

V

MONEY! MONEY! MONEY!

But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth . . . (Deut. 8:18).

Have you ever dropped a fifty cent piece on a busy street corner, or in a crowded room. Somehow above the din of the traffic or the sound of human voices in animated conversation, the ring of cold cash has a special music to our ears.

If you really want to get somebody's attention—try money. The bigger the stakes, the more carefully we are apt to listen.

In this regard, I am personally convinced that God sometimes uses money as a means of getting our attention. Sometimes He lets us have money to get our attention; sometimes He takes money away from us to get our attention. My personal view of God is that He actually wants to get our attention and communicate with us. Frequently throughout the course of human history, He has condescended to communicate to man even

BEYOND THE VEIL

through the casting of lots or the putting out of various types of fleeces. Sometimes He jars us out of our complacency by means of money. Certainly, it is at least one way to get the average person's attention.

I remember with great appreciation to God an incident that occurred many years ago in a former ministry. A close personal friend had died of cancer and I had the privilege of conducting her funeral. No honorarium was given to me at the funeral and none was expected. We had been very close, and she was almost like a part of the family. I was honored to help in any way.

Some weeks later, her husband pressed something into my hand as he walked out of church services on Sunday morning. It turned out to be a check for \$175. He had appreciated the trips which I had made to Kansas City to see his wife and wanted to show his appreciation by this gift. My initial reaction was to return the gift. But after comparing notes with my wife, I discovered that we had an immediate financial need of which I had not been previously aware. Since both of us had been writing checks on the same account with separate check books, we would be \$174.25 overdrawn as soon as the checks just mailed cleared the bank.

I prayerfully swallowed my pride and thanked Jesus for supplying our need when I had not even been aware of it. I jokingly volunteered to return the 75¢ overpayment, but this offer was good naturedly declined.

Such an experience has a tendency to put a spring in my step and faith in my heart. It helps me not to worry about my daily bread and gives me the wonderful reassurance that my God can supply my every need. It was a brief contact with the supernatural that whets my appetite for something more . . . not something more of money . . . but something more of God.

HARVEY BACUS

Harvey Bacus is the head of the Missions Department of a Christian college in Joplin, Missouri. Harvey was on the mission

field before coming to the college and has a treasure chest of many stories about the providential working of God "beyond the veil."

For example, he said that one day a generous brother walked into his office with \$2,000 to give to missions. He requested only that he be allowed to remain anonymous. He had just walked out the door and was not 20 steps away when Chris DeWalt hurried in the room with an urgent need for \$1,000. Chris had been downstairs in the missions building talking to missionaries in Chile by ham radio. Chris was instructed that the money had to be in the bank by closing time and that he was to borrow the money if he was able to. It was not necessary for Chris to borrow the money, for God had already made provision for that need before he had even asked.

Within an hour after Harvey received the money, another urgent appeal came to the office for \$1,000 which was needed to help a missionary get to Taiwan. The mission trip was not delayed. Thank you Jesus! God had foreseen the need for these two \$1,000 expenditures and prompted a precious member of His Spiritual Body to supply that need. The reason why that brother knew to give the \$2,000 is "beyond the veil" and you have to be there yourself before you can ever understand.

Our God owns all the beasts of the forest and even the cattle upon a thousand hills. He does not need our money to survive. We, however, are in desperate need of Him. He is rich beyond our wildest imagination and encourages us to "ask" that we might receive.

DR. GARLAND BARE

Dr. Garland Bare was born on the Thai-Tibetan border to heroic missionary parents. Their ventures in faith would fill many volumes and yet not be able to tell the whole wonderful story of God's working in their lives. Permit me therefore, to narrow our vision and focus only on a few brief incidents "beyond the veil."

When Garland and his wife prepared to go to the mission field, they made the same vow that Hudson Taylor and George Muller had made many years before. They determined that they would never ask men for money or support. This was not intended to impune the motives or the mission of others who do, it was only the response of their own hearts to a personal conviction about the way that God was leading them personally.

Down through the years of their mission work, God has never failed to supply their every need, and has frequently supplied far beyond what they had even imagined He would do.

Garland was 33 years old when he felt led of God to become a medical doctor. He had begged and pleaded for years in a vain attempt to get a doctor to come to his remote area of the jungle, and at last concluded that God might be leading him to answer his own prayers.

There were at least four gigantic obstacles which made this dream seem impossible. First of all, Garland Bare was not a Thai citizen. There were only 60 openings available at the medical school and there were 25 qualified Thai citizens available for every opening. In the second place, Brother Bare was married. At that time in Thailand, no person was allowed to go to college who was married, and if you got married after beginning your schooling, you would be expelled. In the third place, no person over 25 years of age was being allowed in the program and Garland was 33 at the time. Finally, Brother Bare had no pre-med schooling and had been out of school for 13 years.

Our God, however, is a God of miracles who specializes in the impossible. The Scriptures teach that He not only gives us a desire to do something for Him, but He also gives us the ability. This is my understanding of Philippians 2:13, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Thus, when God gave Garland Bare the desire to be a medical doctor, He also gave him the ability. Now it was up to him to work out his own salvation with fear and trembling. The Thai government waived all of their requisites and agreed to

enroll him in med-school if he could accomplish all of his pre-medical schooling in only one year.

Garland Bare arrived in the United States for one year of pre-medical training. His trial class in chemistry was successfully completed in a manner which borders on the miraculous, and he was ready to enroll for the fall semester with only \$15 in his pocket. The problem was that the initial payment for fall tuition was \$50. Having nowhere else to turn because of his prior commitment, he turned to God in prayer. It was Tuesday, and he needed the necessary \$50 by Friday.

At this point, Brother Bare felt a strong inclination to give away part of his precious \$15. Another missions student was having financial difficulties and was planning to drop out of school. As irrational as it seems, Brother Bare put \$10 in an envelope with a note of encouragement and slipped it under the student's door. He then returned to his own room feeling very much like he needed to see a psychiatrist.

The next morning, however, he went to the mailbox and found a \$20 gift had arrived from a total stranger. Praise the Lord! He had doubled the gift he had given away and now had \$25 of the \$50 which he so desperately needed. It was now Wednesday, and he had only two days left.

On Thursday another check arrived in the mail. Sometime before, Garland had done some work for the American Bible Society and a check for \$50 was now received in payment for those services. Now his prayers had been answered and he had the money for which he had prayed, and even more.

Those who are led of the Spirit sometimes do things which seem irrational to others. At this point Brother Bare said,

Would you believe it, that something came up that day, a very urgent need of another Christian, and I gave that \$50 to that person?

With only a few hours left before the deadline, however, another check arrived from a fellow missionary to Thailand

BEYOND THE VEIL

for \$150. With the first gift Brother Bare had received twice as much in return, and with this gift he had received three times as much.

Garland Bare, however, was not trying to double or triple his money, he was trying to follow the leading of the indwelling Christ. He was "beyond the veil" in a personal encounter with the Lord and was following the leading of those impulses from the Holy Spirit.

Certainly, experiences like this would cause even the most hardened skeptic to scratch his head and wonder.

Upon another occasion, Garland and his wife had an urgent need for 1,500 baht in Thai currency. At the time, this was only about \$75 in American currency. Again they prayed, but no funds came. Finally, they determined that they would have to borrow the money. Sixteen kilometers away was a Chinese merchant who had loaned them money before and thus Brother Bare wrote a letter containing his request. He placed the letter on the bookshelf ready to send it the next morning.

Early the next morning, however, the Chinese merchant himself showed up on a bicycle. It was raining. He said, "Do you need 1,500 baht?" "Why, yes," replied Brother Bare, "how did you know?" "I had the strongest feeling" he said, "It was almost like a dream." Then he handed over the 1,500 baht and walked away saying, "You sure do serve a powerful God!" The letter had never even been mailed.

Yes, we do serve a powerful God. He is constantly teaching us to "ask" that we might receive. If we who are evil know how to give good things unto our children, how much more shall our Father which is in heaven give good things unto those that ask Him!

DAVID CORTS

Here is another story about a preacher and money. His name is David Corts.

David Cortis was ordained to the ministry in September 1960. By his own testimony, he originally had no desire to be a preacher of the Gospel. With some reluctance, he agreed to spend one year in a Christian college, but he was determined not to be a preacher. He had a sister that was married to a preacher, an older brother that was a preacher, a next older brother that was a preacher, and he was absolutely certain that he would never be a preacher. It was only out of a sense of reverence for what he knew his parents were praying for, that he agreed to go to a Christian college at all.

After several months under Biblical teaching, he began to waver a little. He still, however, was avoiding any kind of Christian service or commitment that would tie him down to the ministry.

At this juncture, he received a notice from the college that he would have to pay up his bill in the cafeteria or he would not be permitted to continue in school. David came from a large family with seven children . . . yet he knew he could write home and get help. The letter from the college, however, seemed to be a convenient way to avoid being a preacher.

David said that it was on a Friday in the month of March, and his bill had to be paid by the following Monday. He got down on his knees and placed the letter on the bed where the Lord could read it. At this point he made a "deal" with the Lord. In retrospect, he knows you are not supposed to make "deals" with the Lord, but that's what he did anyhow. He said,

Lord, if you want me to be a preacher, then this will be taken care of, and if you don't want me to be a preacher then it won't be taken care of—then I'll know for sure!

When he arose from his prayer, he felt terrific. He was confident that the bill would not be taken care of . . . and he would not have to be a preacher.

In Saturday morning's mail, however, was a letter from a woman named Ada Richman. He couldn't even remember who

BEYOND THE VEIL

Ada Richman was. She was not a member of the same church that he was . . . and he had only met her on one occasion . . . and that meeting had been quite casual.

The letter read,

Dear David, I've been thinking of you all week long and the only thing I can think of is that you need money.

In the letter was much more than enough money to cover his bill.

Ada Richman has now gone to be with Jesus, but David, who did enter the Christian ministry, and who is at the time of this writing preaching in one of the biggest Christian churches in America, told her that every soul he wins to Christ, she has an investment in.

Is it not possible that this is another beautiful experience "beyond the veil" to fill a young man's life with guidance and help as he began his commitment to preach the Gospel.

JANET WILSON

Janet Wilson, speaking to the 1986 Women's Convention in Joplin, Missouri, shared a series of inspirational stories which reflect her unswerving commitment to Christ and remarkable answers to prayer.

Early in her Christian life, she learned the power of "calling things which be not as though they were" (Rom. 4:17). After many frustrating attempts to win her mother to Christ, she released her to Jesus and began to praise Him for her salvation . . . even before it came to pass. Her mother was baptized into Christ just six short months before passing into eternity. Praise the Lord!

Since a recent answer to prayer involved money, we include it here with the hope and prayer that it will provide help and inspiration to you who are beset by financial problems.

Janet was working with her son in starting a new work in Townhead, Jamaica. So many people were coming to Christ

that the house where they were meeting would not hold them all and they purchased a tent. Janet prayerfully contacted her friends and supporters and raised the \$3,000 for the tent . . . only to discover that she needed \$9,000 more to purchase land.

They had assumed that they would be able to rent or lease land . . . but they were wrong. The only land appropriate for their need in the area they were working belonged to a man named Mr. Gordon. He wanted \$30,000 Jamaican money for the property and would not come down in the price or sell only part of the land.

With some reluctance, Janet again contacted her friends and supporters for additional funds. She had three months to raise the money . . . but failed. Based on an exchange rate of 3.4 to 1, she calculated that it would take approximately \$9,000 American money to equal \$30,000 in Jamaican currency. All she could raise, however, was \$6,000.

Instructing the believers to pray, Janet and Ed Thomas went to the bank believing that God would not allow the gates of hell to prevail against His church. Would you believe it? On that day the exchange rate was not 3.4 to 1, but 5 to 1. The \$6,000 which God had enabled her to receive was the precise amount needed on that day to purchase the land.

Janet said that she began to shout for joy and wondered if any of the women from America had heard her. She was "beyond the veil," but was crying out for the rest of us to come on in and enjoy the view.

FROM RAGS TO RICHES

One of the most unusual "Cinderella stories" I have ever been personally associated with is the story of Sam and Katie Butcher. I have been privileged to go over this story with them on the radio and also on video tape.

The video interview is available through Good News Productions International, in Joplin, Missouri.

BEYOND THE VEIL

Sam and Katie had poverty with a capital "P." For the first seven years of their marriage, they did not have enough money to even own an automobile.

At a time when they had five children, they sometimes had nothing to eat but oatmeal. Katie says that they would place a sheet upon the floor and sprinkle raw oatmeal upon it. Then pretending that they were receiving manna from heaven, they would eat . . . and somehow be satisfied.

Upon one occasion, however, she said they did not even have oatmeal . . . they had nothing. They sat down at the table and gave thanks anyhow. Then they went for a walk and sang praises to God. Katie said it was a beautiful time of the year and the apple trees were in blossom.

When they returned . . . there was food upon the table . . . A friend who was moving knew of their need and had brought by some perishable goods from his refrigerator and other things which he didn't want to move. Since there was no one home, he came on in and left the food on the table.

Out of this abject poverty, Sam and Katie Butcher became multi-millionaires in only three short years. They are internationally famous for the "Precious Moments" ministry which they believe has been given to them by God. Sam says that Precious Moments figurines are the number one collectible in the United States.

It is impossible to understand their ministry without a recognition of their belief in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and answers to prayer in the here and now.

Typical of their life-style is the manner in which they felt led of God to move to Carthage, Missouri.

They began to feel that God was leading them to move from Michigan. Therefore, Sam elected to drive home from a business trip to California, in a rented car. Periodically, he would call his wife in Michigan and pray about locations. She had a large map upon the wall and would mark his presence with pins as they prayed.

Sam said that once in New Mexico, he drove back some 10 miles to a town he had just passed through. He felt certain that this was not the place where they should live, but wondered why he felt the urge to return.

Spying an old Indian Mission, he thought that God might have wanted him to help them financially . . . and wrote out a check. After taking a tour of the facility, he asked his guide what it would cost to fix up the place . . . it was the exact amount of the check which he had already made out.

Arriving in Joplin, Missouri, he got a motel and also a strong conviction that this was the place where God wanted him to move. He went to a real estate office and drew on his sketch pad a house which he had only seen with eyes of faith. It was an older house overlooking a little river with a smaller house below.

Sam was dressed in jeans with a tear on the knee and the first realtor thought he must be a brick or two short of a full load. Another older man, however, recognized the house as being just like one south of Carthage. Sam and Katie now live there . . . it is only a mile or so from the place where my eldest son and his family live. They are building a Precious Moments Chapel there which will undoubtedly be visited by people from all over America, and perhaps all over the world.

ALL KINDS OF EVIL

The Scriptures teach that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Those who thirst for earthly wealth fall into temptations and snares and many foolish and hurtful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Everyone who serves God faithfully does not become rich. Millions of faithful Christians in third world countries and behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains can testify to that. God may demonstrate His power in your life by keeping you poor. He may feed you with scavengers like Elijah who was fed by

BEYOND THE VEIL

the lowly ravens. You may wind up like the proverbial widow who could always scrape the bottom of the barrel . . . but was never quite out. God can teach us of His presence in the absence of money as well as in its abundance.

As you consider your finances, however, please remember that it is an area of such interest to the human mind that God has frequently chosen to manifest His presence and concern through money.

May you enter in boldly into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God reveal treasures to you which moth and rust do not corrupt and which thieves do not break through and steal.

THOUGHT QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER V

1. The Scriptures teach that Christians are to be satisfied with two things. What are they? (I Tim. 6:8)
2. Why do we sometimes find it difficult to be content without things which we really don't need?
3. How much money does it take to make you rich?
4. Paul was hungry and in need (I Cor. 4:11ff.). Was this an indication that he lacked in faith?
5. If someone gave you a million dollars, what would you do with it?
6. How does this compare with the way you spent your income last year?
7. Why would a loving father not give unlimited amounts of money to some children?
8. Name some things which you enjoy in Christ which moth and rust cannot corrupt and thieves cannot break through and steal.
9. Is it wrong to ask God for money?
10. Is it wrong for a Christian to be a millionaire?