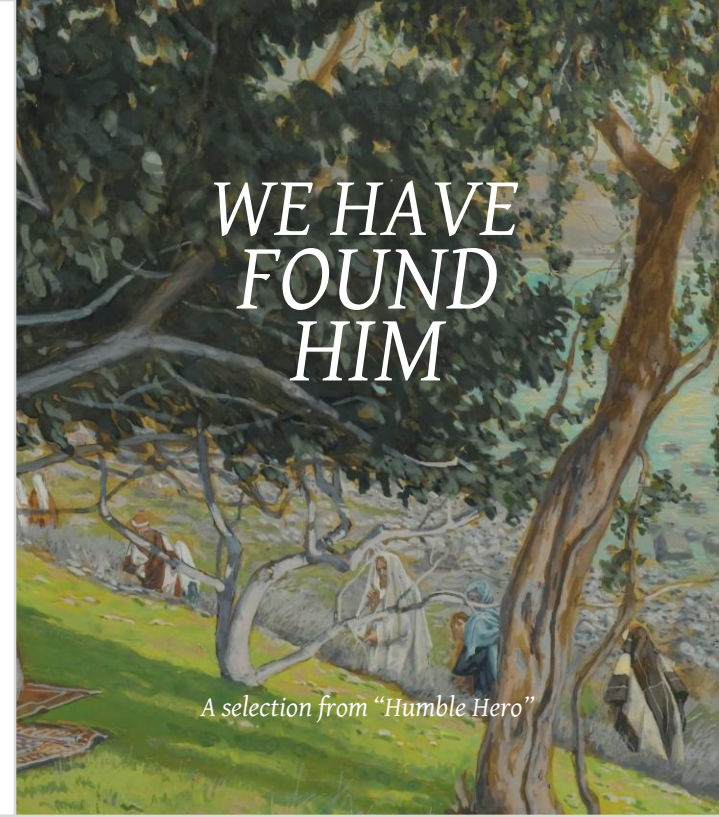
Philip said,

"Come and see."

Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" In surprise, Nathanael exclaimed, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered,

"Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

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It was enough. The divine Spirit that had brought assurance to Nathanael in his solitary prayer under the fig tree spoke to him in the words of Jesus. Nathanael had come to Christ with an honest desire for truth, and now his desire was met. He said, *"Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"*

If Nathanael had trusted to the rabbis for guidance, he would never have found Jesus. It was by seeing and judging for himself that he became a disciple. So today, many trust to human authority. Like Nathanael, we need to study God's Word for ourselves and pray for the Holy Spirit's enlightenment. He who saw Nathanael under the fig tree will see us in the secret place of prayer. Angels are

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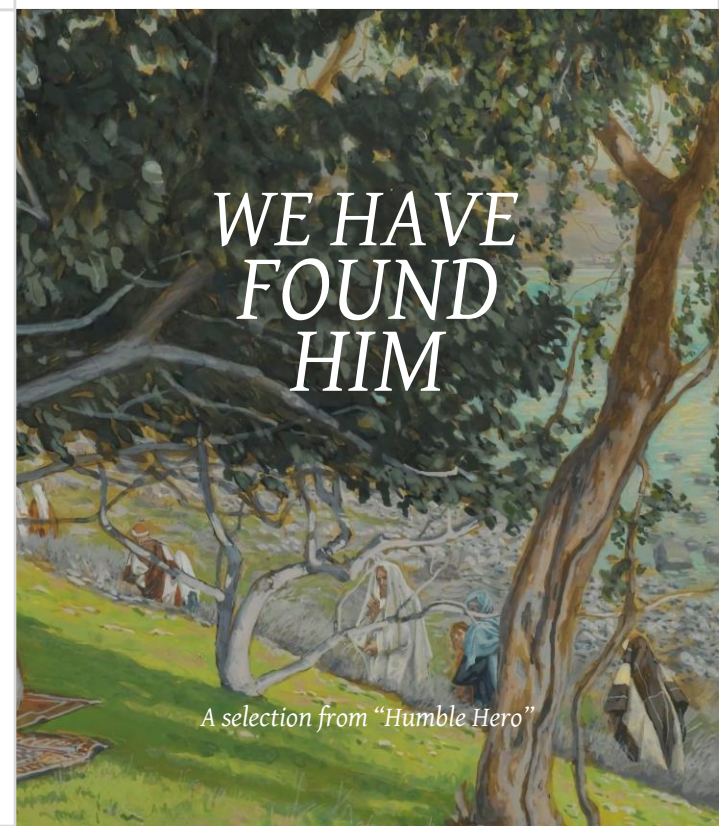
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threw himself at His feet with the cry,

*“Lord, if You are willing,
You can make me clean.”*

Jesus replied,

“I am willing; be cleansed,” and laid His hand on him.

Immediately a change came over the leper. His flesh became healthy, the nerves sensitive, the muscles firm. The rough, scaly surface on his skin disappeared, and a soft glow, like that of a healthy child’s skin, took its place.

The work of Christ in cleansing the leper illustrates His work in cleansing the life from sin. The man who came to Jesus was “full of leprosy.” The disciples tried to prevent their Master from touching him. But in laying His hand on the leper, Jesus received no defilement.

4

His touch conveyed life-giving power.

It is the same with the leprosy of sin—deadly, impossible for human power to cleanse. “From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores.” (Isaiah 1:6.) But Jesus has healing virtue. Whoever will fall at His feet, saying in faith, *“Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean,”* will hear the answer, *“I am willing; be cleansed.”*



“You Can Make Me Clean” is a selection from the book “Humble Hero,” a condensed edition of “The Desire of Ages” by E. G. White.

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“You Can Make Me Clean”

Of all diseases known in the East, leprosy was most dreaded. Its incurable and contagious character and its horrible effect on its victims filled the bravest with fear. The Jews regarded it as a judgment for sin, calling it “the finger of God.” It was looked upon as a symbol of sin.

Like someone already dead, the leper was shut out from any place that people occupied. Whatever he touched was unclean. The air was polluted by his breath. Anyone suspected of having the disease must present himself to the priests. If they declared him a leper, he was doomed to associate only with other lepers. The law was inflexible. Kings and rulers were not exempt.

The leper must bear the curse apart from

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friends and family. He was required to announce his calamity and sound the alarm, warning everyone to avoid his contaminating presence. The cry, *“Unclean! Unclean!”* coming in mournful tones from the lonely exile was a signal people heard with fear and revulsion.

News of Christ’s work reached many of these sufferers, igniting a gleam of hope. But since the days of Elisha, no one had ever seen a leper cleansed. There was one man, however, in whose heart faith began to spring up. Yet how could he present himself to the Healer? And would Christ heal him? Would He take notice of one who was suffering the judgment of God? Would He pronounce a curse on him?

The leper thought of all that people had told him about Jesus. Not one who had gone to Him for help had been turned away. The suffering man determined to find the Savior. Perhaps he could cross His path in some remote place along

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YOU CAN MAKE ME CLEAN

A selection from “Humble Hero”

the mountain roads or as He was teaching outside the towns. This was his only hope.

The leper was guided to the Savior as He taught beside the lake. Standing far away, the leper caught a few words from the Savior’s lips. He saw Him laying His hands on the sick, the lame, the blind, and the paralyzed, and those who had been dying of various illnesses rose up and praised God for their deliverance. Faith strengthened in his heart. He went closer, forgetting the restrictions laid on him and the fear everyone had for him. He thought only of the blessed hope of healing.

He was a repulsive spectacle, his decaying body horrible to look at. When people saw him, they fell back in terror, crowding one another in their eagerness to avoid any contact with him. Some tried to prevent him from approaching Jesus, but he neither saw nor heard them. He saw only the Son of God. Hurrying to Jesus, he

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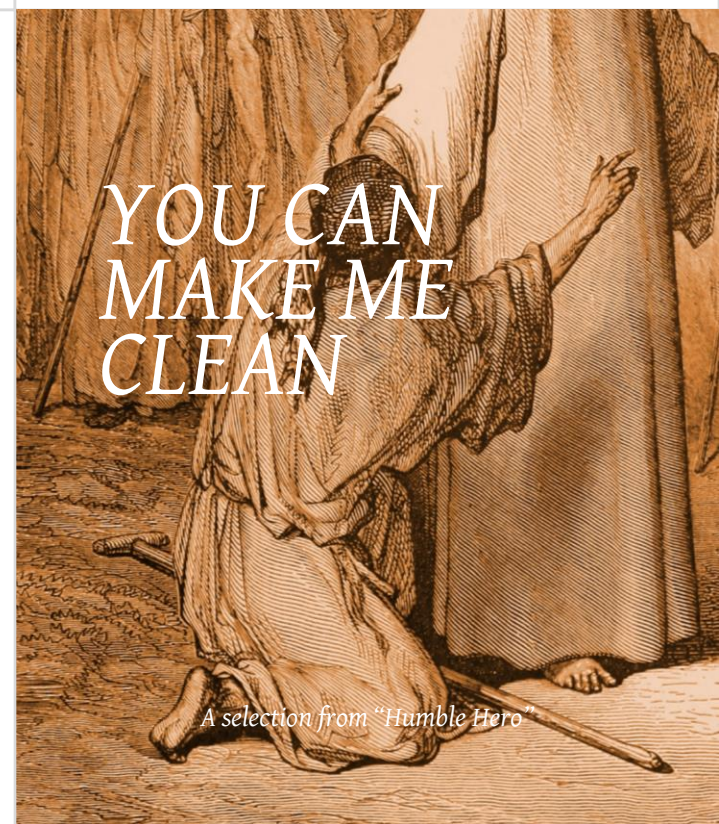
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temporary prosperity or for fellowship with Christ.

No one can succeed in the service of God unless his whole heart is in the work. No one who holds anything back can be the disciple of Christ, much less His collaborer. When men and women appreciate the great salvation Jesus has provided, their lives will reflect the self-sacrifice of His life. Wherever He leads the way, they will follow.

The call of Matthew made many people angry. For Christ to choose a tax collector as one of His closest companions was an offense against religious, social, and national customs. By appealing to prejudice, the Pharisees hoped to turn popular feeling against Jesus. But Jesus' choice created

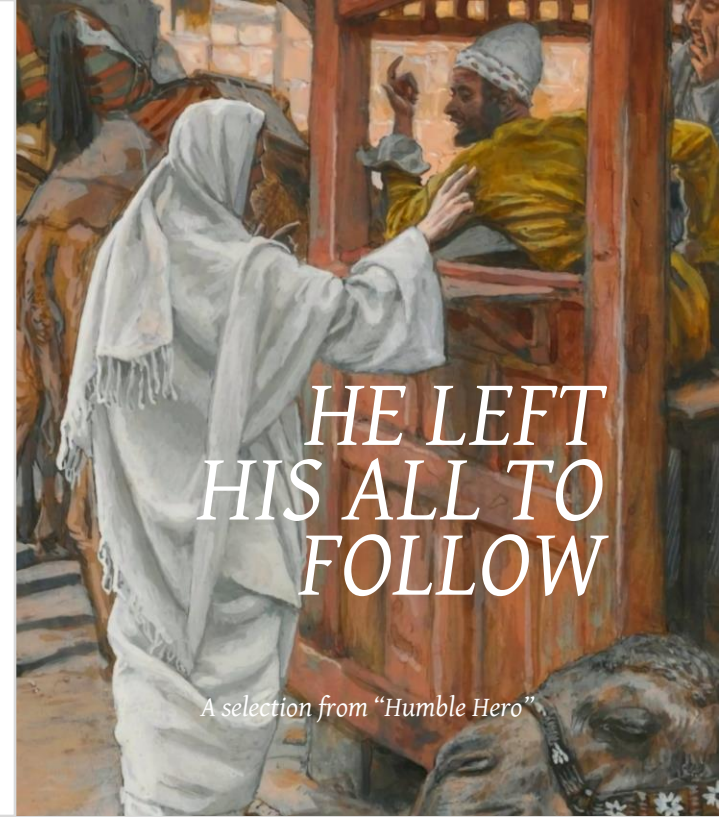
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widespread interest among the publicans. In the joy of his new discipleship, Matthew made a feast at his house and called together his relatives, friends, and former associates. Not only were tax collectors included, but many others who were shunned by their more scrupulous neighbors.



"He Left His All to Follow" (or "Matthew: From Tax Collector to Apostle") is a selection from the book "Humble Hero," a condensed edition of "The Desire of Ages" by E. G. White.

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"He Left His All to Follow"

Roman officials in Palestine were hated. The fact that a foreign power had imposed taxes was a continual irritation, a reminder to the Jews that they had lost their independence. And the tax collectors, the publicans, were not just instruments of Roman oppression, they were extortioners on their own account, enriching themselves at the expense of the people. A Jew who accepted this office was despised and classed with the worst of society.

Levi-Matthew, whom Jesus would call to His service, was just such a person—a tax collector. Matthew had listened to the

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Savior's teaching, and as the Spirit of God revealed his sinfulness, he longed to seek help from Christ; but knowing how the rabbis kept most other people away, he had no thought that this Great Teacher would notice him.

Sitting at his toll booth one day, Matthew saw Jesus approaching. He was astonished to hear Jesus say to him, "Follow Me."

Matthew "left all, rose up, and followed Him." There was no hesitation, no questioning, no thought of the profitable business he would be exchanging for poverty and hardship. It was enough for him to be with Jesus, to listen to His words, and unite with Him in His work.

It was the same way when Jesus called

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Peter and his companions to follow Him. Immediately they left their boats and nets. Some had friends who depended on them for support, but when they received the Savior's invitation, they did not ask, "How will I live and provide for my family?" When Jesus later asked them, "When I sent you without money bag, sack, and sandals, did you lack anything?" they could answer, "Nothing." (Luke 22:35.)

Matthew in his wealth and Andrew and Peter in their poverty faced the same test. At the moment of success, when the nets were filled with fish and the impulses of the old life were strongest, Jesus asked the disciples at the sea to leave everything for the gospel. Everyone is tested this way, to see which is stronger—the desire for

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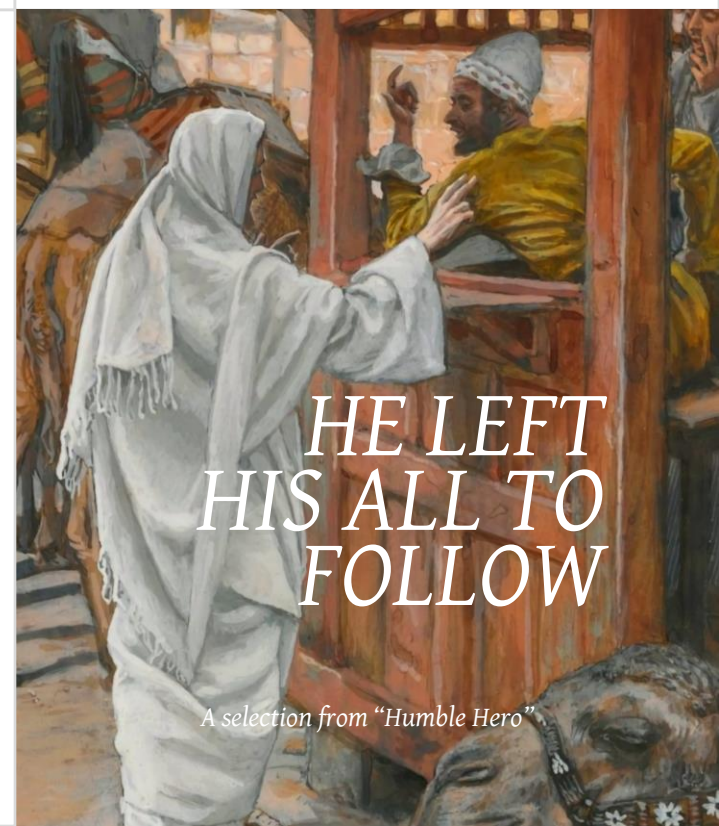
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HE LEFT HIS ALL TO FOLLOW

A selection from “Humble Hero”

have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!” And He said to the centurion, “‘As you have believed, so let it be done for you.’ And his servant was healed that same hour.”

In their self-righteousness, the Jewish elders recommended the centurion because of the favor he had shown to “our nation.” But the centurion said of himself, “I am not worthy.” He did not trust to his own goodness. His faith fastened onto Christ in His true character, the Friend and Savior of mankind.

When Satan tells you that you are a sinner, tell him that Christ came into the world to save sinners. The plea that we may urge now and always is our completely helpless condition that makes His redeeming power necessary.

*In my hand no price I bring;
Simply to Thy cross I cling.*

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The Jews saw nothing to be desired in Jesus. But the centurion, educated in the idolatry of Rome, seemingly cut off from spiritual life by education and surroundings and shut out by the bigotry of the Jews—this man understood truth to which the children of Abraham were blind. The “Light which gives light to every man who comes into the world” (John 1:9) had been shining on him, and he had recognized the glory of the Son of God. To Jesus, this was an advance assurance of the gathering of souls from all nations to His kingdom.

“Only Speak a Word” (or “An Army Officer Asks Help for His Servant”) is a selection from the book “Humble Hero,” a condensed edition of “The Desire of Ages” by E. G. White.

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ONLY SPEAK a WORD

*A selection from
“Humble Hero”*

“Only Speak a Word”

Christ was sad that His own nation wanted outward signs that He was the Messiah. But He was amazed that the centurion who came to Him did not even ask Him to come in person to perform the miracle. *“Only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.”*

The centurion’s servant was paralyzed and at the point of death. Among the Romans, servants were slaves, bought and sold and treated with abuse and cruelty. But the centurion, tenderly attached to his servant, very much wanted him to recover. He believed that Jesus could heal him. The reports he heard had inspired him with faith.

This Roman was convinced that the Jews’ religion was better than his own. He had broken

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through the prejudice and hatred that separated the conquerors from those they had conquered and had shown kindness to the Jews. The teaching of Christ met the needs of his heart. All that was spiritual within him responded to the Savior’s words. But he felt unworthy to come into Jesus’ presence, so he appealed to the Jewish elders to request the healing of his servant. They were acquainted with the Great Teacher and would, he thought, know how to approach Him in a way to win His favor. As Jesus entered Capernaum, a delegation of the elders met Him. They urged that “the one for whom He should do this was worthy, ‘for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue.’”

Jesus immediately set out for the officer’s home, but the crowds pressed in on Him, and He advanced slowly. The centurion, in his self-distrust, sent Him the message, “Lord, ... I am not worthy that You should enter under my

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roof.” But the Savior kept on His way. Daring at last to approach Him, the centurion said, “I did not even think myself worthy to come to You.” “Only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

“As I represent the power of Rome and my soldiers recognize my authority, so You represent the power of the Infinite God, and all created things obey Your word. You can command the disease to leave, and it will obey. You can call heavenly messengers to give healing power. Just speak the word, and my servant will be healed.”

“When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, *‘I say to you, I*

3

“Only Speak a Word”

Christ was sad that His own nation wanted outward signs that He was the Messiah. But He was amazed that the centurion who came to Him did not even ask Him to come in person to perform the miracle. *“Only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.”*

The centurion’s servant was paralyzed and at the point of death. Among the Romans, servants were slaves, bought and sold and treated with abuse and cruelty. But the centurion, tenderly attached to his servant, very much wanted him to recover. He believed that Jesus could heal him. The reports he heard had inspired him with faith.

This Roman was convinced that the Jews’ religion was better than his own. He had broken

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through the prejudice and hatred that separated the conquerors from those they had conquered and had shown kindness to the Jews. The teaching of Christ met the needs of his heart. All that was spiritual within him responded to the Savior’s words. But he felt unworthy to come into Jesus’ presence, so he appealed to the Jewish elders to request the healing of his servant. They were acquainted with the Great Teacher and would, he thought, know how to approach Him in a way to win His favor. As Jesus entered Capernaum, a delegation of the elders met Him. They urged that “the one for whom He should do this was worthy, ‘for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue.’”

Jesus immediately set out for the officer’s home, but the crowds pressed in on Him, and He advanced slowly. The centurion, in his self-distrust, sent Him the message, “Lord, ... I am not worthy that You should enter under my

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roof.” But the Savior kept on His way. Daring at last to approach Him, the centurion said, “I did not even think myself worthy to come to You.” “Only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

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“When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, *‘I say to you, I*

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have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!’” And He said to the centurion, “‘As you have believed, so let it be done for you.’ And his servant was healed that same hour.”

In their self-righteousness, the Jewish elders recommended the centurion because of the favor he had shown to “our nation.” But the centurion said of himself, “I am not worthy.” He did not trust to his own goodness. His faith fastened onto Christ in His true character, the Friend and Savior of mankind.

When Satan tells you that you are a sinner, tell him that Christ came into the world to save sinners. The plea that we may urge now and always is our completely helpless condition that makes His redeeming power necessary.

*In my hand no price I bring;
Simply to Thy cross I cling.*

4

The Jews saw nothing to be desired in Jesus. But the centurion, educated in the idolatry of Rome, seemingly cut off from spiritual life by education and surroundings and shut out by the bigotry of the Jews—this man understood truth to which the children of Abraham were blind. The “Light which gives *light to every man who comes into the world*” (John 1:9) had been shining on him, and he had recognized the glory of the Son of God. To Jesus, this was an advance assurance of the gathering of souls from all nations to His kingdom.

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“Only Speak a Word” (or “An Army Officer Asks Help for His Servant”) is a selection from the book “Humble Hero,” a condensed edition of “The Desire of Ages” by E. G. White.



ONLY SPEAK a WORD

*A selection from
“Humble Hero”*

*"I am He who lives, and was dead,
and behold, I am alive forevermore. ...
And I have the keys of Hades [or grave]
and of Death."
(Revelation 1:18.)*

Satan cannot hold one person in spiritual death who by faith receives Christ's word of power. "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead." (Ephesians 5:14.) The word of God that called the first man to life still gives life. Christ's word, "Young man, I say to you, arise," gave life to the youth of Nain. In the same way that word, "Arise from the dead," is life to the one who receives it.

And "if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies." (Romans 8:11; see 1 Thessalo-

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nians 4:16, 17.) This is the word with which He tells us to comfort one another.

*"And He Gently Said, 'Do Not Weep'" (or "A Dead Man Raised to Life")
is a selection from the book "Humble Hero," a condensed edition of
"The Desire of Ages" by E. G. White.*

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And He gently said, "Do Not Weep"

Jesus next made His way to Nain, a village more than twenty miles from Capernaum. All along the way the people came, bringing their sick for healing, and always hoping that He would make Himself known as the King of Israel. A glad, expectant group followed Him up the rocky path toward the gate of the mountain village.

As they came near, they saw a funeral procession going out to the place of burial. On an open pallet in front was the body of the dead. Filling the air with their wailing cries, the mourners gathered to show sympathy for the bereaved.

The one who had died was the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. The lonely

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mourner was following to the grave her only earthly support and comfort. "When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her." As she moved on blindly, weeping, He came close beside her and gently said,

"Do not weep."

"He came and touched the open coffin." Contact with death could bring no defilement to Jesus. The bearers stood still and the mourners gathered, hoping against hope. Someone was here who had vanquished demons. Was death also subject to His power?

In a clear, authoritative voice, Jesus spoke the words,

"Young man, I say to you, arise."

That Voice pierced the ears of the dead. The young man opened his eyes. Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and mother and son

2

*And He gently said,
DO NOT
WEEP*

A selection from "Humble Hero"

united in a long, joyful embrace. The crowd looked on in silence, as if they were in the very presence of God. Then they "glorified God, saying, 'A great prophet has risen up among us'; and, 'God has visited His people.'" The line of mourners returned to Nain as a triumphal procession.

Jesus, who stood beside the sorrowing mother at Nain, is touched with sympathy for our grief. His word is no less powerful now than when He spoke to the young man of Nain. (See Matthew 28:18.) To all who believe on Him, He is still a living Savior.

Jesus awakened this mother's son to return to this earthly life, to endure its sorrows and to pass under the power of death again. But Jesus comforts our sorrow for the dead with a message of infinite hope:

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Many whose hearts are aching under a load of care have chosen the world's service, accepted its perplexities, adopted its customs. Because of this, their life has become a burden. To gratify worldly desires, they injure the conscience and bring an additional burden of remorse on themselves. Our Lord wants them to lay aside this yoke of bondage. He says, "My yoke is easy and My burden is light." He calls them to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

*Worry is blind and cannot see the future,
but in every difficulty, Jesus has His way
prepared to bring relief.*

*Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways
to provide for us of which we know nothing.*

Those who make serving and honoring God their main goal will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet.

Those who take Christ at His word and surrender their lives to His plans will find peace. Nothing the world does can make them sad when

Jesus makes them glad by His presence. "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." (Isaiah 26:3.)

Our lives may seem tangled, but as we submit to the wise Master Worker, He will bring out the pattern of life and character that will be to His own glory. And this life that expresses the glory—the character—of Christ will be received into the Paradise of God.

As we enter into rest through Jesus, heaven begins here. We respond to His invitation, "Come, learn from Me," and so we begin the life eternal. Heaven is a constant approaching to God through Christ. The more we know of God, the more intense our happiness will be. As we walk with Jesus in this life, we may be filled with His love, satisfied with His presence. All that human nature can bear, we may receive here.

"You Will Find Rest" is a selection from the book "Humble Hero," a condensed edition of "The Desire of Ages" by E. G. White.



YOU WILL FIND REST

A selection from "Humble Hero"

"You Will Find Rest"

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." The Savior left none to feel shut out from His care and love. He looked on the distressed and heartburdened, those whose hopes were crushed and who were trying to satisfy the longing of the soul with earthly joys, and He invited all to find rest in Him.

Tenderly He told the toiling people, "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

In these words, Christ is speaking to every human being. Whether they know it or not, all are weighed down with burdens that only Christ can remove. The heaviest burden is the burden of sin. If we were left to bear this, it would crush us. But the Sinless One has taken our place. "The Lord has

laid on Him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6.) He has carried the burden of our guilt. The burden of care and sorrow He will also bear.

The Elder Brother of the human race is by the eternal throne. He knows by experience the weaknesses of humanity, our wants, and the strength of our temptations, for He was in all points tempted like we are, yet without sin.

Are you tempted? He will deliver.

Are you weak? He will strengthen.

Are you ignorant? He will enlighten.

Are you wounded? He will heal.

"He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3.)

Whatever your anxieties and trials, present your case before the Lord. Your spirit will be braced for endurance. He will open the way for you to disentangle yourself from embarrassment and difficulty. The heavier your burdens, the more blessed the rest you will find in placing them on the Burden Bearer.

The rest that Christ offers depends on conditions, but the Bible plainly tells us what they are. Anyone can fulfill them.

"Take My yoke upon you." The yoke is an instrument of service. Cattle are yoked for labor, and the yoke is essential for them to work effectively. By this illustration, Jesus teaches that we are called to service. We are to take His yoke upon us.

The yoke is the law of God, in the new covenant written in the heart. It binds the human worker to the will of God. If we were left to go just where our will would lead us, we would fall into Satan's ranks. So God confines us to His will.

Christ Himself has worn the yoke of service in humanity. He said, "I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." (John 6:38.) Love for God, zeal for His glory, and love for fallen humanity brought Jesus to earth. This was the controlling power of His life. This principle He asks us to adopt.

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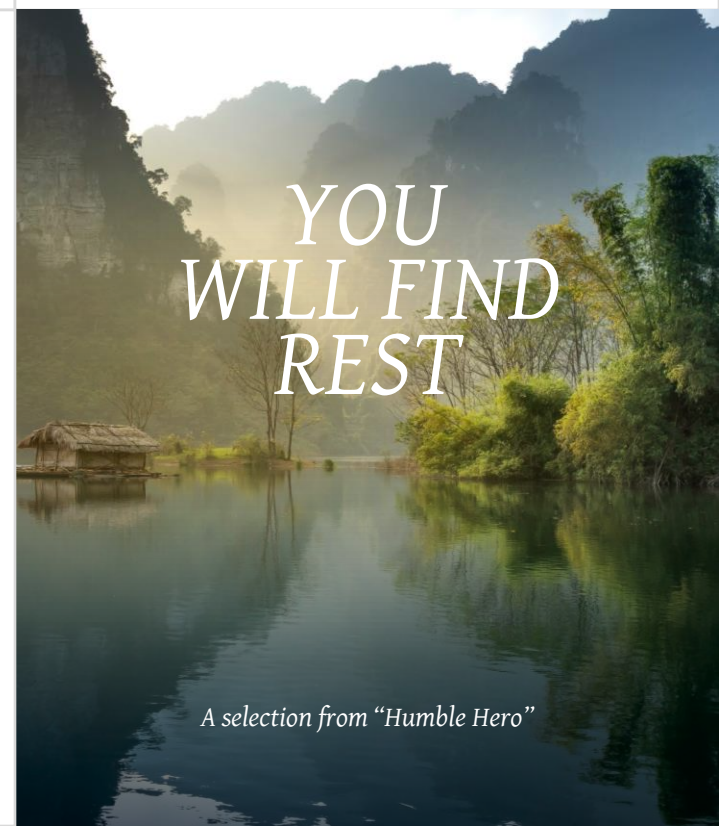
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5



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had seized the occupants of the boats that had set out to accompany Jesus. The storm had driven the boats close together, and all on board saw the miracle. The people whispered among themselves,

*“Who can this be, that even the winds
and the sea obey Him?”*

When Jesus was awakened to meet the storm, He showed no trace of fear in word or look. But it was not His possession of almighty power that gave Him rest. It was not as “Master of earth and sea and sky” that He rested quietly. That power He had laid down. “I can of Myself do nothing.” (John 5:30.) He trusted in the Father’s might. It was in faith—*faith in God’s love and care*—that Jesus rested, and the power of the word that stilled the storm was the power of God.

In the same way, we are to rest in the care of our Savior. The disciples’ fear in time of danger revealed their unbelief. They forgot Jesus, and only when they turned to Him could He give them help.

When tempests of temptation gather, how often we battle with the storm alone. We trust to our own strength till we are ready to perish. Then we

remember Jesus, and if we call on Him to save us, we will not cry out in vain. He never fails to give us the help we need. If we have the Savior in our hearts, we do not need to fear. The Redeemer will deliver us from danger in the way that He knows best.

“The wicked are like the troubled sea.” (Isaiah 57:20.) Sin has destroyed our peace. No human power can control the ruling passions of the heart. We are as helpless here as the disciples were to quiet the raging storm. But however fierce the tempest, those who turn to Jesus with the cry, “Lord, save us,” will find deliverance. His grace quiets the strife of human passion, and in His love the heart is at rest.

“He calms the storm, so that its waves are still. Then they are glad because they are quiet; so He guides them to their desired haven.” (Psalm 107:29, 30.)*

“Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Rom. 5:1.)

“Peace, Be Still!” is a selection from the book “Humble Hero,” a condensed edition of “The Desire of Ages” by E. G. White.

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It had been an eventful day. Beside the Sea of Galilee Jesus had spoken His first parables, explaining the nature of His kingdom and how it was to be established. He had compared His work to that of the sower and the development of His kingdom to the growth of the mustard seed and the effect of leaven in flour. He had pictured the final separation of the righteous and the wicked in the parables of the wheat and tares and the fishing net. The precious truths He taught had been illustrated by the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price.

As evening came on, the crowds still pressed in on Him. Day after day He had ministered to them, scarcely pausing for food or rest. Now the close of day found Him so completely weary that He went looking for rest in some solitary place across the lake. He asked His disciples to accompany Him there.

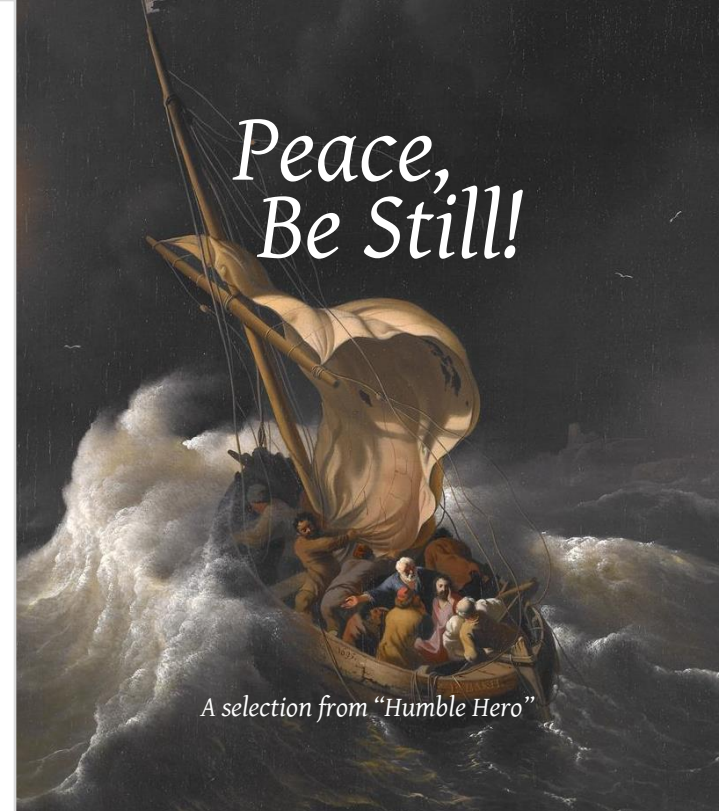
After He had sent the crowds away, the disciples took Him into the boat and quickly set off. But other fishing boats lying near the shore were soon crowded with people who followed Jesus, still eager to see and hear Him.

The Savior, overcome with weariness and hunger, lay down in the stern of the boat and soon fell asleep. The evening had been calm and pleasant, but suddenly darkness spread over the sky, and a fierce storm burst upon the lake.

The waves, lashed into fury by howling winds, dashed fiercely over the boat and threatened to sink it. Those strong fishermen had guided their boats safely through many a storm, but now their strength and skill were of no use. Helpless in the grasp of the storm, they saw their boat filling.

Focused on their efforts to save themselves, they had forgotten that Jesus was on board. Now, seeing only death before them, they remembered who had commanded them to set out across the sea. Their only hope was in Jesus. “Master, Master!” But the roaring tempest drowned out their voices, and there was no reply. Doubt and fear overtook them. Jesus had conquered disease and demons, and even death. Was He powerless to help His disciples now? Was He unaware of their distress?

Again they called, but there was no answer



except the shrieking of the angry storm. Apparently, they were going to be swallowed up by the hungry waters.

Suddenly a flash of lightning pierced the darkness, and they saw Jesus lying asleep, undisturbed by the tempest. In amazement, they exclaimed, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”

Their cry awakened Jesus. As the lightning’s glare revealed Him, they saw the peace of heaven in His face; they saw tender love in His glance, and they cried, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”

Never did anyone utter that cry unheard. As the disciples grasped their oars to make a last effort, Jesus rose. While the storm raged and the waves broke over them, He lifted His hand and said to the angry sea, *“Peace, be still!”*

The waves sank, the clouds rolled away, and the stars came out. The boat rested on a quiet sea. Then Jesus asked sorrowfully, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?”

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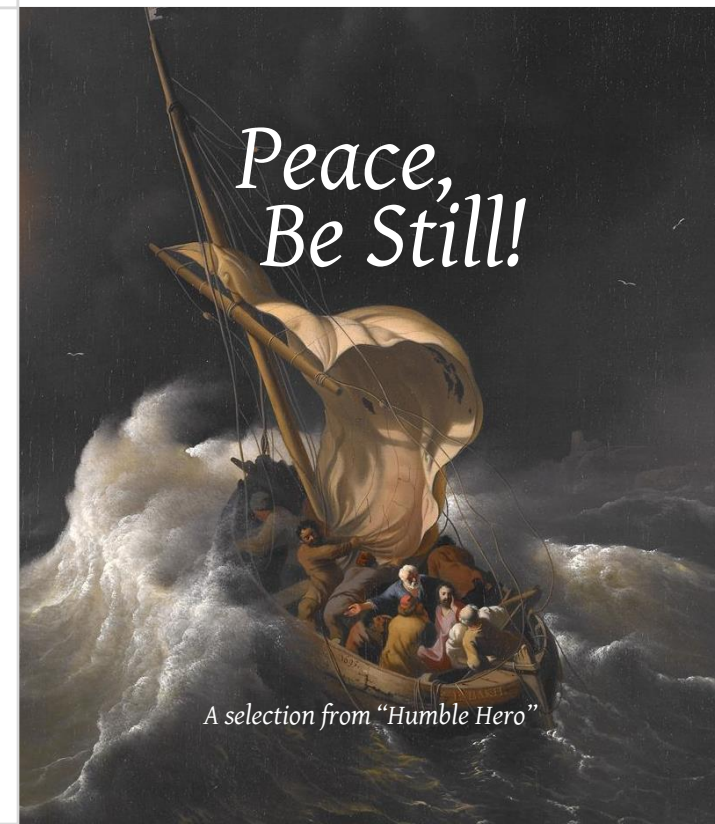
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5



food that Christ provided so far from human homes and resources.

If people today maintained simple habits, living in harmony with nature’s laws, there would be an abundant supply for the needs of the human family. There would be fewer imaginary wants and more opportunities to work in God’s ways. But selfishness and gratifying of unnatural taste have brought sin and misery into the world.

To that great assembly, weary and hungry, the simple food was an assurance not only of Jesus’ power, but of His tender care for them in the common needs of life. The Savior has not promised His followers luxuries. Their food may be plain, even scarce; their lives may be shut in by poverty. But His word is pledged that their need will be supplied, and He has promised what is far better than worldly good—the comfort of His own presence.

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From the hillside, Jesus looked at the crowd, and “was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd.” Leaving His refuge, He found a convenient place where He could minister to them.

The people listened to words of mercy from the Son of God, words that were like soothing medicine to their hearts. The healing from His divine hand brought life to the dying and relief and health to those suffering with disease. The day seemed like heaven on earth, and they were

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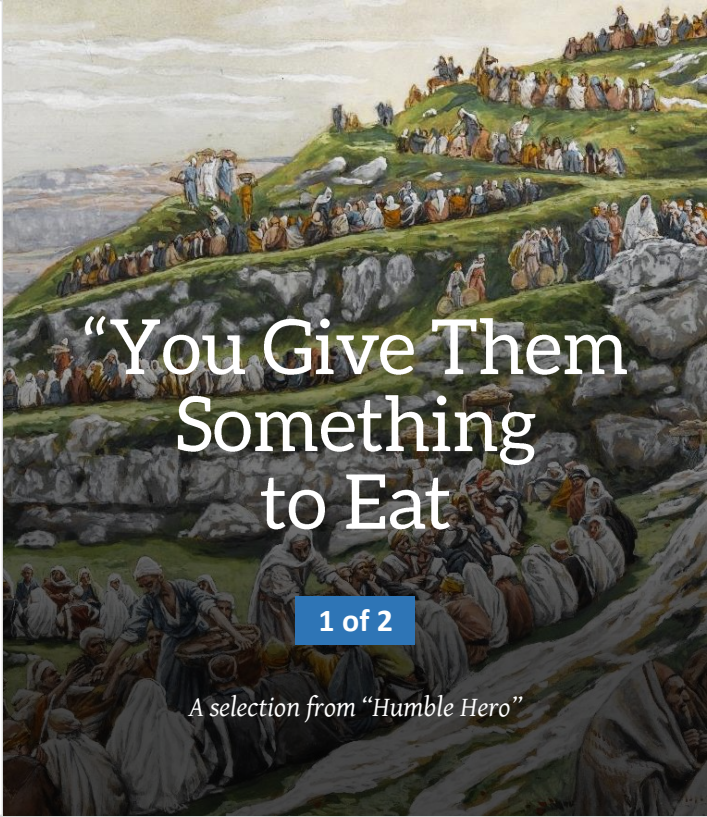
“You Give Them Something to Eat” is a selection from the book “Humble Hero,” a condensed edition of “The Desire of Ages” by E. G. White.

unaware of how long it had been since they had eaten anything.

Finally the sun was sinking in the west, and yet the people lingered. Jesus had worked all day without food or rest, but He could not take Himself away from the people that crowded around Him.

The disciples finally urged Jesus to send the people away for their own sake. Many had eaten nothing since morning. In surrounding towns they could buy food. But Jesus said, “You give them something to eat.” Turning to Philip, He asked, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?” He said this to test the faith of the disciple. Philip looked over the sea of heads and answered that two hundred pennyworth of bread would not be nearly enough for each of them to have a little.

Jesus asked how much food they could find among the people. “There is a lad here,” said Andrew, “who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?” Jesus directed them to bring these to Him and that the disciples seat the people on the grass in parties of



“You Give Them Something to Eat”

1 of 2

A selection from “Humble Hero”

fifty or a hundred, so that all could witness what He was about to do. When this was done, Jesus “looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all. So they all ate and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish.” He who taught the people the way to find peace and happiness was just as thoughtful about their physical necessities as He was about their spiritual need.

Christ never worked a miracle except to meet a genuine need, and every miracle was meant to lead the people to the tree of life. The simple food passed around by the disciples contained a whole treasure of lessons. Jesus had provided a humble meal; the fish and barley loaves were the daily food of the fisherfolk. Christ could have spread a rich meal, but food prepared just to gratify appetite would have carried no lesson for their good. Never did people enjoy luxurious feasts as much as this people enjoyed the rest and simple

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receive from Christ, and we can receive only as we share with others. And the more we give, the more we will receive.

Too often the workers for Christ fail to realize their personal responsibility. They are in danger of shifting their burden on organizations instead of relying on Him who is the Source of all strength. Successful work for Christ depends not so much on talent as on earnest, dependent faith. Instead of shifting your responsibility on someone you think is more richly endowed than you are, work according to your ability. When the question comes home to your heart, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?” do not let your answer be the response of unbelief. When people are completely lacking the bread of life, should we send for someone from far away to come and feed them? Christ said, “Make the people sit down,” and He fed them there. So when you are surrounded by people in need, know that Christ is there. Bring your barley loaves to Jesus. The little that we use wisely in the service of the Lord will

A VALUABLE LESSON IN ECOLOGY

After that large group had eaten, an abundance of food was left. But Jesus said, “Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.” The lesson had two parts. Nothing is to be wasted. Gather up everything that will relieve earth’s hungry ones. And there should be the same carefulness in spiritual things. The people wanted their friends at home to share in the bread that Christ had blessed. So those who were at the feast were to give to others the bread that comes down from heaven, to satisfy the hunger of the heart. They were to repeat what they had learned of the wonderful things of God. Nothing was to be lost.

The miracle of the loaves teaches us to depend on God. When Christ fed the five thousand, there was no food nearby. Here He was, in the wilderness. But He knew that the large crowd would feel hungry and faint, for He was one with them in their need for food. They were far from home, and many had no money to purchase food.

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The Lord says, “Give, and it will be given to you.” “He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity.” Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:10, 11, NRSV.



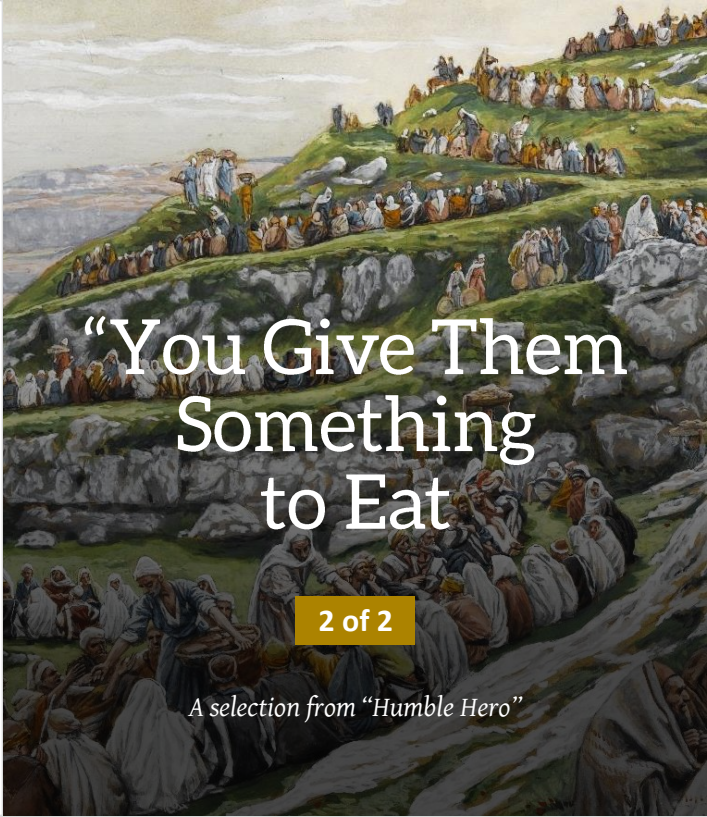
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We too are to depend on God. We are not to plunge into difficulties and misuse the abilities God has given us. But when, after following His directions, we are brought into tight places, we are to seek help from Him who has infinite resources at His command. He will help every person who comes into difficulty because of trying to keep the way of the Lord.

HOW OFTEN WE REPEAT ANDREW’S UNBELIEF

Christ has directed us, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15. But how often our faith fails us, as we see how great the need is and how small the resources in our hands. Like Andrew, we often hesitate, unwilling to give all that we have, afraid to spend and to be spent for others. But Jesus has



“You Give Them Something to Eat

2 of 2

A selection from “Humble Hero”

instructed us, “You give them something to eat.” Behind His command is the same power that fed the multitude beside the sea.

In Christ’s act is wrapped up a deep spiritual lesson for all His workers. Christ received from the Father; He gave to the disciples; they distributed to the crowd, and the people to one another. So all who are united to Christ will receive from Him the bread of life and give it to others. Jesus took the little loaves, and although there was only a little portion for His own disciples, He did not invite them to eat, but began to distribute to them, instructing them serve the people. The food multiplied in His hands; and the hands of the disciples, reaching out to Christ, were never empty. After feeding the people, Christ and His disciples ate together of the Heaven-supplied food.

The disciples were the channel of communication between Christ and the people. The most intelligent, the most spiritual, can give only as they receive. We can share only what we

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