

MY FAVORITE MISSIONARY



An Exploration of the Cross-Cultural
Encounters of Jesus Christ



By Scott Griswold

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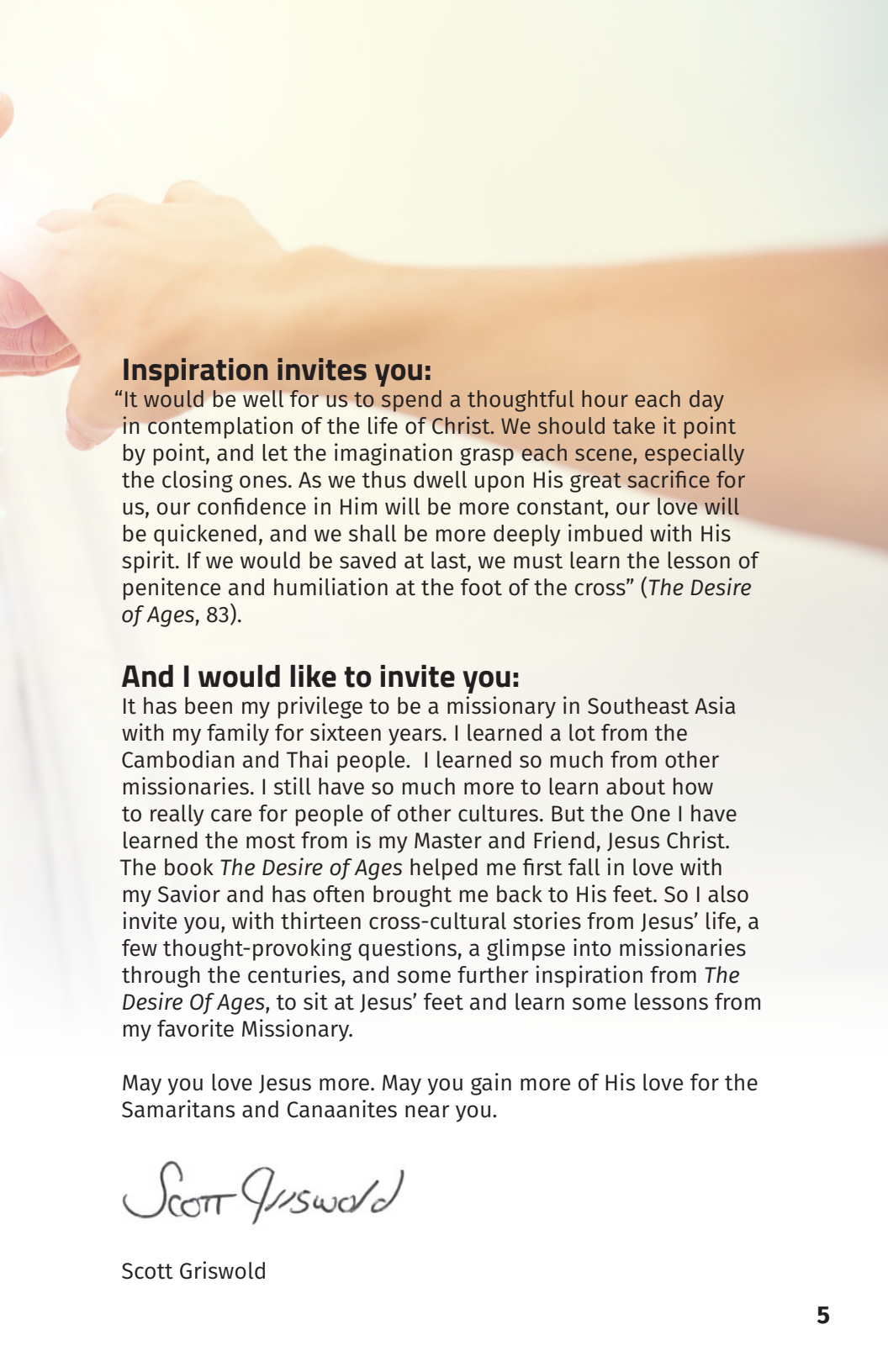
You are invited to sit at the feet of the Greatest Missionary of all time.

Jesus invites you:

He left His family in heaven, crossed the Galactic Ocean, learned the language, and lived the culture of the people in His mission field. He poured His life into the Jewish people, touching, speaking, praying, loving them with all that He had. At the same time His heart was wide open to include everyone, reaching out to Romans, Samaritans, Canaanites, and other internationals living nearby. Jesus carefully prepared His disciples so He could set in motion a missionary movement that would eventually reach you. Why? He wanted to live with you for eternity. But not just you, He wants you to bring everyone you can. So He invites you to sit at His feet and look at His encounters with people of other cultures, so you can learn to be a better missionary, working at His side.

His disciples invite you:

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life ... that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full”
(1 John 1:1, 3-4).



Inspiration invites you:

“It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit. If we would be saved at last, we must learn the lesson of penitence and humiliation at the foot of the cross” (*The Desire of Ages*, 83).

And I would like to invite you:

It has been my privilege to be a missionary in Southeast Asia with my family for sixteen years. I learned a lot from the Cambodian and Thai people. I learned so much from other missionaries. I still have so much more to learn about how to really care for people of other cultures. But the One I have learned the most from is my Master and Friend, Jesus Christ. The book *The Desire of Ages* helped me first fall in love with my Savior and has often brought me back to His feet. So I also invite you, with thirteen cross-cultural stories from Jesus’ life, a few thought-provoking questions, a glimpse into missionaries through the centuries, and some further inspiration from *The Desire Of Ages*, to sit at Jesus’ feet and learn some lessons from my favorite Missionary.

May you love Jesus more. May you gain more of His love for the Samaritans and Canaanites near you.

Scott Griswold

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CHAPTER ONE

THE LONGEST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION

1. **Read Luke 2:15-20.** Describe the circumstances and settings of Jesus' birth that are significant to you and why.
2. **Read Philippians 2:5-8.** What really impresses you about Jesus' decision to become a human?
3. In 1732 Johann Dober and David Nitschmann, Bohemians from Germany were determined to share the gospel with slaves in the West Indies. The owners refused to let them come as missionaries. The two men said, "Then we will become slaves ourselves." As they sailed away, they called out to their families, "May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering." Their sacrifices inspired many more missionaries to follow until more than 13,000 were baptized in Jamaica, Barbados, St. Thomas and other islands.¹

Read Hebrews 2:14-16. What did Jesus have to give up and what difficulties did He experience as He became a cross-cultural missionary to our earth?
4. What might you have to lose or change in order to reach out cross-culturally to people of other cultures and religions, even if they live close by?

5. Read Philippians 2:5 again. What do you want God to do in your heart and life today to make you more like Jesus, the Greatest Missionary?

TEXT TO MEMORIZE: PHILIPPIANS 2:5

FURTHER INSPIRATION

“The King of glory stooped low to take humanity. Rude and forbidding were His earthly surroundings....We marvel at the Saviour’s sacrifice in exchanging the throne of heaven for the manger, and the companionship of adoring angels for the beasts of the stall. Human pride and self-sufficiency stand rebuked in His presence. Yet this was but the beginning of His wonderful condescension. It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man’s nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin” (*The Desire of Ages*, 43, 48-49).

To find more treasures about this story, dig deep in *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 4, pages 43-49.



CHAPTER TWO

WISE MEN AND REFUGEES

BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION

1. **Read Matthew 2:1-12.** Why do you think God made the extra effort to make a star to bring the wise men from the East and then send dreams to protect them?
2. **Read Matthew 2:13-15.** What do you think it was like for Joseph, Mary, and Jesus to flee from Herod's soldiers and have to live in a foreign country?
2. Matthew 2:15 says the difficult trip in and out of Egypt was part of God's plan and is a reminder of how God freed the Israelites from slavery and brought them out as refugees to a better land. **Read Isaiah 63:9.** What does this text further tell you about God's heart towards people who have to migrate because of difficult circumstances?
4. In 1979 Judy Aitken read in *Time* magazine about the killing fields in Cambodia. She decided to use her nursing skills to help the refugees, packed up her family, including three children, and headed to the camps on the border of Thailand. Judy bandaged soldiers' limbs that had been destroyed by landmines. She cared for mothers and children riddled with disease and malnutrition. She earnestly prayed everywhere she went and led many of the refugees to Christ. The needs were so great, Judy went on to establish a non-profit organization called ASAP Ministries that has made a significant impact on many in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.²



God used Judy Aitken to help many refugees. God also used the wise men to share the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh which must have been a significant help to Joseph, Mary, and Jesus during the years they were displaced from their homeland. What gift could you bring and what could you do to help refugees, whether far away or nearby?

TEXT TO MEMORIZE: LEVITICUS 19:34

FURTHER INSPIRATION

“The magi had been among the first to welcome the Redeemer. Their gift was the first that was laid at His feet. And through that gift, what privilege of ministry was theirs! The offering from the heart that loves, God delights to honor, giving it highest efficiency in service for Him. If we have given our hearts to Jesus, we also shall bring our gifts to Him. Our gold and silver, our most precious earthly possessions, our highest mental and spiritual endowments, will be freely devoted to Him who loved us, and gave Himself for us” (*The Desires of Ages*, 65).

To find more treasures about this story, dig deep in *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 6, pages 59-67.

CHAPTER THREE

THE RISKY MISSION OF LOVE

BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION

1. **Read Luke 10:25-37.** What do you think it felt like to be stripped, robbed, wounded, and left for dead?
2. Why do you think the priest and the Levite did not help this man?
3. What are some of the reasons that many people today do not help those who are in trouble?
4. Nik Ripken grew up in rural Kentucky, but God captured his heart and took him to war-torn Somalia. He was able to organize significant support, providing food and shelter for thousands of Muslims. Because Nik was a Western Christian his life was constantly at risk. Even when the United Nations pulled out in 1995, Nik continued serving even while local believers were martyred. He began to wonder if faith could exist in such darkness. From there God led him to visit persecuted believers in approximately sixty countries, learning the secrets of their vibrant faith and witness in the hardest places. Nik and his wife continue to inspire people to risk their all for God.³

Jesus used the actions of Nik and the Good Samaritan to show what risky love looks like. Which of the following types

of ministry are most frightening and risky to you: Helping sick people, working with alcoholics or drug addicts, serving refugees from war-torn countries, helping domestic violence cases, talking with strangers, preaching up front, serving in prison ministry, being a missionary to a foreign country, or something else?

5. What risky thing do you think Jesus is asking you to do?

TEXT TO MEMORIZE: LUKE 10:27

FURTHER INSPIRATION

“This Samaritan represents Christ. Our Saviour manifested for us a love that the love of man can never equal. When we were bruised and dying, He had pity upon us. He did not pass us by on the other side, and leave us, helpless and hopeless, to perish. He did not remain in His holy, happy home, where He was beloved by all the heavenly host. He beheld our sore need, He undertook our case, and identified His interests with those of humanity. He died to save His enemies. He prayed for His murderers. Pointing to His own example, He says to His followers, ‘These things I command you, that ye love one another’; ‘as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.’ John 15:17; 13:34.” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, 381)

To find more treasures about this story, dig deep in *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 54, pages 497-505.



A BANQUET FOR THE NATIONS

BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION

- 1. Read Mark 7:31-37.** Imagine what this story was like. How do you think this blind man felt before, during, and after the healing?
- 2.** Spitting is a strange way to heal people. It is hard to understand why Jesus used spit. Perhaps in some way it was meaningful to the blind man. Perhaps it was also for the “spitters” of Papua New Guinea. Wycliffe Bible translators tell about when they translated the verse about Jesus using spit to heal. Previously the local villagers had not shown much interest in Jesus’ story. “Say it again!” they cried. “Jesus spit on the man’s eyes,” the translator replied. The village leaders were amazed. They knew about spit. Their traditional healers used spit in their ceremonies. However, no one had ever been able to heal a blind person. From then on they saw Jesus as someone of power; someone who understood their world; someone they could trust.⁴

What does this story demonstrate about God’s love for the unreached people groups of the world and His desire for us to be involved in their physical and spiritual healing?

- 3. Read Mark 8:1-10.** The feeding of the 4000 and the healing of the blind man all happened in the area where Jesus once healed a demoniac and was asked to leave (Mark 5:20). What kind of people lived in this area and how might that explain why the disciples asked the same questions about finding food and did not seem to consider Jesus would provide for these people as He had for the 5000?

4. The 4000 hungry people could easily be compared to the approximately 4000 unreached people groups in the world who have not been able to know about the Bread of Life (joshuaproject.net). **Read Revelation 21:23-24.** Why do you think God is eager for people of every nation, tribe, and tongue to be in the New Jerusalem?
5. What is God asking you to do with your money, time, and other resources to effectively care for the tangible needs and to share the gospel with the unreached of other cultures?

TEXT TO MEMORIZE: MATTHEW 24:14

FURTHER INSPIRATION

“The work of building up the kingdom of Christ will go forward, though to all appearance it moves slowly and impossibilities seem to testify against advance. The work is of God, and He will furnish means, and will send helpers, true, earnest disciples, whose hands also will be filled with food for the starving multitude. God is not unmindful of those who labor in love to give the word of life to perishing souls, who in their turn reach forth their hands for food for other hungry souls.

“In our work for God there is danger of relying too largely upon what man with his talents and ability can do. Thus we lose sight of the one Master Worker. Too often the worker for Christ fails to realize his personal responsibility. He is in danger of shifting his burden upon organizations, instead of relying upon Him who is the source of all strength. It is a great mistake to trust in human wisdom or numbers in the work of God. Successful work for Christ depends not so much on numbers or talent as upon pureness of purpose, the true simplicity of earnest, dependent faith. Personal responsibilities must be borne, personal duties must be taken up, personal effort must be made for those who do not know Christ” (*The Desires of Ages*, 370).

To find more treasures about this story, dig deep in *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 44, pages 404-409.

CHAPTER FIVE

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER

BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION

1. **Read Mark 11:15-19.** What are the reasons that you think Jesus was so upset that the temple had become a marketplace?
2. It is likely that the market was set up in a place called the Courtyard of the Gentiles, the only place where non-Jewish people were allowed to be. In verse 17 Jesus was quoting from Isaiah 56. **Read Isaiah 56:6-8.** What do these verses teach you about Jesus and His concern for the Gentiles?
3. What problems exist in churches today that you think keep people who are not Christians from knowing God and worshipping Him?
4. **Read 1 Peter 2:9-12.** How would your church look if together you sought to live out these verses?
5. A church in California decided to resurface its parking lot. Recognizing it was going to cost thousands of dollars, one member protested that the money should be spent for those who did not know Jesus. Other members countered that the parking lot would become worse and more expensive to fix if they didn't act. "We have to be good stewards," they said. Wrestling with what that really means,

they decided to give ten percent of whatever they spent on their own church towards building a church in India. The parking lot was more expensive than planned, so they ended up giving enough to build two churches. This sparked an interest in missions to the unreached. Next, members committed to going without something so they could give the equivalent of “two pizzas and a tank of gas.” With that they supported thirty national missionaries among unreached people groups.⁵

Jesus was willing to risk His life to clear a spot for the Gentiles to know God. What is one thing you can reprioritize in your life to help your church become a house of prayer for all nations and not just for itself?

TEXT TO MEMORIZE: MARK 11:17

FURTHER INSPIRATION

“The priests boasted of their piety; they claimed to be the guardians of the people; but they were without sympathy or compassion. The poor, the sick, the dying, made their vain plea for favor. Their suffering awakened no pity in the hearts of the priests.

“As Jesus came into the temple, He took in the whole scene. He saw the unfair transactions. He saw the distress of the poor, who thought that without shedding of blood there would be no forgiveness for their sins. He saw the outer court of His temple converted into a place of unholy traffic. The sacred enclosure had become one vast exchange. Christ saw that something must be done” (*The Desire of Ages*, 157).

To find more treasures about this story, dig deep in *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 16, pages 154-166.

AMAZING FAITH

BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION

- 1. Read Matthew 8:5-13.** To many Jews in the time of Christ, the Romans were the cruel oppressors that needed to be overthrown. While others hated and plotted revenge, Jesus did not refuse to help this Roman man. What mattered more to Jesus than a person's ethnicity?
- 2. Read Ephesians 2:13, 17-19.** What has Jesus done so that His followers can be forgiven and be reconciled with those who have hurt them?
- 3.** As darkness fell in an African village, a drunk man approached a home with a machete and anger in his heart. He attacked and killed the father and his child. He also left the mother lying on the ground, presumably dead. Soon the murderer was captured and imprisoned while the mother slowly recovered. The scars of hatred in her heart seemed greater than those on her body. Many times she wished for the man to be tortured and killed. However, the mother knew the story of Jesus. "You forgave me," she cried out. "How can I refuse the same for him?" God helped her forgive her enemy. Soon she visited the murderer in prison and told him she forgave him. Later she took a Bible to prison and led him to Christ. To everyone's surprise, when the man was finally released from prison, she welcomed him into her home as her own son. This is the power of the gospel.

Jesus thought the Roman's faith was amazing because he believed Jesus' word had power to make immediate change.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13. God's word can recreate human hearts and lives, just as His word healed sick bodies. His

promises have creative power to heal our hearts and replace hatred with love. Think of someone who has hurt you, someone you struggle to forgive. What Bible promise can you claim that will transform your heart towards him or her today?

4. According to Matthew 8:11-12, from where will most of the people who enter God's kingdom come?
5. People all around us struggle in their relationships. What individuals do you know, who are not Christians, with whom you could share a promise from God's Word to help them in some problem they are facing?

TEXT TO MEMORIZE: 2 PETER 1:4

FURTHER INSPIRATION

"But the centurion said of himself, 'I am not worthy.' His heart had been touched by the grace of Christ. He saw his own unworthiness; yet he feared not to ask help. He trusted not to his own goodness; his argument was his great need. His faith took hold upon Christ in His true character. He did not believe in Him merely as a worker of miracles, but as the friend and Saviour of mankind.

"It is thus that every sinner may come to Christ. 'Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.' Titus 3:5. When Satan tells you that you are a sinner, and cannot hope to receive blessing from God, tell him that Christ came into the world to save sinners. We have nothing to recommend us to God; but the plea that we may urge now and ever is our utterly helpless condition that makes His redeeming power a necessity. Renouncing all self-dependence, we may look to the cross of Calvary and say,-- 'In my hand no price I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.'" (*The Desire of Ages*, 316-317)

To find more treasures about this story, dig deep in *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 32, pages 315-320.

THE UNLIKELY GRAVEYARD WITNESS

BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION

- 1. Read Luke 8:26-31.** From this text and your imagination, describe what this demon-possessed man looked like and how he acted.
- 2. Read Luke 8:32-36.** What changes did Jesus bring to the demon-possessed man?
- 3. Read Luke 8:37-39.** How do you think the typical Jew felt about the Gadarenes who lived on the eastern shore of Lake Galilee and about demon-possessed people in general?
- 4.** What is your typical feeling towards people who are involved in eastern religions, the New Age, witchcraft, Satan worship, or a cult?
- 5.** Vo burst into the room, shaking his bottle and cursing the church members. The songs from their secret meeting in Vietnam had disturbed his sleep. The members looked at his angry face and the bright red dragon tattooed on his body. Was he possessed by spirits? One member stood to welcome Vo, "I am so thankful that the Lord brought you. Go outside and throw away your bottle of wine, then come back and listen to the word of God." To their surprise he soon returned, clean and dressed up. As they studied, Vo

suddenly cried out, “I’ve killed people. There is no hope for me!” They surrounded him, laid their hands on him, and earnestly prayed for God to forgive him and free him. Vo received Jesus as his Savior and became a faithful member, sharing God’s power with his own family.⁶

Read Acts 26:18. What types of things do you think God is eager to do for people from such backgrounds?

6. What has God done for you that you, like the freed demoniac, should more eagerly be sharing with others?

TEXT TO MEMORIZE: LUKE 8:39A

FURTHER INSPIRATION

“The encounter with the demoniacs of Gergesa had a lesson for the disciples. It showed the depths of degradation to which Satan is seeking to drag the whole human race, and the mission of Christ to set men free from his power. Those wretched beings, dwelling in the place of graves, possessed by demons, in bondage to uncontrolled passions and loathsome lusts, represent what humanity would become if given up to satanic jurisdiction The only safeguard against his power is found in the presence of Jesus. Before men and angels Satan has been revealed as man’s enemy and destroyer; Christ, as man’s friend and deliverer And souls that have been degraded into instruments of Satan are still through the power of Christ transformed into messengers of righteousness, and sent forth by the Son of God to tell what ‘great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.’”

(The Desire of Ages, 341)

To find more treasures about this story, dig deep in *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 35, pages 333-341.

THE GREATEST CROSS-CULTURAL MOMENT

BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION

- 1. Read Mark 15:21-39.** The world's culture of selfishness, envy, and hatred crashed into the self-sacrificing love of Jesus' and led to the Place of the Skull. Our sin and His love made a cross on which Jesus died. Which part of His death is especially meaningful to you?
2. What foreigners were at the cross and how were they affected by what they saw?
- 3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-17.** Jesus carried every person's sin and reached across every culture to draw people to Himself. What are some of the ways that Jesus' death can change our lives?
- 4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19.** How does what Jesus did at the cross affect our relationship with God?
- 5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21** and the quote from *The Desire of Ages* below. What did the weight of our sins cause Jesus to experience?
6. As a young man, Jim Elliot devoted his life to take the gospel to the unreached tribes of South America. He, his wife Elisabeth, and others earnestly prayed for the fierce Auca tribe which had never allowed any outsiders to enter. Carefully Jim and four other missionaries prepared to enter and made attempts at friendship. On January 8, 1956 all five

missionaries were brutally murdered by the men they were trying to save. As the story of modern martyrdom went to the front page of newspaper, hundreds of other young adults committed to serving God in missions. Jim's wife and little daughter, courageously moved to live among that very tribe. Mincaye, one of the murderers, became a follower of Jesus.⁷

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. As an ambassador for God, what will you do to share the love and power of God available through Jesus' death?

TEXT TO MEMORIZE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14

FURTHER INSPIRATION

"All His life Christ had been publishing to a fallen world the good news of the Father's mercy and pardoning love. Salvation for the chief of sinners was His theme. But now with the terrible weight of guilt He bears, He cannot see the Father's reconciling face. The withdrawal of the divine countenance from the Saviour in this hour of supreme anguish pierced His heart with a sorrow that can never be fully understood by man. So great was this agony that His physical pain was hardly felt.

"Satan with his fierce temptations wrung the heart of Jesus. The Saviour could not see through the portals of the tomb. Hope did not present to Him His coming forth from the grave a conqueror, or tell Him of the Father's acceptance of the sacrifice. He feared that sin was so offensive to God that Their separation was to be eternal. Christ felt the anguish which the sinner will feel when mercy shall no longer plead for the guilty race. It was the sense of sin, bringing the Father's wrath upon Him as man's substitute, that made the cup He drank so bitter, and broke the heart of the Son of God.

"All that He endured—the blood drops that flowed from His head, His hands, His feet, the agony that racked His frame, and the unutterable anguish that filled His soul at the hiding of His Father's face—speaks to each child of humanity, declaring, It is for thee that the Son of God consents to bear this burden of guilt; for thee He spoils the domain of death, and opens the gates of Paradise" (*The Desire of Ages*, 753, 755).

To find more treasures about this story, dig deep in *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 78, pages 741-757.

GREEKS AND GRAIN

BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION

- 1. Read John 12:20-23.** At a time when the Jews were plotting to kill Jesus and Lazarus, what do you think it meant to Jesus that some Greeks specifically asked to see Him?
- 2. Read John 12:24, 27-33.** In what ways was Jesus like the grain of wheat?
- 3. Read John 12:25-26.** In what ways might your life be different if you deliberately follow Jesus' example in everything you do?
- 4.** Mark and Linda were horrified by the pictures they saw of leprosy in modern China. The people had been placed in small colonies in the countryside. They learned that the government was allowing local Christians to live near the lepers and serve them. "Could we help?" Mark and Linda wondered. They researched and networked, then resigned from their jobs, leaving their comfortable home. Soon they were in the small villages. What could they do? Linda cleaned a bathroom, then a kitchen. She held the hands of the people whose fingers could not keep their own homes clean. Mark clipped toenails and sat beside the lonely men. They watched in amazement as lepers worshipped the Jesus who would one day make them whole as He had in Israel. Mark and Linda found a joy in serving the least of these that they had never experienced before.

Read Philippians 3:8-11. In what ways have you given up your plans for God's way or served when you did not feel like it and discovered a real joy and satisfaction?

5. How can you lift up the cross in a way that will draw people of other cultures and religions to Jesus?

TEXT TO MEMORIZE: JOHN 12:32

FURTHER INSPIRATION

"All who would bring forth fruit as workers together with Christ must first fall into the ground and die. The life must be cast into the furrow of the world's need. Self-love, self-interest, must perish. And the law of self-sacrifice is the law of self-preservation. The husbandman preserves his grain by casting it away. So in human life. To give is to live. The life that will be preserved is the life that is freely given in service to God and man. Those who for Christ's sake sacrifice their life in this world will keep it unto life eternal.

"The life spent on self is like the grain that is eaten. It disappears, but there is no increase. A man may gather all he can for self; he may live and think and plan for self; but his life passes away, and he has nothing. The law of self-serving is the law of self-destruction" (*The Desire of Ages*, 623-624).

To find more treasures about this story, dig deep in *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 68, pages 621-626.



CRUMBS FOR THE DOGS

BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION

1. **Read Matthew 15:21-22.** How do you think the disciples felt about this Canaanite woman based on their Jewish history?
2. **Read Matthew 15:23-26.** What purpose do you think Jesus had for acting in a way that appeared rude and uncaring?
3. **Read Matthew 15:27-28.** What do you think Jesus appreciated about the lady's attitude that led Him to heal her daughter?
4. What kinds of people tend to irritate or disgust you?
5. Drs. Oscar and Eugenia Giordano had been missionaries in Africa for many years. Their hearts were stirred by the suffering of many in several countries where large numbers were infected with HIV. Poverty intensified the need.⁸ One woman, who was considering prostitution, said, "I would rather die of HIV-AIDS than die of hunger."⁹

Oscar and Eugenia were saddened to see that sometimes friends and family members rejected an individual because he had the disease. The doctors knew that Jesus loved and healed people regardless of their backgrounds. They decided to start Adventist AIDS International Ministries. They worked with the General Conference to extend education and training to prevent the spread of the disease. One program helped 500,000 people. "If you had not come," someone said, "We would be dead by now."



Read 1 Peter 3:8-12. In contrast to all the intolerance, prejudice, racism, and general feelings of hatred and disgust in the world around us, what attitudes will the gospel produce in true Christians?

TEXT TO MEMORIZE: ROMANS 5:5

FURTHER INSPIRATION

“Jesus had just departed from His field of labor because the scribes and Pharisees were seeking to take His life. They murmured and complained. They manifested unbelief and bitterness, and refused the salvation so freely offered them. Here Christ meets one of an unfortunate and despised race, that has not been favored with the light of God’s word; yet she yields at once to the divine influence of Christ, and has implicit faith in His ability to grant the favor she asks. She begs for the crumbs that fall from the Master’s table. If she may have the privilege of a dog, she is willing to be regarded as a dog. She has no national or religious prejudice or pride to influence her course, and she immediately acknowledges Jesus as the Redeemer, and as being able to do all that she asks of Him” (*The Desire of Ages*, 401).

To find more treasures about this story, dig deep in *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 43, pages 399-403.

THIRST QUENCHER

BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION

- 1. Read John 4:1-9.** Since Jews considered Samaritans “unclean,” and would not associate with each other, why do you think Jesus “needed to go through Samaria” and asked this woman for a drink?
- 2. Read John 4:10-14.** Jesus promised that the water He gives will truly satisfy. What is it about the pleasures of this world that only leave people “thirsty” or dissatisfied?
- 3. Read John 4:15-18.** Why do you think Jesus needed to bring up this woman’s sinful lifestyle?
- 4.** A young couple, Steve and Jeni read an advertisement for free kittens. They went to pick up their new pet and met the owner Kathy. She seemed skittish and on edge like she might be using drugs. Still Jeni exchanged contact information and one day Kathy called asking if Jeni could keep her cat for a while. The vagueness of the request made Jeni wonder if Kathy was headed to jail. It turned out to be true, Kathy had to serve time for selling drugs. Jeni and Steve took care of the cat until Kathy was released. Earnestly praying for her, the couple invited Kathy for supper. She shared her story of alcoholism and drug sales. Steve asked her if she wanted to make a new start. “Absolutely,” Kathy replied. “But how?” They shared stories about Jesus and knelt together as Kathy received Jesus as her Savior. In the

weeks that followed Kathy became totally free of substance abuse and began leading programs to help others get free.

Read John 4:19-25. What lessons can you learn from this story to help you as you share Jesus with people of other cultures and religions?

- 6. Read John 4:27-42.** How does Jesus' joy and the Samaritan woman's enthusiastic witness encourage you in your efforts to reach international people who do not know God?

TEXT TO MEMORIZE: JOHN 4:34

FURTHER INSPIRATION

“As the woman talked with Jesus, she was impressed with His words. Never had she heard such sentiments from the priests of her own people or from the Jews. As the past of her life had been spread out before her, she had been made sensible of her great want. She realized her soul thirst, which the waters of the well of Sychar could never satisfy. Nothing that had hitherto come in contact with her had so awakened her to a higher need. Jesus had convinced her that He read the secrets of her life; yet she felt that He was her friend, pitying and loving her. While the very purity of His presence condemned her sin, He had spoken no word of denunciation, but had told her of His grace, that could renew the soul” (*The Desire of Ages*, 189).

To find more treasures about this story, dig deep in *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 19, 183-195.



LOVING LEPERS

BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION

- 1. Read Luke 17:11-13.** Try to imagine the physical and emotional struggles of being a leper. How would it affect the way your community and family treated you and how would you feel?
- 2. Read Luke 17:14-19.** In contrast to most people, Jesus was willing to help any kind of problem, for any type of person, including Samaritans. What types of people or problems would you rather not be around or help?
- 3.** Only one out of ten of the lepers returned to thank Jesus. How do you feel when your hard work and loving efforts are not appreciated?
- 4.** Brad Jolly was deeply moved that there were no Seventh-day Adventist church members and few Christians in Mongolia. It was 1990 when he and his wife Cathie determined to move and plant a church in that cold country through Adventist Frontier Missions.¹⁰

Political unrest and economic challenges meant that there was often not enough nutritious food available. Sometimes there was no heat even when it was desperately cold. Two precious girls were born during that time, bringing joy and making life more complex. The family struggled on. Witnessing materials were basically non-existent and even the Bible needed to be re-translated. The conditions and stress wore away Brad's health, forcing them to return to America, where he passed away shortly after completing the translation of the Bible. The small, struggling group of

believers that they left behind in Mongolia kept growing. Cathie later remarried and with her new husband, Curtis Hartman, returned to face the hardships once more. Today there are six churches and more than 2,700 members.¹¹

Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-12. What lessons can you learn from Paul's determined efforts and attitude?

6. People often take for granted the help we give them and may even become lazy in their dependence on us. How can we encourage gratitude to God and self-reliance in the people we are trying to help?

TEXT TO MEMORIZE: ROMANS 5:8

FURTHER INSPIRATION

“Christ had the same experience, yet He did not cease His efforts for one suffering soul. Of the ten lepers who were cleansed, only one appreciated the gift, and he was a stranger and a Samaritan. For the sake of that one, Christ healed the ten. If the physician meets with no better success than the Saviour had, let him learn a lesson from the Chief Physician. Of Christ it is written, ‘He shall not fail nor be discouraged.’ ‘He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied.’ Isaiah 42:4; 53:11.

“If but one soul would have accepted the gospel of His grace, Christ would, to save that one, have chosen His life of toil and humiliation and His death of shame. If through our efforts one human being shall be uplifted and ennobled, fitted to shine in the courts of the Lord, have we not cause for rejoicing?” (*Ministry of Healing*, 134-135).

To find more treasures about this story and another one like it, dig deep in *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 36, pages 342-348.

JESUS' WORLDWIDE VISION

BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION

1. **Read Matthew 24:14.** After speaking about the many problems that would happen before Jesus' return, what did He insist must take place before He will come back?
2. Dhaka, Bangladesh is an extremely crowded city with much poverty. For many years Dr. Milan Moskala has used his dental skills to fix teeth. His love extends beyond their painful mouths. "Everywhere there are thousands of children without parents, without support, just begging, working, trying to survive picking food out of garbage places." Dr. Moskala helps in every way he can. He has seen the sick healed and even a dead boy raised to life. He knows, however, that their greatest need is to know Jesus. Every chance he gets he tells them about God's story.¹²

Read Mark 16:15-18. What various miracles is Jesus willing to do in order to help people of other ethnicities believe in Him?

4. **Read Matthew 28:16-20.** What did Jesus specifically ask them to do for people of other nations and how did He promise to help?

5. **Read Acts 1:8.** What do you think is so special about the Holy Spirit that Jesus would say He is what we need in order to take the gospel to the end of the earth?
6. **Read Revelation 5:9-10; 7:9-10.** What will the nations be praising God about throughout eternity?
7. What methods and attitudes for witnessing stand out in your mind from these thirteen studies with Jesus, our favorite missionary?

TEXT TO MEMORIZE: ACTS 1:8

FURTHER INSPIRATION

“Thus Christ gave His disciples their commission. He made full provision for the prosecution of the work, and took upon Himself the responsibility for its success. So long as they obeyed His word, and worked in connection with Him, they could not fail. Go to all nations, He bade them. Go to the farthest part of the habitable globe, but know that My presence will be there. Labor in faith and confidence, for the time will never come when I will forsake you” (*The Desire of Ages*, 822).

To find more treasures about this story, dig into *The Desire of Ages*, 818-828.

1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moravian_slaves

2 <https://www.asapministries.org/node/180/who-we-are/meet-founder>

3 Ripken, Nik. *The Insanity of God*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2013.

4 The story is adapted from a link at Wycliffe.org that no longer exists.

5 This story occurred at Hayward Seventh-day Adventist Church around 1999.

6 https://issuu.com/asapministries/docs/ten_missions_v2

7 Shibley, David. *Great for God*. Green Forest, AR: New Leaf Press, 2012.

8 <https://am.adventistmission.org/do-they-still-go>

9 <https://news.adventist.org/en/all-news/news/go/2017-12-01/adventist-aids-international-ministries-aims-to-reveal-compassion-mercy-and-the-love-of-jesus-christ/>

10 <https://mongoladventist.wixsite.com/mongoliamission/adventism-in-mongolia>

11 https://www.facebook.com/AdventistFrontierMissions/posts/throwbackthursday-in-1991-brad-and-cathie-jolly-launched-to-the-previously-close/2868952123_138594/

12 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I444cScK95M>

“Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan....” (Matthew 15:21-22). So starts one of a handful of intriguing stories in which Jesus reaches out past His people’s prejudices to those nearby of other ethnicities. Each story has inspiring and practical lessons for the unfinished business of taking the everlasting gospel to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people.

“This was the only miracle that Jesus wrought while on this journey. It was for the performance of this act that He went to the borders of Tyre and Sidon. He wished to relieve the afflicted woman, and at the same time to leave an example in His work of mercy toward one of a despised people for the benefit of His disciples when He should no longer be with them He would show that His love was not to be circumscribed to race or nation This woman was one of the lost sheep that Israel should have rescued This lesson, and similar ones which pointed to the gospel work unrestricted by custom or nationality, had a powerful influence upon the representatives of Christ, in directing their labors” (The Desire of Ages, 402-403)

